

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017, 7:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Mike DeVore and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Greg Canfield, Jim Hodges, Jeff Phillips, Alan Teelander and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mike Burns, City Attorney Richard Wendt, City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Chief Steven Bukala, Lowell Light and Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot and DPW Director Rich LaBombard.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the consent agenda as written.

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular minutes of the February 21, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$610,594.87.

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander and Councilmember Canfield. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

State Representative Thomas Albert introduced himself and provided a legislative update. He also noted he is the Chair of Financial Liability Reform and serves as a member of the Government Task Force.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Nothing to report.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Discussion on Medical Marijuana with Attorney Nick Curcio from Dickinson Wright.

Nick Curcio, an Attorney from Dickinson Wright, provided an update to the City Council about the changes in the Medical Marijuana laws that occurred on December 20, 2016.

b. Discussion with Risk Manager Dustin Draebek from the Michigan Township Participating Plan.

Risk Manager Dustin Draebek from the Michigan Township Participating Plan provided an update as to his role in assisting the City. He also discussed the assessment of the City that he conducted last summer. Draebek explained that as the City's Risk Manager Representative, he is here to assist with the City's open exposures, liabilities, and general overall operations and special events within the City.

c. Resolution 04-17 – Installment Purchase Agreement – DPW Equipment and LL&P Compressor.

The City Council reviewed Resolution 04-17 declaring intent of the City to reimburse itself for the cost of acquiring certain equipment purchases with proceeds of certain installment purchase agreements. Attorney Wendt advised that letters would go to eleven local banks on Wednesday to seek proposals. When the proposals come back, there will be a resolution to approve the low bid for the proposals.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to approve Resolution 04-17 –Installment Purchase Agreement—DPW Equipment and LL&P Compressor.

YES: Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Councilmember Canfield and Mayor DeVore. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Access Point Inc. Commercial Service Agreement – City-Wide VOIP.

Lowell Light and Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot explained the Access Point Inc. Commercial Service Agreement—City-Wide VOIP. The fixed costs will be pro-rated amongst all departments of the City while any future long distance charges will be allocated to the department incurring the charges.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by PHILLIPS to approve a three year Commercial Service Agreement with Access Point, Inc.

YES: Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore and Councilmember Hodges. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARDS AND COMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Phillips advised he attended the Historic District Commission meeting. Two signs were approved for Farm Bureau at 311 East Main Street. He also noted he and his daughter took pictures of many buildings within the Historic District. Phillips advised the next meeting will be March 28th.

Councilmember Hodges advised that on March 1st, the LCTV Endowment Board met and reviewed the various applicants. A full report will be provided at the March 20, 2017 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Canfield advised that Parks and Recreation Commission met.

Councilmember Teelander advised he did not have any meetings, but he did attend a Planning and Zoning Essentials seminar in Lansing. Teelander advised that Senate Bill 00118 passed last Friday and there were appropriations set to finish the trail from Foreman and connect to Montcalm in Saranac. This would also include the old railroad bed.

Mayor DeVore advised that he hasn't had any meetings and the DDA meeting has been moved to March 16th.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Burns reported on the following:

- No movement on the Bio-digester.
- Working with Rich LaBombard and Chief Bukala on contract negotiations and will be discussing this with Council at the next meeting.
- Met with Chief Bukala and City Attorney to put together an ordinance for Food Trucks.
- Met with Rich LaBombard and representatives from the Kent County Youth Fair and are in the process of putting together an agreement to present to the Council very soon.
- Discussed Dark Stores Theory in using store fronts that are out of business. Burns explained that the City has been asked to consider supporting the cause. It is important for the City to be a part of this.
- Infrastructure-The Jefferson Street project will be going up for bid soon and are planning on doing the project this summer.
- Looking to put some funds together in the budget to maintain storm water drains. The City has not budgeted for storm water drains in the past.
- Received the Saw Grant. The City is currently in the process of assessing the underground when working on the streets and putting plans together to start addressing the entire system.

By general consensus, the Council agreed to support of the Dark Stores Theory, but would like City Manager Burns discuss this with City Assessor Jeff Rashid.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Canfield advised that a couple of residents have approached him on the street issue. He explained the Council and City Manager are well aware of the street issues and instead of focusing on the roads; there would be talk about the underground as well. Canfield also commented that there was a good turn-out for Coffee with Council.

Councilmember Teelander commented on Coffee with Council and enjoyed talking with residents.

Mayor DeVore reminded everyone to turn the clocks forward for daylight savings time. DeVore also mentioned that the Lowell Expo is on March 25th.

Councilmember Phillips wanted to thank City Manager Burns and DPW Director Rich LaBombard on the purchase of the equipment. Phillips also thanked Chief Bukala for the Citizen's Academy and commented he is looking forward to attending.

Councilmember Hodges commented that the newsletter had great news. He also noted that Coffee with Council was very interesting and it is a good way to interact with citizens. Hodges mentioned the election and stated that after this term on the City Council, he will be retiring and not running for another term. Hodges encourages everyone to be involved in their community.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to go into closed session, at the request of the City Manager, pursuant to the City Manager's performance evaluation at 8:07 p.m.

YES: Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Teelander, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore and Councilmember Hodges. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by CANFIELD to go back into regular session at 8:58 p.m.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk