

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 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 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**

Councilmember Canfield wanted to add "Trails" to the agenda under "New Business to discuss what the City of Lowell is doing to be part of the trails.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the consent agenda as amended.

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular and closed session minutes of the March 6, 2017 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$119,165.16.

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.**

There were no comments.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Nothing to report.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. Litehouse Industrial Facility Tax Credit.

City Manager Mike Burns advised the City received a request from Litehouse seeking a Public Act 198 Industrial Facility Tax Credit. They are currently expanding the footprint of their property to place additional freezers for their food processing operation. There is currently an Industrial Development

District established in this area of the City and this request would be legal for the abatement under the Public Act.

Burns advised the Council he would like to have a discussion of possible establishment of this credit. There are some parameters the Council should consider in approving this abatement. The City has approved these in the past, but Burns is not sure what the history is, but he has some ideas the Council might wish to consider.

Councilmember Hodges commented this is a good for industry and would like discussion to set a public hearing. Councilmember Canfield commented Litehouse has been a great partner to the community, provides jobs, continued expansion and was in support of this abatement. Councilmembers Phillips and Teelander agreed.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by DEVORE to set a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2017.

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

b. Arbor Board—Comprehensive Tree Plan.

DPW Director Rich LaBombard advised this will be presented at the next Council meeting.

c. LCTV Endowment Fund Recommendations.

Chairperson of the LCTV Endowment Board Dennis Kent advised the Council of the board's recommendations for the LCTV Endowment grants. Kent advised there were more applicants than funds allowed.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the recommendations of the LCTV Endowment Board in the amount of \$133,491.30.

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

d. Kent Intermediate School District – Summer Tax Collection – 2017.

City Manager Burns advised as in previous years, Kent Intermediate School District has requested the City of Lowell collect the 2017 summer property taxes for the district. The City collects the Kent Intermediate School District property taxes at no fee in exchange for retaining earned interest while the monies are deposited in City accounts.

IT WAS MOVED BY PHILLIPS and seconded by TEELANDER to approve the request from the Kent Intermediate School District to collect the 2017 summer property taxes for the district at no fee in exchange for retaining earned interest while the monies are deposited in City accounts.

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

e. LARA Trail.

Councilmember Canfield advised LARA was meeting with Lowell Township and funding from the State is coming along and the project will move along more quickly. Canfield wanted a discussion as to where the City is as far as making this happen and trying to ensure that the trail does come through Lowell to support the retail district.

Councilmember Hodges commented the plan was to come down the east side of Alden Nash and come close to the park. He commented that the City already has sidewalks and urban trails that would require very little building.

Chairperson of LARA Perry Beachum advised LARA is in the process of connecting the trail from Alden Nash and Gee Drive down to the east side of Alden Nash to the new township park. He advised that the township is connecting the West Michigan Trail that runs from Owasso to Ionia and Saranac. Beachum explained that they having been working with an engineering firm for options for getting through the City. He advised the Council needs to move on looking at the ordinances of sidewalks versus trails and what the designations will be.

Councilmember Teelander mentioned having a special workshop to discuss the sidewalk identification and invite LARA. Councilmember Canfield suggested having a combined meeting with the Planning Commission. Chief of Police Steve Bukala gave his expertise on the matter as far as size of the sidewalk versus trails and wider is better. Mayor DeVore suggested the Council have a special joint workshop prior to the next Council meeting at 5:30 with LARA, Parks and Recreation and The City Planning Commission.

6. **BOARDS AND COMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Phillips advised the next Historic Commission meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Hodges advised the Arbor Board met on March 13<sup>th</sup> and elected Dr. Jim Reagan as Chair, approved meeting dates for the year and discussed the Comprehensive Tree Plan. Hodges commented that tree plantings were discussed as well as a tree complaint on West Street. The Arbor Board also discussed selecting a business for Arbor Day tree planting. Hodges also noted the Lowell Area Fire and Authority meets next Monday.

Councilmember Canfield advised The Parks and Recreation meeting is on Tuesday.

Councilmember Teelander advised Lowell Light and Power met and discussed a Strategic Plan. Teelander advised the old solar generator needs a new control module. Teelander also commented that they were not tearing down the old Line Shack. The LL&P Board approved the motion to hire Access Point Phone Systems and approved servicing truck with new workbox. Teelander advised LL&P needs a new compressor to run both turbines. He went on to state Harvest Meadows Development was approved and

the security system at the Light and Power building is now secured. Teelander commented that the City Planning Commission discussed Chapters 4 and 17 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor DeVore advised he and City Manager Burns had a meeting with Vergennes Township Supervisor Tim Wittenbach and Lowell Township Supervisor Jerry Hale about vision meetings going forward for Grand River Park.

7. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

There were no comments.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Burns reported on the following:

- Update on the Amicus Brief and 36 municipalities have participated.
- The Jefferson bid opening will take place this week.
- Expo is Saturday at the Lowell High School and the City will have a booth.
- Staff is currently working on budgets.
- The budget hearing session is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. at Lowell Light and Power.
- The laptops have been ordered.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Phillips commented on the Citizen's Academy and advised they had the K-9 Unit there. Phillips also commented the Lowell Police Department and officers are a great tribute to this community.

Councilmember Hodges commented receiving a note from Kate Meyers from Kent County Parks inviting the City to coordinate some dates and have a picnic. This will be discussed at a later time. Hodges mentioned Coffee with Council will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. He went on to note the Lowell Area Fire Department will be having a presentation in reference to their new operations on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Councilmember Canfield advised there is a new business at 216 W. Main Street, A Charmed Life Nail Salon opened a couple of weeks ago. Canfield also mentioned Vela Coffee Shop closed. Canfield advised MI Hometown Furnishings had a great opening weekend.

Councilmember Teelander advised he will be in the LARA booth at Expo from 9:00 – 11:00 and then he will be in the City booth.

Mayor DeVore advised he would be at Expo splitting his time between the Fire Department and the City. DeVore also noted he saw the Fire Department presentation and encouraged the public to attend.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to go into closed session to discuss labor negotiations at 7:36 p.m.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by TEELANDER to adjourn at 9:38 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Susan Ullery, City Clerk