

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, 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 DeVore and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Greg Canfield, Jeff Phillips, Jim Salzwedel, Marty Chambers and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, City Clerk Sue Ullery, DPW Director Rich LaBombard, L&P Steve Donkersloot, Police Chief Steve Bukala and City Attorney Dick Wendt.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the regular minutes and the closed minutes of the September 04, 2018 City Council meeting as written.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,937,288.04.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the consent agenda as presented.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Chambers.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Josh Webb who reside at 125 S. Grove stated they are in favor of a community garden but are concerned with the location of the garden and where it is currently.

Sally Hayden who resides at 119 S. Grove stated she is in favor of a community garden but in another location.

Paula Mierendorf who resides at 303 Roberta Jayne stated she would love to be a part of a help yourself garden and work with both the City and residents to meet this winter, form a group to organize a plan for a Community garden that works for everyone.

City Clerk Sue Ullery read a letter from Jaclyn Kosvanesky who resides at 503 New Street, PA, who is not in favor of the help yourself garden.

City Clerk Sue Ullery read a letter from Crystal Danks who resides at 423 Foreman who is in favor of a Community Garden in a better location that would work for everyone and bring the community together.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. Fairgrounds Feasibility Study.

City Manager Michael Burns stated that at the September 6, 2018 Downtown Development Authority meeting, the board approved budgeted funds for Williams and Works in the amount of \$13,500 to conduct a feasibility study of the future use of Recreation Park once the Kent County Youth Fair (KCYF) vacates to their new location. We have requested Williams & Works to approach this study in phases. The first phase would be for the background with City administration and other key representatives regarding the property. We would then begin a community outreach phase where we would hold a charrette to show different design and use options, take information from those engagements and utilize toward designing a plan. After this, we would finalize the plan and take steps to begin implementation once the KCYF leaves.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by SALZWEDEL to approve the Downtown Development Authority to conduct a feasibility study of the future use of the city owned Recreation Park.
YES: 5. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

- b. Water and Sewer Authority.

City Manager Mike Burns stated as the Lowell area continues to grow due to the economic climate in West Michigan, this provides many changes to our community. As we know, both Lowell Township and Vergennes Township, are growing at a rapid rate and will continue to grow. In addition, the City is seeing additional growth possibilities as we have seen business expansions and new housing projects. The City is nearly built out. One of the looming issues we will need to explore is expansion of the water and wastewater plants in order to accommodate future demand. In addition, as more people move into the area, there will continue to be a demand for greater capacity to the water and wastewater systems currently. Furthermore, the majority of growth in the Lowell area will be in the surrounding townships not the City.

Recently, I asked Mayor DeVore, Mayor Pro Tem Canfield, Lowell Township Supervisor Jerry Hale, and Vergennes Township Supervisor, Tim Wittenbach to meet and discuss the topic. When we met, the two township Supervisors were at least open to exploring this further. In addition, they would present this idea to their township boards and see if there is interest in investigating further.

Council agreed to discuss the matter further and meet with the surrounding townships to discuss the topic.

- c. Resolution 27-18 – Designation of September 21, 2018 as “Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day”.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council adopt Resolution 27-18 proclaiming Friday, September 21, 2018 as “Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day”.

YES: 5. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Canfield reported that the LARA meeting was September 12, 2018. Phase 1A from Gee Drive down to Main Street along Alden Nash is 99.9% done, just a couple of minor items to clean up there. Regarding Phase 2 connector down Bowes Road, the DNR scores came in last week and they were right where Dave Austin had predicted they would be, so that was good news. MDOT is having a meeting this week, that we are waiting to hear back from them. Just for clarification, the \$25,000 City contribution we discussed at a meeting or two ago, was agreed upon five years ago along with all the other cities on that 125 mile route, that's Belding, Greenville, Ionia and Saranac. It really has nothing to do with Lara and the phase 2 connector. That agreement was made a long time ago.

Councilmember Chambers stated the Planning Commission started looking at a Planned Unit Development, more information to come as it moves forward.

Mayor DeVore stated that he and City Manager Mike Burns went to Downtown Development Authority meeting and spoke with the Chamber about advertising the fairground study. Then Wednesday, September 26, 2018 we will meet with representatives from Parks and Fair people. Fire Authority met and their new Tinder truck has been pushed back until December. The Fire Authority also did a study on staffing and discussed different options. Also discussed accounting items.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Mike Burns reported the following:

- Earlier this summer he had approached Council about selling the property at 2560 Bowes Rd and the RFP is going out this week and will be advertised in the Lowell Ledger and on the City Website. Minimum purchase price for the property is \$20,000 and the deadline is Thursday, October 11, 2018.
- Showboat RFP is close to a point where they can get that sent out. I contacted Senator Dave Hildenbrands office about the necessary extensions to extend the grant funds for the Showboat into the next fiscal year and they have submitted that paperwork to the state and I anticipate we should receive that extension.
- Speed signs on Hudson Street were turned on this week, we are still waiting to hear from the State (MDOT) for clearance to put speed signs back on Main Street.
- Lou Bender will be coming January 30, 2019 for his annual facilitation, more details as it comes closer.
- This week, Sept 21, 2018, the entire City Council and myself will be attending the Michigan Municipal League Conference in Grand Rapids.
- The week of Sept 24, 2018, I will be in Baltimore attending the Annual International City County Management Association Conference from Saturday until Wednesday.
- Lighthouse has had their industrial pretreatment permit issued to them last week, there was one issue they are working through but they anticipate to start sending us waste in a couple weeks on a preliminary basis at least until they get their new permanent system which is approximately 6

months out.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by CANFIELD to approve the appointment of Jeff Dickerman to the LCTV Board.

YES: 5. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he had fun at the Fallsburg Festival and it was fun setting up. There were a lot of people and the Lowell Women's Club had record proceeds that they earned this year.

Councilmember Canfield wanted to thank the City staff for fixing the sidewalks, it made a big improvement and it is nice to see that done.

Mayor DeVore stated that Community Cleanup Day is Saturday, September 29, 2018.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 7:35.

YES: 5. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk