

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 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 Marty Chambers, Cliff Yankovich, Jim Salzwedel, Greg Canfield and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, Chief of Police Steve Bukala, Lowell Light & Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot, and City Clerk Sue Ullery.

2. **AMEND THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by SALZWEDEL to amend the agenda, adding item “d” under new business: Appoint a new delegate for the Detroit MML in September.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich and Councilmember Chambers.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda as amended.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the regular and closed minutes of the July 1, 2019 City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$141,889.77.

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

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, and Councilmember Canfield.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Perry Beachum 924 Riverside Drive stated the Park & Recreation Meeting will be held at Creekside Park, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. City Income Tax.

City Manager Michael Burns gave an update on the City Income tax stating he has been working with Mary Ann Sabo on developing a communication plan for the 60 days prior to the election to get the information out. Also working with Dave Austin and Prein & Newhof on developing the street plan with the funding that would come from the Income Tax if approved.

Burns continued stating he has sought out a proposal from Sabo PR. Sabo PR handles our crisis communication through our City Attorney and they are experienced at developing communication plans throughout Kent County. This proposal will develop media information, develop content, website information, possible digital advertising, and a social media campaign through these efforts. Total cost of the project will not exceed \$12,000. We can only provide educational content and all material will need to be approved by the City Attorney before distribution.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH to approve Lowell City Council enter into an agreement with Sabo PR to develop a communication plan for a cost not to exceed \$12,000. YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield and Mayor DeVore.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Recreational Marijuana.

City Manager Michael Burns stated we were planning on providing the first draft of the regulatory ordinance for recreational marijuana and bringing what is being recommended by the Planning Commission, but late last week, the State of Michigan issued their emergency rules which are 65 pages long and some of the rules that are being implemented do not necessarily interact with things that are in our recommended planning ordinance and the regulatory ordinance. So we need to make some changes to it.

c. Sidewalks.

City Manager Michael Burns stated this project has not transpired as planned up to this point. For many reasons, we have not been able to follow through with the sidewalk enforcement and in the Spring, we will re-establish our sidewalk standards. Fees are being waived for the time being when request are received right now to correct sidewalks. Roger LaWarre has provided information for anyone in the City who needs assistance, and we can share that information when the need arises. We as the City also need to address our sidewalks before we address the resident's sidewalks, so this fall, Groundhog Excavating will be pouring sidewalks at parks throughout the City thanks to the grant from the LCTV Fund to do so. MDOT is responsible for the sidewalks on the bridge and Burns has contacted them regarding the problem areas and waiting to hear back from them.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Fire Department Consultant Discussion.

Mayor Devore opened the discussion to Council regarding the consultants that the Fire Authority is looking at to hire for consulting them. Devore is concerned about the price and whether many items

in the proposal are beyond the scope of the board. There is a Fire Authority meeting Thursday to discuss these consultant proposals. Devore will ask questions and voice his concerns and then report back to Council. Council would like more information before discussing further.

b. Monroe Street Traffic Island.

City Manager Michael Burns stated the Police Department has tried to step up their efforts on enforcing trucks from traveling on Monroe Street, it is a never ending battle. We believe a traffic island on Monroe at E. Main would resolve this issue of trucks traveling down Monroe. From our experience, we realize trucks don't like these islands as it is difficult for them to maneuver around. The other issue we see at this intersection, are left hand turns for vehicles going south on Monroe to go west on Main. The left hand turn is unsafe. Council discussed these issues at length and will move to old business to revisit once the new Director of Public Works, Dan Czarnecki gets here.

c. Amended LL&P MERS 457 Participation Agreement.

Lowell Light & Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot stated in May 2019, the LL&P Board and City Council adopted a MERS 457 Plan for LL&P employees. Since that time, there has been a growing interest amongst a handful of LL&P employees to make Roth contributions within the MERS 457 Plan. However, when the plan was initially adopted, Section V, "Roth Deferral Contributions", was marked as "shall not be permitted" box; in all honesty, it was likely an oversight. Because of this, the LL&P Board, at their July 10th Board Meeting, move to recommend that the City Council amend the LL&P MERS 457 Participation Agreement.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by SALZWEDEL to adopt the Amended LL&P MERS 457 Participation Agreement.

YES: Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore and Councilmember Salzwedel.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Appoint a new delegate for the Detroit MML in September.

It was a consensus by City Council to appoint Mayor DeVore as the delegate for the September MML in Detroit.

7. BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.

Councilmember Canfield stated the LARA board did not meet last week because they did not have a quorum and tomorrow night, July 16, 2019, the Park & Rec Board will be meeting over at the Creekside Park.

Councilmember Chambers stated at the Lowell Light & Power Board meeting they worked on meters.

At the Planning Commission meeting, the PUD for the Unity School was brought before them and they are waiting on answers to questions and will have those answers in August and make a decision then.

Councilmember Yankovich stated that the Chamber didn't meet in July and the Historic District Commission still has two appointment openings that need to be filled. Mayor Devore said the Fire Authority meeting was already covered and is cancelled for August. The Vision meeting will be in August for the Community cleanup.

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS.**

There was none.

9. **MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns reported on the following:

- Riverwalk Festival was a great success, very busy and great for our merchants. Liz Baker and the Chamber did an awesome job once again. Fireworks were also great.
- MDOT has responded to the request for a left turn onto Main from Hudson and they said no but want to meet with us. We will meet with them in August once Dan Czarnecki starts.
- Dan Czarnecki will be starting August 5, 2019 and Burns has been giving him some information about things he is going to be dealing with when he gets here. LaBombard left him some great notes.
- Close to updating the employee handbook, should have it complete and to Council in a month.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

The Historic District Commission has two appointment openings.
The Construction Board of Appeals has an appointment opening.

11. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich asked if we have an ordinance that refers to the parking of boats, kayaks, fishing boats, float boats on the Riverwalk overnight or long term and if we don't maybe we should look into creating one. City Manager Michael Burns said he would look into that. Chief of Police Steve Bukala read from the ordinance section referring to it.

Councilmember Salzwedel thanked all the volunteers that worked the Riverwalk Festival. They did a great job.

Mayor DeVore thanked Liz Baker at the Chamber of Commerce, had a record enrollment for the run. Liz did a great job of organizing. It just keeps getting better and better. DeVore suggested a form of satellite Council meetings in the future to reach more people about what is happening all around town. DeVore also thanked Marty Chambers for fixing the duck float.

Councilmember Chambers brought cupcakes and they all wished Mayor Devore a Happy Birthday.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by YANKOVICH to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk