

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021, 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 Cliff Yankovich, Marty Chambers, Jim Salzwedel and Mayor DeVore, and Leah Groves.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki, Chief of Police Chris Hurst, City Attorney Jessica Wood.

It was a general consensus by all City Councilmembers for no changes to the Rules of Procedure as they are written.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the December 21, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.
- Approve the 2021 Meeting dates.
- Grand Rapids Community College - Collection of Summer Property Taxes for 2021.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$185,707,60.

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

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich and Councilmember Chambers, and Leah Groves.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mark Mundt gave a showboat funding update, stating brick sales are already up to \$65,000 and next month they will apply for the LCTV grant. So far, they have raised \$620,000 so that means they have less than \$160,000 to go.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **COVID-19.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated COVID 19 is still here. Since our last meeting the Public Act was approved so on-line virtual meetings will be in place until at least March 31, 2021. Still waiting to hear when our essential employees will be able to get the vaccines if they want it. City Hall is still shut down and haven't had any complaints as we are still able to provide services as usual and appointments are made if needed. Some residents who are severely past due on their water/sewer payments who cannot

be shut of due to the pandemic, were sent a letter stating their water/sewer bills would be added to their taxes if they were not paid.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. **Annual Authorization of Signature for Bank Accounts and Designation of Depository Banks.**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH to approve the Bank signatures as stated.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Groves and Mayor DeVore

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. **CBDG Agreement with Kent County.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated since 1993 Kent County has entered into a cooperative agreement with communities in the County that enabled Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Program Funds to flow through the County to benefit participating communities. Kent County has been notified by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development that an update is necessary to our existing Urban Cooperative Agreement for the 2021-2023 recertification period. A minor adjustment that basically states that a unit of general local government may not sell, trade or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to a Metropolitan City, Urban County, Unit of General Local Government, Indian Tribe or Insular Area that directly or indirectly receive CDGB Funds in exchange or any funds, credits or non-federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under Title One of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. Kent County has been operating as a HUD Community Planning and Development Grantee since 1981 providing programs and services to assist residents with low and moderate income throughout the County. Since 1993, Kent County and Local Governments entered into an automatic renewing cooperative agreement to allow the County to conduct CBDG and Home Funded Activities in each local unit. These activities include Public Improvement Projects such as parks, water and sewer improvements and street and sidewalk improvements, economic development programs, public services such as providing senior services or emergency housing payments and transportation services, development of new single and multi-family housing and providing housing rehabilitation funding for residents within local jurisdictions.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by YANKOVICH to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Kent County to continue the Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

NO: None

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Social District.

City Manager Michael Burns stated at our last meeting the administration was directed to prepare a Resolution for our proposed downtown social district. Since our last meeting, I have spoken with some businesses who could participate, I have also created management rules for the district as are required. We will be asking the Downtown Development Authority to provide financial assistance for the District and we are also looking at dedicating a patrol officer close to full time, to the district as security. We will allow for the entire district to be the commons area. I would like to utilize Monroe Street from where the alley behind Showboat Spirits is toward, to Main and the Riverwalk Area as we can have warming and congregation areas. In the map, I also allowed for Riverside Drive and Broadway to be closed if there is a demand to do so. Resolution 01-21 is to create the social district and then a second resolution will come at a later date once I can confirm all the businesses who would like to participate as they must be identified as part of the social district for their liquor license. We have identified Riverwalk Park to be included in the social district. We will need to modify Ordinance 14-55 to allow for alcoholic beverages to be allowed at Riverwalk Park. We also would need this when the Showboat reopens. The City Attorney has provided Ordinance 21-01 to allow for alcohol to be possessed and consumed at Riverwalk Park

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES to approve Resolution 01-21 to create the Social District and approve Ordinance 21-01 to allow alcohol to be possessed and consumed at Riverwalk Park.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES to change the hours for the social district to 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for special events that fall on a weekday.

YES: Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Groves, Mayor Devore, Councilmember Salzwedel and Councilmember Yankovich.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.

Councilmember Salzwedel reminded everyone the LCTV Board’s cutoff date to get your applications in to Susan Ullery at City Hall is February 5, 2021 by 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Chambers is looking forward to the Planning Commission meeting, to see what the recreational marijuana establishment that wants to move into a strip mall comes back with on their security and ventilation.

7. **MANAGER’S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over the following:

- We need cars out of the street for snow, we had plows out and had an issue with people parking in the street over the weekend so Police had to cite some citations.
- Reminder next two “2nd meetings of the month for City Council” are on Tuesday’s- so January 19, 2021 and February 16, 2021.
- Also we will be closed on July 5, 2021 so first meeting in July will be Tuesday July 6, 2021.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

There is nothing.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Yankovich received some good news today, he knows someone purchasing one of the Flat River Units and was told he might have occupancy within the next few weeks. So that is great news!

Councilmember Chambers asked everyone to shovel the sidewalks and ask Police Chief Hurst to ask the officers to check around as they are out driving the streets. Also, for everyone to have a good new year and to hopefully get life back to normal.

Councilmember Salzwedel is hoping everyone had a safe and happy holiday and he is looking forward to 2021.

Councilmember Groves hopes everyone has a happy new year and is excited about the new year and being council member.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.

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

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk