

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020, 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 Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jim Salzwedel, Cliff Yankovich, Greg Canfield,
and Mayor DeVore, Marty Chambers.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Clerk Susan Ullery, Acting City Manager Chief of Police Steve Bukala, General
Manager of Lowell Light & Power Steve Donkersloot, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki,
and Andy Moore with Williams & Works.

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

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Regular City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$492,932.94.

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

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

There were no comments.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Ware Road.

Police Chief Steve Bukala explained as stated by Joe Berlin at our last City Council meeting, we would need to have additional groundwater sampling and wells drilled as part of our work plan being filed with the Michigan Department of Environments, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). We have a proposal from BLDI that entails the additional groundwater sampling. Also, the proposal includes removal and disposal of soil cuttings and well development water that were generated during the monitoring well installation and need to be removed from the site. There are currently 26 drums onsite to be removed. Total cost of proposal is \$13,800 for this series of work. This work is necessary to fulfill our requirements with EGLE.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the proposal from BLDI to conduct additional groundwater sampling and removal of soil cuttings and disposal at a cost not to exceed \$13,800.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Lowell Trail – Dave Austin.

Dave Austin with Williams and Works stated on April 1, 2020 both the City and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority will be submitting updated grant applications to the MDNRR Trust Fund program towards the project that will connect the regional River Valley Rail Trail legs from Belding and from Saranac through the City. At the March 16th meeting, a public hearing will be held and the Council will be asked to consider a resolution authorizing submittal of the revised application. (The applications that were submitted last year by the City and LARA were voluntarily withdrawn as all permits and matching funds were not secured by the October 1st deadline, so reapplication is necessary). The revised application will show a new proposed route for the portion of the trail east of Hudson St. The original route proposed going through Recreation Park, crossing the Flat River, going under or across the active King Milling railroad spur, then crossing the Grand River with a new pedestrian bridge parallel to the S. Jackson bridge. After review of the formal applications, the railroad concluded that they will not issue permits for the crossing of this spur due to safety and liability concerns. At a recent meeting with the railroad and MDOT, it was determined that the most feasible location to cross the tracks will be at the intersection of Grand River Drive Dr. and S. Hudson (Segwun). This route will require a new pedestrian bridge over the Grand River from the fairgrounds to the Grand River Drive. The trail will then proceed east to the connection point at S. Jackson. Conversations are being held with property owners along Grand River Drive and the railroad to develop the exact alignment. Since the necessary route has changed, we wanted to update Council before the March 16th meeting and invite any questions or concerns you may have.

c. MACP Accreditation.

Police Chief Steve Bukala stated City Council members requested an update on our accreditation project since we have signed up. Since April of 2019-December 2019, I have gone through and updated all of our policy and procedures for the Lowell Police Department (total of 55). We have also gone through all of our job descriptions and Field Training Program to meet the standards set by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. A common theme began to come up in my conversations with MACP and the other agencies going through or just finishing the process is whether or not we are using the Power DMS software accreditation module. Right now we are not. The process is taking a very long time to develop proofs that we are following policies as we have to physically find proofs by hand, where Power DMS will do this for LPS automatically.

Bukala continued, Sgt. Hurst and I looked into this at the chief's conference in February and I completed a go to meeting webinar with the sales representative. What Power DMS does is pull each policy, develops a training module and a tracking system for each officer, and compiles the proofs we need for the accreditation process. This will cut my time by 50% or more trying to manage this accreditation process. Since we are a small agency, I was able to negotiate \$1000 off the base price and will be putting Power DMS into our 2020-2021 budget to continue using the system. I was also able to get a price for our last four months of this year's budget to get a jump on the program. Although this is not a budgeted item, I have money available to pay for this out of the equipment line item for the remainder of this year.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH for City Council to authorize the expenditure of \$1624.90 and authorize Police Chief Steve Bukala to oversee the Power DMS Accreditation Module Program.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. LCTV Endowment Fund Recommendations.

Dennis Kent spoke regarding the recommendations for the LCTV Endowment Funds by the LCTV Endowment Board and went through each of the applicants and what was agreed to fund. Dennis Kent noted not all grants were approved in full and applicants may return next year to apply for additional funding.

Applicant	Description	Rec. Amt.
City of Lowell	LTV Fund Administration Expenses.....	\$4,000.00
City of Lowell	Ware Road Landfill Project.....	\$30,000.00
Fallasburg Historical Society	Misner House Roof Replacement... ..	\$5,000.00
Flat River Outreach Ministries	FROM Food Pantry Renovation.....	\$5,000.00
GR Amateur Astro. Assoc.	Ash Dome Refurbishing.....	\$10,000.00
Lowell Area Arts Council	2020 Office Updates.....	\$11,000.00
Lowell Area Hist. Museum	Youth Summer Camp.....	\$2,000.00
The Barn for Equine Learning	Therapeutic Office Space.....	\$10,800.00
Vergennes Township	Vergennes Twp. Community Room.....	\$7,000.00
Lowell YMCA	Capital Fund.....	\$25,000.00

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH to approve the recommendations of the LCTV Endowment Board to fund above applicants totaling \$109,800.00 as written.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Commercial and Industrial Districts – Ordinance 20-01.

Andy Moore with William & Works spoke regarding Ordinance 20-01, answered questions regarding lot coverage and that lot coverage is clarified by the definition. Moore also answered questions on the downtown district amendments. Also mixed use which would enable various uses in one building by right.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by SALZWEDEL to approve Resolution 20-01 as presented.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Chambers.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich stated the Historical District helped the property on the river to get a new roof and also helped Superior Lofts.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated the LCTV Board meeting will be in December of 2020 and Arbor Board will begin Monday, March 9, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Councilmember Chambers stated Planning Commission meeting will be held Monday, March 9, 2020 and Thursday, March 12, 2020 will be Lowell Light & Power Board meeting.

Mayor DeVore stated Fire Authority is coming up Monday, March 9, 2020 at 3:30 and DDA will be Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

Acting City Manager Police Chief Bukala reported on the following:

- Information came in over the weekend from the Chamber of Commerce, the farmers market will be moving from downtown to the Impact Church parking lot this year for better exposure, larger area and maybe some better luck.
- Something that came in this morning, of the 2020 CDBG Grant scoring results, Amity Street reconstruction came in number one out of the twenty-one projects that were submitted. Doesn't mean we are going to get money but it is a good sign.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Only change in appointments is that the Building Authority vacancy is going to have to become a full vacancy because Charles Myers is no longer a City of Lowell resident.

By general consensus, City Councilmembers all agreed to appoint Jim Salzwedel to the full time building authority board vacancy.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Chambers stated coffee with Council will be this Saturday at the Chamber and we were in Frankenmuth this past Friday and Saturday for our annual Michigan Municipal League classes. Received a lot of good information and met some really interesting people. Spoke with a gentleman from Benton Harbor about how they were able to get their city income tax to pass and how it is making a big difference for them.

Councilmember Yankovich stated it is Red Arrow time again. Yankovich was at the concert at the Lowell Arts Council when the Lowell wrestling team with police escorts came rolling by and it was great.

The Lowell Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra received straight ones at their district competition. This weekend is the Lowell High School Musical "Freaky Friday". The same lady that sang Mary Poppins last year has the lead this year so get your tickets; it is going to be great!

Mayor DeVore stated he was also at the Frankenmuth at the Michigan Municipal League (MML) classes and there is a movement going on right now through the league called "Save MI City". 8.6 billion dollars since 2002 has been funneled away from municipalities in the State of Michigan. Conflict between the Headley Amendment and Proposition A that doesn't allow us to do what both of those were originally intended to do. The City of Lowell on its own since 2002 has lost in state funding just short of 2.1 million dollars. There is a lot going on in Lansing right now with that and hopefully we will have someone here to speak about it from the MML at our first April meeting.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 7:34.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk