

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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 Deputy City Clerk Amy Brown called roll.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, Deputy City Clerk Amy Brown, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki and Chief of Police Chris Hurst.

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

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the Regular minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$462,343.33

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

YES: Councilmembers 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.**

No comments.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **MERS.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated there has not been any changes since the last update. He noted the audit was held last week. As mentioned at the last meeting there is about \$198,000 in revenues over expenditures and was hopeful to be able to take \$75,000 and put aside for the fire truck and the rest going toward the pension debt. Also, we received half of the public safety costs in August. These funds will be counted for as revenue for this fiscal year. The auditors suggested the possibility of taking a percentage of the water and sewer funds to utilize for the additional payment

b. **SHOWBOAT.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated he researched a number of municipalities that have event type centers. Even though these centers differ, when it comes down to how they operate they are pretty similar.

Burns and the Chamber came up with a number of rental and expense scenarios. There are a number of questions and concerns that need to be thought out and reviewed. What do we want to do as far as running it? Do we want the Chamber to run it? Dedicate a City employee? Mayor DeVore suggested having a member of the Showboat Committee present to help answer some of these questions.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. **MOL EASEMENT ACCEPTANCE.**

Lowell Light and Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot stated last month the LL&P Board approved and recommended to the City Council (for final approval) a Utility Easement Agreement with Samantha Mol, now known as Samantha Norman. The Agreement will allow LL&P to install electrical infrastructure on Norman's property to accommodate their neighbor's service being moved from overhead to underground.

It is the LL&P Board's recommendation for the City Council to approve the Utility Easement Agreement with Samantha Mol (now Norman) and Resolution #22-20.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve Resolution 22-20 and the easement agreement.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. **KENT COUNTY CARES ACT AGREEMENT.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated as part of the \$122 million Kent County received through the CARES Act, \$15 million was allocated for local government entities in Kent County. Of that amount, \$130,529.14 is being allocated to the City of Lowell through the allotment.

Burns confirmed with Kent County the funds must be used by no later than November 15, 2020, and if any funds are still in our possession and unused, the City is required to return them.

When the City was notified of the CARES Act funds, not much direction was given to how the funds can be utilized. Since then he has confirmed the County would allow us to reimburse payroll expenses for our Police Officers similar to what the City requested from the State of Michigan through the Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program. Kent County stated we could do this as long as we didn't file a request from reimbursement for the months we had already applied for.

Burns projected this amount would equate to approximately three months of payroll expenses for our Police Department. If the Council were to approve this agreement, Burns would submit reimbursement for July, August and September for Police payroll expenses.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the Grant Agreement from Kent County to receive the allotment of \$130,529.14 in CARES Act funding and utilize the funds for police payroll reimbursement as presented.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT:

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Canfield stated the City withdrew the trails request but is on schedule for 2023 construction.

Councilmember Chambers stated there was a special meeting held by the LL&P Board on Tuesday. It was noted the board approved a new service truck.

Mayor DeVore stated the Fire Authority has held two meetings recently. Ron van Overbeek has retired as fire chief and Shannon Witherell has been appointed as interim fire chief. There was a special meeting after that to formulate a new chief job description. The county truck process has been put on hold as they will not engage in any process where there is a vacant position or interim chief. Meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. DeVore noted a new attorney has also been hired.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

- Burns sat in on the interviews for two finalist for the new LL&P General Manager. Charlie West has been hired. Burns was very impressed with him and believes he will be a good fit.
- Friday the Michigan Supreme Court rescinded Governor Whitmer's orders. As confusing as the orders were, the rescinded are just as bad. There are many confusing areas. The other issue is water shut offs. He was hopeful that in the next few days there is more guidance.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

By general consensus, Eric Wakeman was reappointed. Mike Sprenger wishes to continue to serve on the DDA board as an at large member.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich encouraged citizens to come to Coffee with Council.

Councilmember Salzwedel also encouraged citizens to attend Coffee with Council.

Councilmember Canfield missed the Coffee with Council as he was on vacation.

Councilmember Chambers thanked everyone for helping with the Pink Arrow Drive In. The Police Officers that were present were amazing and interacted with the public.

Mayor DeVore stated the Community Clean Up was held last Saturday. The Pink Arrow Drive In was great and there were lots of volunteers. He gave a special shout out to Marty Chambers for all of his work. DeVore and Chambers were also on a radio station to talk about Pink Arrow. On Saturday, October 10 the Chamber and Impact Church will be lighting fireworks off. DeVore also thanked Burns for putting together the scenarios on the Showboat.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 7:50.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk