

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL.**

The Virtual Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor DeVore and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

Virtually present and attending from the City of Lowell: Councilmembers Cliff Yankovich, Jim Salzwedel Leah Groves and Mayor DeVore. Attending from Ludington, Michigan Councilmember Marty Chambers.

Absent: None.

Also virtually present from Lowell, Michigan, City Manager Michael Burns, City Clerk, Susan Ullery, Chief of Police Chris Hurst, DPW Director Dan Cznarecki, Fire Chief Shannon Witherell, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Brian VanderMuelen.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals and Regular City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$623,397.85.

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

YES: Councilmember Groves, 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. Covid 19.

City Manager Michael Burns stated not much has changed. Still limited to 10 people for indoor gatherings other than restaurants who are able to have 25% capacity. Would like to keep City Hall closed for another month or at least until employees can get vaccinations.

Mayor DeVore asked if Vision is able to meet since it is less than 10 people or not because it is more than two households. Burns will check with Attorney Jessica Wood to be sure.

b. Showboat.

City Manager Michael Burns stated as he mentioned before, construction is delayed because of the second floor ceiling. No changes in the budget and it is on track. Revenue is coming from the Chamber of Commerce but we haven't taken it yet. Burns hasn't met with Mark Mundt yet to see if they had an increase in fund raising in the last two weeks with the added Wolverine contribution. The Showboat group met and they are putting things in place, working on rate structure and maintenance plan. They need to get their bylaws together before they can officially be called a non-profit. Bids for the bathrooms are out and due March 3, 2021. Burns will bring back to the second City Council meeting in March.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated the next fundraising meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2021.

c. Social District.

City Manager Michael Burns said we will be able to open the Social District on Friday, February 19, 2021. Four out of five of the business have been approved and the other should be by the end of this week. DPW will be working on getting things ready this Wednesday and Thursday to be all set to begin the Social District on Friday. There will be two porta johns, one on Monroe and one down by the Riverfront.

d. Fire Cost Recovery Ordinance – 21-02.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo recommending the City Council approve Ordinance 21-02, which would create a cost recovery ordinance for certain fire and emergency services.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES to approve Ordinance 21-02 as written.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Planning Commission – Annual Report.

Planning Commission Chair Barker thanked Tony Ellis for his work on the annual report. Barker went through the annual report. Barker also thanked Andy Moore with Williams & Works for working with the Planning Commission on updating the City of Lowell's Zoning Ordinance.

Councilmember Salzwedel asked what can City Council do for the Planning Commission.

Barker stated they are in good shape but maybe a public statement, newsletter statement or Facebook post regarding why the number of marihuana facilities are being allowed in the City and anything that addresses public concern regarding marihuana facilities. Perhaps a report on the amount of taxes the City has received from the facilities, a police report showing there is not increased criminal activity, etc. just so the public is informed.

b. Annual Fire Report.

Fire Chief Shannon Witherell gave his 2020 annual report covering all information of what the Fire Authority does as well as the annual report of call statistics. The Fire Authority's website will be up by the end of March. Important to note, smoke detectors are getting installed and requested at a rapid pace. He noted carbon monoxide detectors are only good for 7 years and smoke detectors are only good for 10 years (that is when the sensors begin breaking down and failing). Witherell added knoxbox's are now required for all new construction permits in the City.

Councilmember Salzwedel asked if the City's AED's were up to date. Burns responded stating the old ones in the Police Department have been replaced and City Hall's AED still needs to be replaced.

c. 211 Grove Street – Water Service.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo explaining 211 Grove Streets existing water service line needs to be replaced. It has galvanized piping and needs to be replaced with copper pipe per the 2018 Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. Since there is no water main on Grove St, it will need to be connected to the 8-inch water main on Main Street. The new line will be 270 foot in length.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by DEVORE that City Council approve the quote from Lee's Trenching Service Inc., Byron Center, dated December 4, 2020, for the installation of a new water service line at 211 N Grove St., for an estimated cost of \$24,500.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

d. Motor Starter – HSP 2 – Water Plant.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo explaining the Water Plants' three high service pumps operation and their need for replacement. They are 40 years old and may go out around the same time. RS Technical handles the plants electrical services and have provided a quote for new a new high service pump for #2 at the cost of \$31,227.60.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALZWEDEL that the Lowell City Council approve the quote from RS Technical Services, Inc., Lowell, MI, dated February 8, 2021 for the installation and all necessary wiring of the Variable Speed Drive on High Service Pump #2, for a cost of \$31,227.60.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

e. Clarifier Gear Drive - Water Plant.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo explaining the Water Plants' Clarifier needs to be replaced. That specific gear box is outdated and now obsolete but a simple gear box can be converted to variable speed with a frequency drive plus additional wiring. RS Technical Services, LLC has provided a quote.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH that the Lowell City Council approve the quote from RS Technical Services, Inc., Lowell, MI, dated February 8, 2021 for the installation and all necessary wiring of the water plant clarifier gear drive, for a cost of \$14,934.43.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he will pick up the package for the LCTV Fund and the board will meet the following week for the grants. He also attended the LL&P board meeting, the staff reports were great and a lot of info at the meeting.

Councilmember Groves stated the Parks and Rec Commission will meet February 17, 2021. She also met with the Chamber of Commerce. They discussed the upcoming Expo and are being really creative. The hours will be Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this year. Hopefully people to visit the Social District area after the Expo.

Mayor DeVore stated they had Fire Authority meeting, Shannon Witherell spoke on most of that. Historic District will meet on February 23, 2021. Vision met today, discussed community cleanup. Looking to bring a splash pad to Lowell.

Burns stated there are really no changes other than what was approved tonight.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over a couple items:

- In the process of getting ready for next budget season, focus on prelim Board of Review evaluations. Positive things we can tell you is we have a 6 Million increase in real estate property.

- May amend the budget for the rest of the money (\$75,000) for the fire truck this year and we will need a new police vehicle for next budget, possibly a hybrid.
- MOU will bring to next meeting.
- MML- redistricting. He will get some information.
- Did investigate the pop up shanties, igloos in Social District for the City. They seem very difficult to accomplish and need to be set up by licensed business owners. Do not seem viable and business owners do not seem interested.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

None.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Yankovich thanked the DPW for taking care of all the snowplowing, snow and salt, and keeping the streets and sidewalks clear.

Councilmember Salzwedel said ditto on what Councilmember Yankovich said.

Councilmember Groves stated she is looking forward to the Social District for the businesses and for the residents and hopes everyone stays safe and uses common sense.

Mayor DeVore stated Lew Bender is coming April 26<sup>th</sup>, there are several other departments that are interested in his services so will try to plan it strategically. Also will reach out the Michigan Municipal League about "Save our City".

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

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