

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MARCH 01, 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, Marty Chambers and Mayor DeVore.

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, City Attorney Jessica Wood, and Lowell Light & Power Manager Charlie West.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$408,272.71.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES 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 again not much has changed. Found a Kent County Website that he was able to sign the City up as an employer for the City employees to get vaccinated. Signup is complete and just waiting to hear back on that.

b. Showboat.

City Manager Michael Burns stated he updated the Showboat spreadsheet presented in the City Council packet regarding where we are at with contracts and what we have spent. Still good with Wolverine. Still need to get with Liz Baker at the Chamber on funding updates. Close to having enough funds for the

restrooms. Bids for the restrooms are being opened March 3, 2021, so hope to be coming back with a recommendation from those at the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated we have raised \$860,000 to date. A little over \$120,000 that needs to be collected from pledges promised and that is including the LCTV Grant. No tax dollars have been used.

c. Social District.

City Manager Michael Burns stated it opened a week ago. Turnout seems great, busier on Saturdays. Did reopen Monroe due to complaints. All warming areas are on the Riverwalk now. Need more trash cans out and dispensed all around. DDA is funding the officer on duty and the fireman manning the warming areas. May need to lower the well of the fire bins with rebar.

d. MERS.

Burns has been in touch with MERS and working on extending the 30-year period for the unfunded liability. Also, discussing Pension Bonding. MERS is currently running some figures for us and once reviewed, I will bring back to City Council. If interested in doing this, we will have to have an actuarial done.

e. Lowell Township MOU.

Burns read his memo explaining need for cost share agreement between City of Lowell and the Lowell Charter Township.

City Attorney Jessica Wood explained the cost share agreement and added only if we are able to reach an agreement with the Township then we are responsible for our share of the cost to reimburse the developer. Wood recommended the motion should allow the City Attorney to fill in blanks of the agreement and also recommending a “not to exceed \$ total”.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by CHAMBERS that Lowell City Council approve PFM to conduct a valuation of the water and wastewater treatment facilities at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. I also recommend the Lowell City Council approve the cost sharing agreement with Lowell Township and to only pay our share of the valuation if we come to an agreement moving forward.

5. NEW BUSINESS.

a. LCTV Endowment Fund Recommendations.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated it was a good meeting, praised the team on a great job of putting everything together and trying to come up with a little bit of funding for everybody. Two applications did not qualify for funding. Funding would be dispensed as follows:

City of Lowell \$4,000.
Showboat \$50,000.
Kent County Youth Fair \$7488.60
Lowell Arts Council \$2,200.
Lowell Open Table \$5,790.50
Barn for Equine Indoor Learning & Riding Arena \$17,000.
Vergennes Township \$22,000.
Totaling \$108,479.10

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by DEVORE that Lowell City Council approve the LCTV Endowment Fund Recommendations totaling \$108,479.10.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated you saw the results of the LCTV Fund and board; they will meet again December 2nd of this year. Light & Power meeting this Thursday March 4, 2021.

Councilmember Yankovich stated the Historical District asked for \$100,000 from the Community Fund. They gave us \$60,000. A little disappointed because the Historic District typically grants 25% to 30% of costs that would translate into work being done in the City of Lowell. Brent Slagel is moving ahead on the Serenity Building and was granted funds from the Community Fund.

7. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over a couple items:

- Was notified Kent County Road Commission will be completing Alden Nash to Main Street to Foreman paving, sometime this spring and summer.
- At our March 15, 2021 City Council meeting, we will have a representative come to discuss the Re-Districting that was approved by the voters in 2018.
- We did put out in the newsletter information pertaining to Marihuana establishments in the City of Lowell.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Martha Davis would like to join the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

It was a general consensus that all City Councilmembers approve Martha Davis be appointed to the DDA.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Chambers thanked the DPW for opening Monroe street back up and dealing with moving all the items that needed to be moved. Thanked the Fire Department for their firemen doing their job for the social district and the Police Department for patrolling it and making it a safe environment.

Councilmember Salzwedel said he was happy to see the police woman get a hat the other night. He and his wife went down to the Social District Friday night and it was great. Crowds seem to be getting bigger. Along with Marty, thanked everyone involved for getting something new in the City started.

Councilmember Yankovich said Saturdays are great for people getting out and seeing what the Social District is all about. Lots of people visiting the shops. He believes it is going well.

Councilmember Groves stated she also wanted to thank everyone involved in getting the Social District up and running. Thinks it is going well and thinks it is great for the officers and firemen to interact with the public and that is it great to see.

Mayor DeVore thanked Marty Chambers for setting up an interview with the radio station WION. Both he and Marty were able to share all the good things happening in Lowell. DeVore also did a commercial for Lowell.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

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

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk