

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, JUNE 07, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

Present: Councilmembers' Cliff Yankovich, Marty Chambers, Leah Groves, Jim Salzwedel and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, Chief of Police Chris Hurst.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the May 17, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$246,169.97.

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

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Nicole Lintemuth -10988 Sconcewood Drive spoke on behalf of the recent "Pride" event.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **Showboat - Insurance.**

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo discussing the issue pertaining to the insurance for the Showboat and that on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, he had met with the Lowell Showboat VI organization to share what was discussed. At the meeting, the group was interested in reimbursing the City for the coverage because we believe there is a way to complete the restroom construction much quicker than anticipated and the funds will need to be utilized for this project. The topic of the restrooms will be discussed at the June 21, 2021 City Council meeting with a plan to fund the entire project. The City Attorney, Jessica Wood participated in the Lowell Showboat VI meeting on May 26, 2021 and we discussed the reimbursement option for the Showboat insurance. She said that while they are still in the process of submitting all of the paperwork to be filed for Lowell Showboat VI, we could not establish any sort of agreement with them until the Lowell Showboat non-profit organization is recognized as such by the State of Michigan. Lowell Showboat VI asked me to look into the possibility of seeking a

lesser value to insure and this is not an option. My recommendation is to select the \$3,000,000 liability insurance with a \$5000 deductible for \$8,250 per year. Also, to select the property coverage of \$2,700,000 with a \$50,000 deductible for \$25,600 per year. Total cost for both policies is \$33,850. Once the Lowell Showboat becomes formalized we can enter into an agreement with them to seek reimbursement for the insurance coverage.

City Council members discussed at length.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by YANKOVICH that Lowell City Council purchase the \$3,000,000 liability insurance with a \$5,000 deductible at a cost not to exceed \$33,850. Also recommending seeking reimbursement form the Lowell Showboat VI once they become recognized as a non-profit organization by the State of Michigan.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich and Councilmember Groves.

NO: Councilmember Chambers and Mayor DeVore. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED 3-2.

b. Downtown Traffic Control.

Chief Hurst read his memo into record and showed the results of their study.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Vacation Days Accrued.

City Manager Michael Burns stated last year, the classifications and compensation study was presented for your review. One of the items suggested to consider was the amount of vacation time accrued for the longer serving non-union and department directors. For many years, once you reached your twelfth year of service, an individual received 20 days of vacation. However, it did not increase beyond that amount if you had additional years of service. In the reopener to current IBEW collective bargaining agreement and the Lowell Police Officers collective bargaining agreement, the City agreed to the additional amount of days as follows:

20 years of service – 21 days
21 years of service – 22 days
22 years of service – 23 days
23 years of service – 24 days
24 years of service – 25 days

I am requesting this same benefit be provided to the non-union and department director staff. This would in no way change the amount of vacation time employees can cash out once they sever employment with the City of Lowell. The City of Lowell allows employees to cash out no greater than 20 days' vacation time when they leave the City. I am not recommending any changes to this procedure.

Every full time employee bridged down his or her future pension multiplier from 2.5% to 2.0% last fall. This was negotiated with the two collective bargaining units and the vacation increase was part of what we gave the union to get what we needed with our pension and retirement health care issues. The non-union and department directors did not have the luxury to negotiate this as they are not entitled collective bargaining rights, so in essence the benefit was taken away from them without negotiation. I believe the non-union and department directors should be given this benefit, as I believe this would only influence four current employees currently. This causes no increased cost to the general fund budget, as we do not replace these positions when someone charges a vacation day.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council approve the above listed increase to vacation days based on years of service for non-union and department director employees.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Sale of Police Motorcycle.

Chief of Police Chris Hurst read his memo explaining the motorcycles they obtained through the 1033 program from the US Pentagon Police for only the cost of driving to Washington to pick the two of them up. One was sold two years ago through Repo-Cast. The other motorcycle is no longer needed and we would like to sell it as well through a third party, One-Way Auto. The motorcycle will be stripped of any police gear (lights, siren, radio and radar). This stripping will have some upfront costs. We have a complete CARFAX history for the motorcycle along with a Kelley Bluebook estimated value of \$8,775.00.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council approve the proposed sale of our 2012 BMW R1200T Motorcycle through a third party, One-Way-Auto.

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

NO: Councilmember Yankovich.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED 4 -1.

c. Street Closure – Avery Street West of Monroe – 2021 Expo.

City Manager Michael Burns read the memo requesting permission to close Avery Street West of Monroe, Friday, June 11, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m. through Saturday June 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of food concessions for the 2021 Expo.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the street closure as stated above for the 2021 Expo.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

d. Street Closure – Avery Street West of Monroe – 27th Annual Riverwalk Festival.

City Manager Michael Burns read the memo requesting permission to close Avery Street East of Monroe to Jefferson St. Washington Street, north of Main to the Lowell Area Schools Parking Lot, Saturday, July 10 beginning at 6:00 am to 4:00 pm for the Riverwalk Cruise-In.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the street closures as stated above for the Annual Riverwalk Festival.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich stated there are some new owners at 214 E Main and they are going to make some improvements to the front and back of the building.

7. **BUDGET REPORT.**

There were no updates.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over a couple items:

- Foreman Street Project begins tomorrow. Plan is to be complete in 35 days.
- We are still slated to begin Jane Ellen around July 7th and Amity Street will be completed before October 8th. We are going to have a pre-construction meeting for both projects next week and the neighborhood meetings will be held at the same time as CL Trucking is doing both projects.
- We have started doing weekly tests of Stoney Lake beach during the summer months as we have for many years. We are now putting those results on the City website weekly along with a link to show how to read the report as it is a very scientific report.
- Temperature control system should be repaired by the end of this week.
- The line-shack RFP is complete and will go out this week.
- Showboat Gala will be held this Friday night and the Expo is this Saturday.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

There are no changes.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Groves stated she was a volunteer at the Pride Event this past weekend and it was the most beautiful thing she has seen in Lowell thus far. Lowell was full of happy people.

Councilmember Chambers stated congratulations and good job! Pride was a great event and it took a lot of work.

Councilmember Yankovich agreed that the Pride Event was great. Impressed that 60 people volunteered for a first time event. Yankovich also was able to meet the new owner of Ripple Restaurant (former Spring Grove Store) and someone in the crowd was highly recommending his food and excited about it coming.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he thought the event that kicked off the summer series of events happening, was fantastic. A great start. We have a lot happening this summer, so let's keep the same spirit and commitment and continue to grow this community like I know we can.

Mayor DeVore also agreed the Pride Event was fantastic and even with a lot of volunteers in very hot weather.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

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

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk