

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, JULY 19, 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 Pro-Tem Jim Salzwedel and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers' Cliff Yankovich, Marty Chambers, Leah Groves, Mayor Pro-tem Jim Salzwedel.

Absent: Mayor DeVore.

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

2. **EXCUSE OF ABSENCE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES to excuse the absence of Mayor DeVore.

YES: Councilmember Groves, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Mayor Pro-Tem Salzwedel.

NO: None.                      ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.                      MOTION CARRIED.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the June 21, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$226,089.94.

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

YES: Councilmember Groves, Councilmember Yankovich, Mayor Pro-Tem Salzwedel, Councilmember Chambers.

NO: None.    ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.    MOTION CARRIED.

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

Denise Barker who resides at 901 N Jefferson is concerned with the amount of marijuana businesses in the area and doesn't think this is what the people voted for.

Perry Beachum who resides at 924 Riverside stated he attended Saturdays Coffee with Council and has concerns with the website software regarding resident account/information exposure.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

There is none.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Resolution 11-21 – Alleyway Vacation.

City Manager Michael Burns stated that the City of Lowell has received a request to vacate an undesignated street plat between 420 W. Main and 508 W. Main. Tyler Velting, who is one of the owners of The New Union Brewery, owns both properties while under separate limited liability corporations. They are requesting to vacate the alleyway as part of a future expansion of the New Union Brewery. This is different from the vacation of High Street, as this requires approval from the governing body. In the previous vacation, this required a circuit court action as this was adjacent to a public waterway. Burns confirmed with the Kent County Register of Deeds that there are no claims or easements to the alleyway. The applicant also conducted a title search which finds the same.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH that the Lowell City Council approve Resolution 11-21 to vacate the undesignated street plat between 420 & 508 W. Main Street.

YES: Mayor Pro-Tem Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Groves.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Water System SCADA Upgrades.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo explaining the SCADA upgrade and how this will help to bring our water system into a better operational and system safety position. We have been in contact with RS Technical Services on the set up of the SCADA and operational system at the NE Pump Station. RS Technical has been our SCADA contractor since the City started to covert over the system. This upgrade should also save the water fund on energy costs by utilizing the VFD's on the pumps. There are other pump improvements that will be seen through these upgrades. Having the ability to observe the operations of the system at any time, to have instantaneous information available on all the components of the system, to be able to make changes to meet emergency pumping needs from the water plant, will all help to improve the operation of our water system.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the quote from RS Technical Services, Inc., Lowell, MI, dated May 3, 2021, for the installation and all necessary wiring of the SCADA system and pump upgrades at the Northeast Pump Station, for a cost of \$96,817.36.

YES: Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Groves, and Mayor Pro-Tem Salzwedel.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Bowes Road Sewer Repairs.

City Manager Michael Burns read the memo stating recently, the City was called out to a potential sewer backup in the 800 block of Bowes Street. While we did not find a backup in the City's sewer main at this location, we did discover large rocks in the section of pipe and in a pipe to the west of Pleasant St. We had Plummer's Environmental Service out to videotape the sewer main in this area. Through their cleaning and videotaping of the line, they discovered two sections of pipe that have deteriorated and in need of repair. One section is 12.5 ft. in length where the pipe has several cracks. A second section of pipe approximately 17.5 ft. in length is broken. Plummer's Environmental has proposed making the repairs utilizing the Cured-in Place method. This method cleans the pipe in the area of repair, removes any obstacles that may be in the way, and installs a resin soaked sleeve into the pipe. Once the sleeve is in place the pipe is filled with water to cause the resin to harden. After the sleeve cures and hardens the water is removed and the sleeve remains in the pipe in a solid condition, restoring the integrity of the pipe. The sewer water flow is bypassed pumped around this section of pipe during the repair. Plummer's Environmental has quoted us a cost of \$9,900.00 to perform this repair work.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the quote from Plummer's Environmental Services, Inc., Bryon Center, MI, dated June 23, 2021, for the Cured-in-Place repair to the Bowes Street sanitary sewer main, for a cost of \$9,900.00.

YES: Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Groves, and Mayor Pro-Tem Salzwedel.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.

Councilmember Yankovich stated he did not make it to the Historic District Committee Meeting but his wife was there and there was nothing new to report.

Councilmember Chambers missed the Special Meeting for the Planning Commission but the Culver's Restaurant was approved. Planning Commission is next Monday, July 12, 2021.

7. BUDGET REPORT.

There were no updates.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT.

City Manager Michael Burns went over a couple items:

- Foreman Street Project is near completion.
- Jane Ellen project began today.

- The Alden Nash project Kent County Road Commission is doing from Fulton to Foreman will begin on July 12, 2021 and should be complete by July 26, 2021.
- We had an issue with the rain from last week on the Showboat. It leaked in and ruined carpet, still trying to figure out the cause and should be done by the end of the week. Carpet had to be removed. Insurance will not cover due to \$50K deductible.
- LARA Trail received \$250,000 from Frederick Meyer Foundation.
- Will reach out to KDL for the statistics for the City of Lowell Library but wanted to wait till the fiscal year end, so I will have that for you next meeting.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Bruce Barker would like to be re-appointed to the Planning Commission.

It was a general consensus by the Council to re-appoint Bruce Barker to the Planning Commission.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Yankovich would like to thank First Look for their ‘what’s going where’ article. Happy Birthday to Ball’s Ice Cream as they are 50 years old this week.

Councilmember Salzwedel thanked the citizens who went over and helped cleaned up the Showboat after the water damage. Also have been seeing negative things on Facebook from some citizens and would like to see that resolve. We are a great community with a lot of really good people. Thank you for all that showed up tonight for the meeting in person as well.

Councilmember Chambers wanted to thank all the people that showed up at Creekside to clean up the graffiti mess, it shows the heart and the drive of our community. Also would like to see a procedure put in place when something like this happens again.

Councilmember Groves stated the Riverwalk Festival is coming up and we still need volunteers, you can connect with the Chamber to sign up. Had some graffiti at Creekside park and residents came together and cleaned it up, and she appreciates their time and support for the community. Change happens by being kind, even if you have a different point of view from someone else in the community.

Perry Beachum stated there is an opening on the Lowell Light & Power Board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALZWEDEL to adjourn at 7:41 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