

**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 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, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki and City Attorney Jessica Wood.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the July 06, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$339,568.84.

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by YANKOVICH 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.**

Greg Canfield who resides at 403 N. Washington asked the City Council for a donation for the LARA Trails stating, we are only \$200,000 away from the goal and if the City would donate \$100,000. then the Township of Lowell would match \$100,000.

Dave Austin with Williams & Works stated the deadline for a written commitment is October 1, 2021.

City Manager Michael Burns stated he would do some research on it and report back.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **Seven Year Improvement Plan.**

City Manager Michael Burns discussed the seven-year street improvement plan and explained ways we could pay for it, also suggested that the City would have more flexibility with funds if a plan was in place.

Councilmember Yankovich would like it to be put on the website for the community to make suggestions.

Burns said he will come back with an asset management plan so they can continue to move forward.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Hillside Court.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating he was contacted by Mr. William Thompson, 720 Hillside Ct., who informed him he was getting ready to remove the gravel turn-around on Hillside Ct. and replace it with grass. He said he previously received permission to do so from the City Manager and the previous Public Works Director in January 2019. Czarnecki met with Thompson on July 9, 2021 and discussed what he was intending to do. He claims the gravel turnaround is creating too much dust and causing his daughter to power wash her house (address 835 Hillside Ct). By removing the gravel and replacing it with grass, Mr. Thompson said he feels this would resolve the dust problem. The eastern portion of Hillside Ct. was reconstructed with rolled curb along the edge to help alleviate a drainage problem. Currently, the street portion of Hillside Ct. in this vicinity is pavement with many potholes. There are some locations that allow water to pond. These ponding areas could be remedied with some grading of the road edge to allow the water to flow off the street and onto the existing grass. If Mr. Thompson were to remove the existing gravel/dirt as he proposes, this will take away the location most vehicles utilize for turning around. Without an area for turning around, I would expect vehicles to utilize existing driveways. There are several options that could be considered to make improvement to this area. However, several of the options have an expense that needs to be considered. Czarnecki went into more detail and gave several options for improvement.

Councilmember Yankovich would like to hear from the other neighbors.

City Attorney Jessica Woods discussed the idea of a special assessment.

Mayor DeVore would like to check with other property owners, have a meeting for discussion with all.

It was a general consensus to have a meeting with all the property owners involved.

b. HVAC Preventative Maintenance Agreements.

City Manager Michael Burns stated for a number of years, the City of Lowell has had preventative maintenance agreements with Progressive Heating and Cooling for the Library and the DPW Building. It is time for the annual renewal of these agreements which detail the work performed under the agreement. The City would still be responsible if parts/units need to be updated. The annual cost for the Library is \$1,592 per year and for the DPW Building is \$448 per year. The cost remains the same as last year and the year prior.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by DEVORE that the Lowell City Council approve the annual preventative maintenance agreements with Progressive Heating and Cooling for the DPW Building and Library as presented.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich stated there was no trail meeting. Went to LL&P Board Meeting and they discussed charging stations that need to be replaced and discussed future new ones.

Councilmember Salzwedel said he attended the LL&P Board Meeting as well. Three percent of cars have EV. LL&P wrote off only \$600 or so. M-37 has a new round-about.

Councilmember Chambers attended the Planning Commission meeting, there were two marijuana public hearings. One did not show up and the other one has parking issue to figure out before they come back to the City Council Board.

Mayor DeVore attended Fire Authority and they discussed a full time inspector. There will be no August meeting. The Lowell School Board has a lot going on.

7. **BUDGET REPORT.**

There were no updates.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over a couple items:

- Request about BS&A- We have looked at other communities-public record-no legal concerns-more policy. Could create additional staff if we do this.
- Senate Bill was approved \$150 Million for road funding. Still has to go through the House.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

By general consensus, the City Council appointed Craig Fonger to the Lowell Light & Power Board.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Groves commented on recent social media activity and the importance of being kind to one another.

Councilmember Chambers gave a shout out to the DPW, they are doing a great job. Also, the new cemetery sexton was out working on Saturday, doing a great job as well as the police. Thank you.

Councilmember Salzwedel thanked the Departments for their monthly reports.

Councilmember Yankovich thanked the DPW for taking care of the window at the museum.

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 8:04 p.m.

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

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk