

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 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, City Attorney Tom Forshee, Lowell Light and Power General Manager Charlie West and Lowell Light and Power Boardmember Perry Beachum.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the September 7, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$2,238,731.76.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL 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.**

Jeanne Green who lives at 2015 Conservation Trail spoke about her concerns with a meter being moved at her home and causing damage to the siding of her home.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **KDL Annual Report.**

Katie Oliver who serves on the board at Kent District Library gave some highlights from the annual report.

Kurt Stevens from KDL then gave a recap of 2020, stating they have had to provide services virtually and have come up with over 1,400 live stream events.

Sandy Graham from KDL then gave a presentation about all their new services.

b. Line Shack.

Lowell Light & Power Charlie West spoke on the RFP's received for the Line Shack (property at 115 Riverside Drive) stating there were six in total that met all the requirements. At the Light & Power Board meeting on September 6, 2021, the board evaluated and discussed all the proposals and they provided a time period for each of the submitters to be heard from; four of the six were at the meeting.

After much discussion, it was a general consensus for the LL&P Board to forward the proposals to City Council to evaluate and consider. On October 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., Council will meet with the RFP applicants to hear from each of them regarding their proposals.

c. Hillside Court.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating after the September 07, 2021, City Council meeting, he contacted Great Lakes Paving about obtaining a quote to pave the turn-around area at the west end of Hillside Ct. He met with Mr. John Allen on site and discussed the best way to approach this paving work. The area to be paved is approximately 1600 square feet and includes a portion along the street edge to help improve the current drainage. The DPW crew will lower the current gravel area approximately 2.5 inches to allow for asphalt to be placed. According to Mr. Allen he is anticipating using approximately 26 tons of asphalt to cover the area laid out for surfacing. This amount could vary, depending on the accuracy of the preparation work.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH that the Lowell City Council approve the quote from Great Lakes Paving, Lowell, MI, for the paving of the turn-around area at the west end of Hillside Ct. as outlined in their quote dated September 12, 2021, for a cost of \$3,980.00

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Wolverine Power Easement – Ware Road.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. has a transmission line that runs across the City owned Ware Road property. Back in 1967, the City and Wolverine Electric Cooperative (now known as Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative) entered into an agreement to allow Wolverine a right-of-way easement for the transmission line. The transmission line has been in service for about 54 years. Mr. Greg Gibson, Land Agent for Wolverine Power, explained the 1967 easement encumbers the entire city owned property. Today, Wolverine Electric would like to reaffirm and amend the easement to only include specifically the 100-foot-wide easement for the

power line, releasing any remaining encumbrances. The new agreement specifically releases any right Wolverine Power may have had on land outside of the easement area, restricts the construction of any structures or obstructions within the easement strip without permission of Wolverine Power, and any damage caused by Wolverine Power due to working on their power lines in the easement or accessing the easement on existing roads shall be the cost of Wolverine Power to repair.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the Reaffirmation and Amendment of the Right of Way Easement Agreement with Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc., Cadillac, Michigan, for their easement on the City's Ware Road property, as outline in the written agreement and as shown on the easement map dated May 1, 2021, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the document.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel went to Lowell Light & Power Board meeting and was entertained by the island mode opportunity that was presented to the board, feasible but not affordable. Also, a lot of good conversation on the line shacks.

Councilmember Chambers attended the Planning Commission meeting, where a marijuana establishment was not approved.

Councilmember Groves attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and goals that were discussed were to create and establish the 501C3 that will encompass and manage operations of the Lowell Showboat. Also would like to help the community navigate back towards normal, organizing events and getting back to traditional Chamber events. All very anxious to see what the next year brings. At the Arbor Board meeting, we discussed which business will receive the 2021 Arbor Day tree as well as the business that will receive the 2022 Arbor Day tree. Also discussed the City's tree trimming with Lowell Light & Power Board as well.

Mayor DeVore stated Vision meeting was last Wednesday, so reminding everyone that community cleanup is Saturday, September 25, 2021. Still need three volunteers to help with parking and traffic control.

7. **BUDGET REPORT.**

Burns stated the only issue we have had is the number of emergency repairs we have had to make for air conditioning at City Hall and the Library.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns noted the following:

- Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Lew Bender will be here.
- Library issues and whether to ask Lowell Township to help with finances.
- Next meeting, he will be phoning in as he will be at the out of town at a Managers Conference.
- Trying to meet with the Township on the administrative consent orders, hopefully next week.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

There were none.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Chambers thanked everyone that put their bid in on the line shack building. We also would like the video camera to show how many people are in attendance at meetings.

Councilmember Yankovich joked by thanking the Lowell Light & Power Board for making our job more difficult by passing along the decision on the Line Shack building. But seriously, was happy there were six different parties interested. Speaks well for the City of Lowell.

Mayor DeVore reminded everyone of the community cleanup this Saturday and homecoming is this Friday with an in-person parade. He also appreciates the Lowell Light & Power Board for their work on the line shack.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk