

**CITY OF LOWELL SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL AND
LOWELL LIGHT & POWER MEETING
GRAND RIVER CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL/2ND FLOOR
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022, 5:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL.

Mayor DeVore called the Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

Present for City of Lowell: Council Members Marty Chambers, Jim Salzwedel, Leah Groves, Cliff Yankovich and Mayor Devore.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery and City Attorney Jessica Woods.

Present for Lowell Light & Power Board: Board Members Craig Fonger, Tina Cadwallader, Andrew Schrauben, and Chair Perry Beachum.

Absent: Daniel Crawford.

2. EXCUSE OF ABSENCE.

IT WAS MOVED BY FONGER and seconded by SCHRAUBEN to excuse the absence of Daniel Crawford.

YES: 4. NO: None. ABSENT: Daniel Crawford. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

CITY COUNCIL.

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

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

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER.

IT WAS MOVED BY FONGER and seconded by CADWALLADER to approve the agenda as written.

YES: 4. NO: None. ABSENT: Daniel Crawford. MOTION CARRIED.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There were no comments.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE LINE SHACK.

Mayor Devore explained the reason for the meeting.

Chair Beachum read his letter into record and spoke on his behalf and ratepayers and gave history of the RFP's and history of previous discussion.

Board member Fonger wanted to remind everyone that we are here to do ratepayers work and he hopes to come out with a good solution.

Board member Cadwallader wants this off the docket; let us get this taken care of. It is an eyesore. Canfield has done great things. My vote is to Canfields' proposal.

Board member Schrauben stated his main concern is to get this resolved and he does not want it to appear that the City of Lowell is difficult to work with. Follow zoning, parking will always be an issue. Keep with valid RFP and take one we have out there.

Councilmember Groves stated she feels we lost a great opportunity with a company (Copperrock) that has a successful portfolio, they were willing to work with the City and make adjustments. Groves feels the City showed our inability to make great choices.

Councilmember Yankovich explained he realizes as a City Councilmember, it is not our job to decide the height of a building, etc., that is for the Planning Commission and he regrets changing his vote. Feels there is support for Copperrock which is why he feels we should start from ground zero.

Councilmember Salzwedel agrees with Yankovich and feels he did not do his job when voting on it. Would like to consider how we sell the building.

Councilmember Chambers commented on the others comments. He doesn't see where the taxpayers benefit from the sale. Then commented on Cadwalladers' support for Canfields proposal. Agrees with Groves, feels like it is a loss to the City to lose Copperrock's proposal. Not opposed to seeing this bid put out again, because we need to look at all the options with a clear vision.

Mayor DeVore stated the RFP's were our fault; the project fell apart because of the developer not because the City was difficult to work with. DeVore thinks a continuation of business to bring people downtown is a good thing. Going out for a new RFP would be a good idea if there weren't already viable proposals, so he doesn't feel that is necessary, because we have other viable proposals.

Chair Beachum said apartments would increase the amount of revenue to LL&P. Many people who buy such apartments live here half the time.

Board member West stated no matter what goes there, it isn't going to add anything to operating revenue. LL&P wants to get the liability off their books, which is why they give 2 recommendations. Sell now or take Canfields RFP.

Councilmember Groves stated she is frustrated with councilmembers, feels we failed the system that was set up for us. Who came to the table, whom did we want most, we are still talking about logistics and that is not our job.

City Attorney Jessica Wood stated a reminder that there is a resolution sitting out there for 20 days and when it comes back, there is a vote of 4-1 to pass. Focus on objective criteria and let the Planning Commission do their job.

Greg Canfield stated he feels like he is a little bit of a public enemy #1 but with his 40 years of experience he has the ability to complete the project. Canfield then stated many of his projects that he has done in the City of Lowell.

6. **COMMENTS.**

City Council Comments.

There were no comments.

Lowell Light & Power Comments.

Board member Schrauben stated his concern is the appearance with many of the RFP's and to make sure that we get value from the property.

7. **ADJOURNMENT.**

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER.

IT WAS MOVED BY CADWALLADER and seconded by SCHRAUBEN to adjourn @ 6:28 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 6:28 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk

Perry Beachum, Chair LL&P