

**CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL TOWNSHIP
JOINT WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
GRAND RIVER CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL/2ND FLOOR
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022, 3:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL.**

Chair Marty Chambers called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

Present for City of Lowell: Committee Members Marty Chambers, Michael Burns and Dan Czarnecki.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery.

Present for Lowell Township: Committee Members Jerry Hale, Rhonda Benedict and William Thompson.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

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

YES: 6.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Jim Salzwedel who resides at 505 N Jefferson wished the Committee good luck on their first meeting.

4. **DISCUSSION ON WATER TREATMENT PLANT.**

Committee Member Michael Burns referred back to the water restrictions that were put in place over the summer and that he had met with EGLE about the issues with the north side pump station. Issues at the pump station are being resolved and that will help. Restrictions worked, but they are not a long-term fix for the issue with capacity. Based off the annual reports for the year, about 41% of the flow is going to the township annually. The state has not notified us yet that we are at about 80% capacity and that we are going to have to talk about a plant expansion. City Council has looked at the agreement with the Township and they have some concerns. If you look at the average gallon amount per day that is pumped in the City, the City on its own will never need to expand. However, with the growth of Lowell Township, we recognize that the demand for water without expansion at some point will have to be addressed. The reservation for City Council is who is going to pay for the expansion that they do not need. We want to be good neighbors and help in any way we can but are not interested in having the City's ratepayer to pay for the expansion. A quote six months ago for the engineering was about \$196,000; we do not even know what it would be now.

Jerry Hale from Lowell Township explained their side stating is it fair for them to foot the whole bill to expand a plant that they have no interest in, it is the City's asset and if the Township expands it but then gets nothing from it.

William Thompson asked Burns if they had approached the County at all for funding with the infrastructure. Burns said that is not available for us, their concerns were more towards led service lines.

Burns continued stating the position of the City is that they are not opposed to forming an Authority.

But at this point, more City representation on the Authority until the usage or flow is at the level beyond the City's needs. After that, not opposed to a 50/50 Authority between City and Township.

Hale suggested the Township buy in, to be equal partners.

Chambers does not like the appraisal that was done, as it does not include the underground. Chambers suggested doing one expansion (water) first rather than both water and sewer and possibly blend the two later.

Agreement expires in 2027.

The Committee continued discussing at length; Burns will go back to boards/council to talk about this meeting. Hale will talk again with Burns after Township Board meeting tonight. Burns suggested meeting quarterly, or every other month.

Next meetings, December 5, 2022 at 3:00pm and then February 6, 2023.

5. **COMMENTS.**

There was no comments.

6. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HALE and seconded by THOMPSON to adjourn @ 3:51 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Marty Chambers

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk