

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 03, 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 Sue Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers' Cliff Yankovich, Marty Chambers, Leah Groves, Jim Salzwedel and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Also Present: DPW Director Dan Czarnecki, Chief of Police Chris Hurst.

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

a. Mayor

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to nominate Mike DeVore for Mayor.

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

NO: None.                      ABSENT: None.                      MOTION CARRIED.

b. Mayor Pro Tem

Marty Chambers spoke as to why he feels he should be nominated as Mayor Pro Tem.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALZWEDEL to nominate Marty Chambers as Mayor Pro Tem.

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

NO: None.                      ABSENT: None.                      MOTION CARRIED.

c. Review and Adoption of Council Rules of Procedure.

It was a general consensus by the Councilmembers to have the City Attorney come and give a refresher on the Roberts Rules and the Open Meetings Act

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of the 2022 Meeting Dates
- Lowell Area Schools- Collection of Summer Property Taxes for 2022.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the December 20, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$68,512.25

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by DEVORE 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.

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

There was none.

5. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Ware Road Presentation.

City Manager Michael Burns wanted to give an update on what has occurred in the last year pertaining to Ware Road. He introduced Renee Hewitt from BDLI who summarized their work so far including testing and installing 11 monitoring wells and then stated what is left to be done. Looking at an expense of about \$105,000 for the next fiscal year (2023)

b. 990 N. Washington.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo stating the City of Lowell has been renting the house located at 990 N. Washington to Sandra Barlett and Gary Dietzel since 1979. Prior to 2020, the City had a ten-year lease that expired on June 30, 2020. In the Spring of 2020, the lease was extended for 24 months and is set to expire on June 30, 2022. In July 2020, the rent increased from \$450 per month to \$500 per month and increased to \$520 per month in July 2021. The property is located in Vergennes Township and the home resides on three acres. The property was not being properly assessed until 2020. The township has a taxable value of the property of \$57,392. The property and home are not a need of the City. Burns is requesting direction from the City Council as to what they would like to do with the property going forward.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by DEVORE that we direct City Manager Michael Burns to notify the renters that you will not extend the lease after June 30, 2022.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Resolution 01-22 - Poverty Exemption.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo stating the Michigan Department of Treasury requires Communities to establish poverty guidelines for those who are unable to contribute towards the public charges. those in this situation are deemed a poverty exemption if they meet all of the requirements. Annually these resolutions must be reviewed and established. We have not made any changes since last

year, with the exception of the state making modifications to the income levels due to inflation.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve Resolution 01-22 to adopt a current poverty exemption policy and guidelines in accordance with the General Property Tax Act.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Annual Authorization of Signature for City Bank Accounts & Designation of Depository Banks.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council approve the annual authorization of signatures for City Bank Accounts and designation of depository banks as proposed.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel reminded everyone the LCTV Requests are due January 4, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Mayor Devore stated that he and City Manager Michael Burns are meeting tomorrow at 1:00 to get the LARA trails update and Fire Authority is next week.

8. **BUDGET REPORTS.**

There are no new updates.

9. **MANAGERS REPORT.**

There was nothing new to report.

10. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Mayor DeVore and City Clerk Sue Ullery will get together this week to go over currently serving and what is available with appointments.

It was a general consensus of all the councilmembers to appoint Dave Wikstrom to the Fire Authority Board.

11. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Yankovich wanted to thank all the people who did not sign the recall petition for the three members of our great Lowell School Board. Also thank you to our City Attorney Jessica Wood for giving us the wise council to not put a limit on the adult use marihuana establishments in Lowell as she stated it was an invitation to be sued and she was spot on. Lastly, he wants to thank City Manager Michael Burns for doing a great job looking after our money. Yankovich stated in his opinion, he is head and shoulders above the previous administrators, and we are consistently under the budget we set out each year and as a consequence of pensions and health care expenses for city retirees, as well as chipping away at our street and road repairs. And thank you to all the Councilmembers because we do a good job of putting our city first.

Mayor DeVore wanted to echo everything that Councilmember Yankovich was thankful for.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk