

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022, 7:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL.**

Mayor DeVore called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

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

Absent: None.

Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki, City Manager Michael Burns, Chief of Police Chris Hurst.

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

- Approval of the Agenda as amended.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the November 7, 2022 regular meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$171,038.41.

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

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Perry Beachum who resides at 924 Riverside stated his concern for the contaminated pile on the Moose property and feels it needs to be removed as this is a part of a park property. Possibly a sign or a fence to keep people out.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. New Police Car.

Chief of Police Chris Hurst gave an update on the car that had been ordered for the Police department, apparently, it has been reordered for 2023 and no way to know the cost. Hurst then asked to re-allocate the funds for the new car to purchase a used car, a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility, that is currently available from WMU DPS at a cost not to exceed, \$51,315.00.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by SALZWEDEL that Lowell City Council approve that the Lowell Police Department reallocate the funds that were set aside to purchase a cruiser from Signature Ford and use these funds to purchase and equip the WMU DPS cruiser for a cost not to exceed \$51,315.00.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Rockford EMS Contract.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo regarding the renewal of the current Rockford EMS contract stating everything is the same except changing the dates for a new five year agreement.

Tim Armstrong, representing Rockford Ambulance answered questions from the council.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council renew a 5-year agreement with Rockford Ambulance for EMS Services to the City of Lowell.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Mowing Bids 2023-2025.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating the contract for mowing and trimming of City properties has expired. New bids were requested and opened on November 7, 2022. The work areas include City Parks and recreation areas, water storage areas, several roadsides and city properties. Received three bids. Manszewski Landscaping has performed the mowing for the past several years and they have done a good job. They are the lowest bid received.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS that Lowell City Council approve the bid and award the three year mowing contract to Manszewski Landscaping, Lake Odessa, as outlined in their bid received November 7, 2022, for a total yearly cost of \$42,600.00, for each year of the mowing seasons of 2023, 2024, and 2025.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Draft Park and Receptions Plan 2023-2027.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating for the past year, the Parks and Recreation Commission has been working on updating the Recreation Master Plan. This is a process that takes place every five years to meet requirements of the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Public Notice has been sent and any comments will be relayed at the next meeting. Final approval is needed no later than the January 3, 2023 regular meeting. This will provide the needed time to finalize all paperwork and deliver the documents to the MDNR no later than February 1, 2023.

Mayor DeVore opened up the floor for Public Comment.

Bruce Matthews who resides at 326 Riverside read his letter into record regarding the Lowell Scout Park and thanked Dan Czarnecki for his services.

Bill Schuer who resides at 538 Flat River read his letter into record regarding the Lowell Scout Park and also thanks Dan Czarnecki and the DPW workers.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Groves stated Chamber of Commerce meeting was at the beginning of the month. Reminded everyone about Christmas through Lowell as well as the December 3, 2022, The Santa Parade. Parks & Rec meeting they are working on masterplan.

Councilmember Chambers stating the Planning Commission will begin working on their new master plan for the City which will take 14 to 18 months so it will take some time. Public input will also be implemented when taken at the Riverwalk concerts as well as the Lowell Expo.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated at the Lowell Light & Power meeting, Ron VanOverbeek will be retiring after 25 years. Congratulations to Ron. Also, Mark Droog will have 23 years at LL&P.

Councilmember Yankovich wanted to thank City Manager Michael Burns and City Clerk Sue Ullery for eliminating Styrofoam cups. Congratulations to the DPW on working on the snow removal this past week. The LOOK Foundation was not able to grant all that was requested but spent \$26,000. No one received what they requested. Senior neighbors and The Gilda's Club are moving to the First Congregational Church.

Mayor DeVore stated Vison was rescheduled but had Fire Authority meeting and voted two probationary members to full-pledged fire fighters. Staffing is at about 32 right now which is the highest it has ever been. Preliminary budget they will be working on during December and January. We renewed the contract with the Fire Chief and gave him an increase and a review. Fire Authority is doing a great job and DeVore is really glad he is on that board.

7. **BUDGET REPORT.**

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns reported on the following:

- Thanked the DPW and Dan Czarnecki for their hard work and they did a great job.
- 990 N. Washington – Today was the deadline that they were to be out of the property, tomorrow they will not be in compliance with the judge's orders so we will file a motion tomorrow to evict them.
- Lineshack – 20-day resolution period began last Monday, it is in the Clerk's office.

- Gee Drive – MDOT repave project- issues from the contractor (noise and esthetics) - They will come back in the spring.
- Late last week, the Department of Treasury released the inflation rate multiplier (an increase on property). Highest increase since proposal A was in place. Will be 5% on capped property.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

No changes.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Chambers mentioned the vibration he felt on Gee Drive from the paving job. Also thanked the DPW for their hard work snowplowing and salting streets and sidewalks.

Councilmember Salzwedel wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked about walking in the parade. Chambers stated we could ride in his truck.

Councilmember Groves also thanked the DPW. Thanked the Parks and Recreation Board, it was her first time working on the plan and thank you as well to the citizens who did come out and share their comments with them. Also, Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Devore also thanked the DPW and believes it is the culture down there at the DPW, a pride in what they do. Also thank you to the Parks and Rec Board, thanks to the personal committee on the Fire Authority for doing a good review on the Fire Chief.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 7:46 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk