

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 03, 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, and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: Councilmember Cliff Yankovich.

Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki, City Manager Michael Burns, Chief of Police Chris Hurst, City Attorney Jessica Wood, LLP Charlie West.

2. **EXCUSE OF ABSENCE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to excuse the absence of Councilmember Cliff Yankovich.

YES: 4. NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Cliff Yankovich. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **RULES & PROCEDURES 2023.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over the Rules and Procedures for City Council. City Attorney Jessica Wood added that any special meetings need to be posted at City Hall and on the City Website.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES to accept the Rules and Procedures for City Council for 2023.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the December 05, 2022 Regular meeting.
- Grand Rapids Community College – Collection of Summer Property Taxes for 2023.
- Lowell Area Schools – Collection of Summer Property Taxes for 2023.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$353,706.08

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

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

NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich. MOTION CARRIED.

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

City Clerk Sue Ullery read into record an email from Bill Schreur who is in support of the Parks and Recreation 5 Year Master Plan currently under consideration.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Modification of Zoning Ordinance 23-1.

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by CHAMBERS that Lowell City Council approve the modification of Zoning Ordinance 23-1 as written.

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

NO: None.            ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich.            MOTION CARRIED.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

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

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the annual authorization of Signature for City Bank Accounts and Designation of Depository Banks.

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

NO: None.            ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich.            MOTION CARRIED.

b. Resolution 01-23, Poverty Exemption.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by DEVORE that Lowell City Council approve Resolution 01-23 as written.

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

NO: None.            ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich.            MOTION CARRIED.

c. 990 N. Washington Property Disposal.

Gary Dietzel who was the previous property renter, spoke and stated he is not in favor of disposing of the remaining property items.

City Attorney Jessica Wood assured City Council that proper procedures pertaining to 990 N Washington were followed.

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by DEVORE that City Council approve the disposal of 990 N. Washington's remaining property items.

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

NO: None. ABSTAINED: Councilmember Chambers. ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich.  
MOTION CARRIED.

d. Future Use for 990 N Washington.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo, used the Regis maps and gave detailed information for Council to make an informed decision. Burns himself did not want to make a recommendation.

Mayor DeVore asked if we are getting to ahead of ourselves, shouldn't we clean up the property first?

Councilmember Salzwedel and Councilmember Groves agreed.

Kimberly Hale who resides at 709 Lafayette stated it is important to many on this side of town to have transparency and to have a public forum about what is to come of this property.

Bruce Matthews who resides at 326 Riverside read his statement into record representing Lowell Scout Park, is in favor of option 1.

Nancy VanWinkle, President of North Country Trail, read letter into record in favor of this property as part of park property.

Sharon Ellison who resides at 407 N Division stated the reason this property was not included in Scout Park was because the house was there. Intention is then to add then to park land. Also, feels the testing that was done 15 years ago on the land may not be accurate anymore.

Bill Schreur who resides at 538 Flat River Drive read his letter into record, in favor of option 1.

Jason Mason Current leader of Troop 102, read memo and in favor to add the property to Scout Park.

Peter Gufterson who resides at 13 Bailey Drive, also in favor of adding property to Scout Park.

Brenda Schruer who resides at 538 Flat River Drive is also in favor of adding property to Scout Park, option 1.

Peggy Covert who resides at 982 N Washington is also in favor of option 1.

Greg Ball who resides at 316 N Division asked how many acres the park actually is.

City Clerk Sue Ullery then read into record a letter from Jeanne Archart who resides at 519 N Jefferson who is in favor of option 1.

City Clerk Sue Ullery then read into record an email from April Leikert who is in favor of option 1.

City Clerk Sue Ullery then read into record an email from Robert Krieg asking to honor the 2007 commitment to keep the 4 acres as natural.

City Clerk Sue Ullery then read into record an email from Marylyn McLeod in support of option 1.

City Clerk Sue Ullery then read into record a letter from a member of Lowell in support of option 1.

Peter Wills who resides at 1954 Bella Pines in Lowell, also in favor of option 1 and preserving the cabin.

Mayor DeVore closed the public comments.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS to allow the City Manager Michael Burns to proceed with demolition, annexation and cleanup at 990 N Washington.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich. MOTION CARRIED.

e. 2024 Lowell Area Fire Department Accepted Budget.

Fire Chief Shannon Withereall presented the Fire Authority Budget and went over highlights of previous year.

Kimberly Hale who resides at 709 Lafayette questioned the liability on take home vehicles.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council approve the 2024 Lowell Area Fire Department Budget as presented and written.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Yankovich. MOTION CARRIED.

8. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated the LCTV Fund is due on February 10, 2023 @ 5:00 for those who are looking to apply. We did have a Lowell Light & Power meeting last month, a lot of discussion on rates for 2023 and it is going to be a busy year with some capital projects.

Mayor DeVore stated he has DDA this Thursday and Fire Authority will be next Thursday.

9. **CITY MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over the following:

- Happy New Year to everyone.
- Snowstorm from a couple weeks ago, thanks to all at Public Works, they did an excellent job.
- Peter Gabriel will be here to present the audit at the next meeting. Fund Balance, healthy, would like put some of that towards the pension and streets and will present at next meeting.

- Lowell Township did get grant for Splash pad but still gap in funding. City will apply for Grant for the community foundation for this.
- All items for the USDA are in for Monroe Street project, so about ready to go out for bid.

**10. APPOINTMENTS.**

Mark Mundt would like to continue on Construction Board of Appeals.

Eric Bartkus would like to continue on the DDA.

Jake Davenport would like to continue on the HDC.

**11. COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Groves hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday. Feels like 990 N Washington should not be developed.

Councilmember Chambers thanked the DPW for all their hard work. Still need to get parking ordinance in place.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to adjourn @ 8:35 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk