

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

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

Mayor DeVore called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and City Clerk Sue Ullery called roll.

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

Absent: None.

Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery, DPW Director Dan Czarnecki, City Manager Michael Burns, Chief of Police Chris Hurst and Lowell Light & Power General Manager Charlie West.

2. **POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS RECOGNITION.**

Chief of Police Chris Hurst presented a distinguished service award to our now full time police officer Aubrey Culver and recognized her over the top, extraordinary effort as a police investigator, always honest, never backing down from a job, or working overtime due to lack of officers on the force. Congratulations Aubrey for a job well done!

3. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda as written
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the April 3, 2023 Regular City Council meeting and Closed Session City Council meeting minutes.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$273,216.10.

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

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Greg Canfield who resides at 403 N. Washington explained his frustration with getting ROW permits and the \$250 fee charged, would like to know how we came to that amount.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki explained how they determined this amount based on the amount of work the City needs to put into these permits and how many the city does per year. In hind-site, the city could do a two-tier or three-tier system depending on the procedures that needs to be completed and also whether it is commercial or residential. Says he plans to re-take a look at it this fee schedule during the upcoming budget meeting.

5. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a.) Tree Ordinance Updating.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating it has been almost 20 years since the City's Ordinance on Tree's was developed.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH that the Lowell City Council approve the scope of services from Williams & Works to review and update the City Ordinance on Trees and assess potential changes in the language that governs the City's Arbor Board, as outlined on their letter dated April 10, 2023, in the amount of \$4,136.00.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

Lowell Light & Power General Manager Charlie West then gave an update on the trees on Bowes Road.

6. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a.) Filter Pumps VFD's

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo stating we are continuing to replace original equipment at the Water Treatment Facility, and going to install devices that improve on the efficiency of operations. Installations of Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) on the pumps allow them to operate at speeds that more closely meet system and operational demands. RS Technical has quoted for the replacement of the motor starters and switch gear for the two filter pumps, and upgrading each unit with VFD equipment.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve the quote from RS Technical Services, Inc., Lowell, MI, dated April 4, 2023 (quote #CO-17463), for the installation and all necessary equipment and wiring of the Variable Speed Drives on Filter Pumps #1 and #2, for a cost of \$25,147.98.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Chambers stated at the Planning Commission meeting, the YMCA was approved for a daycare facility at the house on their property.

Councilmember Salzwedel attended Lowell Light & Power the State APPA 17 Edition Safety Standards and Casey did a really good presentation on where our power comes from today and where its going to come from in 2028.

Councilmember Yankovich gave a shout out to Dave Austin about what a tremendous help he has been even while he is retired and gives lots of his time and jumps through hoops with MDOT and just really wants Dave to know, he is appreciated.

Mayor DeVore had fire authority, the two new Tahoe's are in, they are being outfitted with lights and stickers one at a time; Also, three new promotions from probationary to fire fighters. Congrats to all of them.

8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

City Manager Michael Burns went over the following:

- Budget was submitted to you today, and it is on the website. Will have Budget Session on Monday, April 24, 2023 starting @ 5:30.
- Flood last week, still behind the scenes work is being done, wasn't our biggest flood but thank you to everyone that worked so hard on it (DPW, Fire Dept., Veolia, LL&P, Police Dept.).
- The City and LL&P are collaborating to do a brush-chipping program throughout the City; it will be posted on the website for what the requirements are. This will be happening the first week of May.
- Last week, the City received notice that the Michigan Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal by Attorney General Nessel office pertaining to the criminal matter involving Jason Diaz. They could appeal to the Supreme Court, but hopefully this is the last step.
- We promoted one of our part-time police officers to full-time, Bryan Rader. So congratulations to him!
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9. APPOINTMENTS.

No appointments.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Councilmember Yankovich appreciates the updates on the flood.

Councilmember Salzwedel appreciates the updates on the flood as well.

Councilmember Chambers stated the boy scouts might need to consider in the future moving the scrap metal drop off to a different location, because they had a refrigerator float away and had to later retrieve it. Also, thank everyone that helped with the line-man appreciation dinner, it was well attended and very nice.

Mayor DeVore mentioned how the line-man appreciation dinner, is just one of the many things, that Marty and Laurie Chambers do for the community; they do so much every year and refuse to take any credit for any of it. So thank you to them.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 7:31 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk