

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023, 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, Leah Groves, Cliff Yankovich, Jim Salzwedel and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

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

2. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda as amended.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the May 01, 2023 Regular and Closed Session City Council meetings.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$223,583.59.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to approve the consent agenda as amended.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

There were no comments.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Fire Department Update.

Chief Shannon Witherell gave updates on the fire departments new ISO scoring. They have made huge improvements and resulted in better scoring. Explained what they are working on to continue to improve the department and many of their systems.

b. Lowell Light & Power Budget Presentation.

Charlie West with Lowell Light & Power gave a power point presentation of their budget.

c. Compensation Committee Report.

Roger LaWarre provided background and presented the Compensation Committee report. He also thanked the committee who worked hard on preparing the report.

d. Planning Commission Yearly Update.

Chair of Planning Commission Bruce Barker provided an update and commended the commissioners for their hard work and years of service. Barker challenged the City of Lowell residents to participate in revising the master plan.

e. Public Hearing – WTP and WWTP.

Mayor DeVore opened the Public Hearing.

City Manager Michael Burns noted we have grant opportunities we are working on but at this time, we are still in the conceptual stage. We do not know if they will or will not happen. The chances of us getting this type of funding is not great as we are not depressed enough, but we are still going to pursue it.

Brandon Mieras with Williams and Works then explained the intent for applying with EGLE and what we need for the future in both the water and waste water plants. Headboards are the first priority in replacing.

Dennis Kent who resides at 1700 Faith Drive spoke regarding the growth of Lowell Township and their need for the growth of the water and waste water plants. Expressed his concern for the City residents paying increasing rates because of this and maybe to consider having different rate-pay scales for the city residents verses the growing township residents. Kent also questioned whether we have a limit on adding new Township water customers and subdivisions.

Both the City Manager Michael Burns and Planning Commissioner Chair Bruce Barker stated they do have a limit and that the Township has turned down some projects. There is a ban on developments over 15 homes.

Mayor DeVore then closed the Public Hearing.

f. Public Hearing – 2023/2024 Annual Budget – Resolution 11-23.

Mayor DeVore opened the Public Hearing for the budget.

City Manager said we went through all this at the worksession budget meeting. There have been no changes since then.

Perry Beachum who resides at 724 Riverside Drive asked if the Resolution 11-23 includes the budget for Lowell Light & Power and the capital improvements.

No other comments.

Mayor DeVore closed the public hearing.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS that Lowell City Council approve Resolution 11-23 as presented.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

g. Resolution 12-23 – Hazard Mitigation Plan.

City Manager read his memo stating Kent County has completed and adopted the new 5-Year Hazard Mitigation Plan in conjunction with the City of Grand Rapids and Ottawa County. Local units are required to adopt a hazard mitigation plan to make them eligible for federal assistance should there ever be a disaster in our community that receives a Presidential declaration. It is also prerequisite to receive any FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve Resolution 12-23 for the City of Grand Rapids, Kent & Ottawa County Hazardous Mitigation Plan as presented.

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

NO: None

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

h. Cancellation of July 3, 2023 City Council Meeting.

It was a general consensus to close City Hall and to cancel the meeting for Monday, July 3, 2023.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated at Lowell Light & Power, Perry Beachum and Daniel Crawford stated that they would like to continue to serve on the board. Ryan Teachworth is celebrating his 7-year anniversary at LL&P and Emily Mackie celebrated her 2 year at Lowell Light & Power. We did have an Arbor Board meeting today. Next meeting is June 5, 2023, and we will bring back the draft tree ordinance. Then we will bring to council on June 19, 2023. There is concern about always getting a quorum for Arbor Board as we have tried to accommodate different times to hold the meeting. Currently Arbor Board meetings are being held at 8:00 am.

Councilmember Groves stated the Park & Rec meeting was cancelled for this month. The Chamber of Commerce did a lunch and learn that 22 people attended.

7. **CITY MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over the following:

- Thursday evening we had our community meeting for Monroe Street project. It was about an hour long and was well attended. Had many good questions. People are becoming more informed about what is going to happen.
- Working on our application for Washington Street project. Hopefully in the next couple weeks, we can get that squared away.
- Should be ready to go out for bids in the next week or two for Grindle and Shepard. Dan is working on that.
- Dan Czarnecki and I are working with Cody Chambers and Teresa Mundt from Rotary. Planning to restore Creekside Kingdom. Will be writing a spark grant on their behalf through the State of Michigan and they will be doing some fundraising as well.
- In regards to the guidelines we were looking for at the last meeting for special events, the City Attorney and I are working on that. We did not get any responses back from any other community on their guidelines.
- Our custodian notified us that she is retiring at the end of the month, so Dan Czarnicki put a janitorial service RFP out and the deadline for that is May 30, 2023.
- We will have a special meeting on June 5, 2023 at 5:30. Representatives from Flock Safety will be coming to do a presentation on cameras. We did invite the Downtown Development Authority as we are asking for funds from them for some of the cameras.
- Lew Bender will be here, Monday, June 12, 2023 at 5:30 at the Fire Station.
- Chief Hurst did inform me that we did receive a permit request for the memorial day parade on Memorial Day and I believe Chief Hurst will be the speaker this year.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

It was a general consensus for Daniel Crawford and Perry Beachum to continue on the Lowell Light & Power Board.

There are 2 vacancies for Arbor Board, Leah Groves and Matthew Silverman resigned.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich thanked City Manager Michael Burns for his great job on the budget and his staff that does their job.

Councilmember Sazwedel will be out of town this year for the parade. Thank you to City Manager and his team for the good work on the budget.

Councilmember Groves thanked City Manager Michael Burns on the budget.

Councilmember Chamber will put on a breakfast for the DPW on May 22, 2023 @ 7:30pm. If you run into the DPW guys, thank them.

Mayor DeVore reached out to a local business seeking a donation for food and they want to fund the entire breakfast. In September at Fallasburg there will be a charity softball game for the police department to play the fire department. Idea is to get a traveling trophy that will go to the winning station. Will have concessions and donations instead of ticket sales and the money we raise will go to whatever charity the team that wins decides.

10. **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTITATIONS – For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing. –MCL. 15.268 (1) (c)**

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by CHAMBERS to go into closed session at 8:18 p.m.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION @ 8:41**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES to go back into open session at 8:41 p.m.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by YANKOVICH that the Lowell City Council approve IBEW contract.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve Police contract.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 8:42 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk