

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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.

2. **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT RECOGNITION**

Two representatives from the National Weather Service out of Grand Rapids came to recognize Brian VanderMeulen and Cody Chambers who work at the Lowell Waste Water Plant for their dedication to daily observing and submitting weather reports to them for many decades(since 1972). Also, in June of 2002, they started measuring the water level at the bridge near the fairgrounds as well. They truly appreciate everything they have done and they believe they couldn't do their job nearly as well without you. They also noted a broader point, not only does the river observation benefit the community of Lowell but really they are providing a public service to the entire West Michigan Community on the Grand River downstream. They use their data on a daily basis for weather reports, etc.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the May 15, 2023 Regular and Closed Session City Council meetings.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$333,210.35.

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

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Shannon Hanley who represents Lowell Pride spoke and thanked all that attended the festival and then went on to thank the Lowell police for their assistance. Hanley stated that over 3,000 had attended. The heat was managed and there were only a few minor medical attentions needed. Hanley believes it was a successful event. Thank you to all the volunteers and security members from the community who helped.

Mayor Devore also thanked the Lowell Pride Board for creating a welcoming safe place that is also fun and educational for 3000 people. Grateful for all the board members and all the volunteers.

Nick Rogers who is a deacon at Bible Believers Church brought an appeal for the noise ordinance and handed out papers showing the difference between Grand Rapids and Lowell's noise ordinance.

Josh Langdon who is a pastor at the Bible Believers Church came to discuss his concerns from several things that occurred at the Pride Event this year and last.

Chelsea Lew who resides at 903 N Monroe spoke on how Pride has helped her feel safe being herself and how she felt about the protestors that were at the event.

Perry Beechum who lives at 924 Riverside spoke about this month's newsletter, thought it was very well done. On the issue of the Pride Event, he believes his God is a loving God that loves everyone.

Dustin Smith who is head of security for Lowell Pride, explained his job and what he saw at the event and relayed that some of the protestors were not following guidelines.

Bethany Langdon who is the pastor's wife at the Bible Believer Church spoke on her experience at the Pride Festival and did not like the things she saw.

Shannon Hanley spoke on her religion, supports the Lowell Pride, and will continue to do so.

Charles Michael Langdon then spoke about the Jesus of the Bible.

Councilmember Leah Groves then spoke regarding her concerns about some of the public comments.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

a.) Master Plan Update

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo stating the city would like to begin updating the Master Plan and our planning consultant, Williams & Works has prepared a proposal to assist us with all phases of this process. The cost of the proposal is \$48,596 and was budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year. We believe this will be a 12-18 month process with involvement from the community, planning commission and city council.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALZWEDEL that Lowell City Council approve the Master Plan Proposal with Williams and Works at a cost not to exceed \$48,596.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Resolution 13-23.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo regarding the Compensation Commission presenting

their changes to City Council compensation. Technically City Council does not have to approve the determination from the Compensation Commission. It is not required by ordinance or Michigan statute, however, the Council can disapprove the recommendation with a 2/3 vote and the compensation in place would remain. To approve via resolution is a way of keeping record and to clean up the commission's determination as it was drafted more as a recommendation. City Administration will not provide a recommendation on this item.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve Resolution 13-23 as written.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Road Closure – River Trail Triathlon.

On behalf of the River Trail Triathlon event slated for Saturday, June 17, 2023, Grant Hengesbach spoke asking two separate requests regarding the event and related logistics. First, requesting the closure of the Lowell Riverwalk Plaza to the general public from 9:00 am until 11:30am on the day of the event. Second, requesting use of the coined “Oklahoma Property” adjacent to the library for the holding of unused kayaks from 9:00am until 12:30pm.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the road closure of the Lowell Riverwalk Plaza to the public from 9:00am to 11:30am and the use of the “Oklahoma Property” adjacent to the library for the holding of unused kayaks from 9:00am until 12:30pm.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Facility Janitorial/Cleaning Services.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki read his memo regarding bids received for the janitorial/cleaning services for City Hall. Two bids were received and reviewed and it was decided that Corporate Cleaning and Facility Services, Ada was the bid that was selected.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS that Lowell City Council approve the bid/award the facility janitorial/cleaning services to Corporate Cleaning and Facility Services, Ada, MI, as outlined in the bid Proposal A, for a yearly cost of \$30,420 (\$585/wk), plus Proposal B semi-annual deep cleaning for \$10,522/yr, for a total yearly cost of \$40,942.00, for a three-year period ( June 6, 2023 through June 30, 2026).

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated we had Arbor Board today and we gave our last changes to the new tree ordinance and should come to City Council for approval in July.

8. **CITY MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over the following:

- Lew Bender has been moved to Monday, June 26.
- Water restrictions had to be put back in place again today, notices were sent out today. With the Township expansions on top of the drought we are having, it has come to the time to have the Township make a decision.
- Monroe Street project has begun on the south side. They will not start on the north side until the south side is complete.
- Should be rolling out on Grindle and Shepard bid to go out later this week.
- We have one item to clear up with the USDA to get that application in for Washington. Jessica and Katie from Williams and Works are working on that.
- At the next council meeting, Teresa Mundt and Cody Chambers representing the Rotary are going to come and talk to you about their plans for the rebuild of Creekside Kingdom.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

There were no changes.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Sazwedel wanted to thank Cliff Yankovich and Marty Chambers for the appreciation breakfast for the DPW employees.

Councilmember Chamber thanked the local business King Milling for their picking up the tab for the appreciation dinner for the DPW department. Thank you very much! Appreciates Leah Groves for what she said this evening about comments said not on the agenda, it is not easy sitting up here and she is doing a great job and I will always have her back.

Councilmember Groves thanked the Fire Department and the DPW for their help with the Flat River Outreach Ministries food fight barrels, they saved a lot of time by getting all the dispersing/collecting done in about three hours.

Mayor DeVore seconded Chambers comments on Leah Groves and has a lot of respect for her on the job and actually all of the council members.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 8:08 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Mike DeVore, Mayor

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Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk