

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Marty Chambers, Councilmember Leah Groves, Councilmember Cliff Yankovich, Councilmember Jim Salzwedel.

Absent: Mayor DeVore.

Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery, City Manager Michael Burns, Police Chief Chris Hurst.

2. **EXCUSE OF ABSENSE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by YANKOVICH to excuse Mayor DeVore.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Regular City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$1,266,645.79.

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

YES: Councilmember Groves, Councilmember Yankovich, Mayor Pro Tem Chambers, and Councilmember Salzwedel.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

David Bonga who resides at 804 Riverside expressed his concern for speeding cars on Riverside and Hudson. Has not see the police stopping anyone, stated that it is a school zone and questioned the Chief of Police on how many have been stopped this month.

Police Chief Hurst then gave breakdown stating there have been 119 stopped and 34 citations given this past month.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

a.) Tree Ordinance 23-07.

City Manager Michael read his memo stating at our last City Council meeting, the staff presented the Tree Ordinance for consideration. We were asked to bring this back to the next meeting for future consideration. Burns then introduced Maleah Rakestraw from Williams and Works to answer any

additional questions.

Maleah Rakestraw with William & Works then spoke stating she has worked with several city employees to update the tree ordinance that will be more in align with “Tree City, USA”.

Perry Beechum who resides at 924 Riverside Drive spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Councilmember Yankovich stated that Doctor Jim Reagan is supportive of the ordinance as well.

IT WAS MOVED BY YANKOVICH and seconded by SALZWEDEL that Lowell City Council approve Ordinance 23-07 amending our current tree ordinance as presented.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Mayor Pro Tem Chambers, and Councilmember Groves.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Kent Street Design Engineering.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo stating the City Council approved design engineering for a number of streets adjacent to Monroe and Washington for next year. With Kent Street being deemed a major street, we did not submit a request for engineering as the one’s presented were local streets. This street is in the seven-year street plan slated for improvement in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and was estimated at \$160,000 and will have an updated engineer estimate for the project by Monday. Williams and Works have presented a proposal for Design Engineering for \$34,300 including design engineering and a soil boring allowance.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by YANKOVICH that the Lowell City Council approve the design engineering proposal from Williams & Works for Kent Street at a cost not to exceed \$34,300.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich, Mayor Pro Tem Chambers, Councilmember Groves.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. MML Annual Conference Delegate.

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve Councilmember Leah Groves as the MML Annual Conference Delegate.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Mayor Pro Tem Chambers, Councilmember Yankovich.

NO: Councilmember Groves. ABSENT: Mayor DeVore. MOTION CARRIED 3-1.

c. MERS Annual Meeting Officer Delegate.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES that Lowell City Council approve Jeff Phillips for the MERS Annual Meeting Officer Delegate.

YES: Mayor Pro Tem Chambers, Councilmember Yankovich, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Groves.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich stated there was no Historical District meeting last month and LARA is Wednesday..

Councilmember Salzwedel stated L/P meeting will be 15th of August.

Councilmember Groves stated that Chamber meets tomorrow and Parks next week.

Councilmember Chambers stated he has Planning Commission next week.

8. **CITY MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns went over the following:

- He will be appointing Rich Labombard as Assistant Manager/DPW Director. His first day will be September 25, 2023. He was here previously and we are looking forward to having him back.
- We did receive authorization from the USDA for the Washington street project. We are approved for the financing. It will be the same 40 year note, the interest will be 2.75% which is significantly less than the open market.
- Today we met with USDA, there is a giant checklist we need completed but a lot of it has been done because of the Monroe Street project so he told the engineers he would like bids going out for that project around Christmas.
- Grindle and Shepard will begin construction August 21, 2023. Will have a meeting for the affected residents August 17, 2023.
- I have looked at a preliminary estimate if the CopperRock project at the old Rollaway does move forward. I have asked the engineers to give me an estimate on the paving of the street Avery and Division (from Avery to Main). Engineers estimate is about \$331,000 and we may want to consider putting a water line down Avery.
- Monroe project is going well, there are some issues with cleanliness at the site, but we are addressing it and progress is moving forward. On track to meet deadline.
- Notice sent to Lowell Township asking them to tell us what they are going to do, within the next 60 days. We have informed them that we are not interested in creating an Authority or in building additional wells as the City does not need additional wells. Their attorney has acknowledged that he received the letter and we have not heard back.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

Roll call vote for Greg Canfield to be re-appointed to the Construction Board of Appeals.

YES: Councilmember Groves, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Yankovich and Mayor Pro Tem Chambers.

NO: None.

ABSENT: Mayor DeVore.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Yankovich thanked Ralph for repairing a broken pipe at his house. Also, our city sidewalks are so much better than Pentwater. Manistee has really changed, it looks amazing and the Chamber of Commerce and City are working together and it really shows.

Councilmember Chambers reminded everyone that the Market on Main is happening this weekend.

Councilmember Salzwedel agreed with David Bongo about cars speed increasing on the city streets, maybe we need a sign up or some more attention to it.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 7:30 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk