

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024, 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: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Leah Groves, Councilmember Eric Bartkus, Councilmember Jim Salzwedel.

Absent: Councilmember Marty Chambers.

Present: City Clerk Sue Ullery, Chief of Police Chris Hurst, Lowell Light & Power General Manager Charlie West, and DPW Director and Assistant City Manager Rich LaBombard.

City Clerk Sue Ullery then swore in Eric Bartkus as Councilmember for the City of Lowell.

2. **EXCUSE OF ABSENCE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by DEVORE to excuse the absence of Marty Chambers.

YES: 4. NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Chambers. MOTION CARRIED.

**SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CITY COUNCIL.**

Councilmember Groves nominated DeVore for Mayor.

Nominations Closed.

Roll Call Vote: YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Groves, Mayor Devore and Councilmember Bartkus.

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

Mayor DeVore nominated Chambers for Mayor Pro Tem.

Nominations Closed.

Roll Call Vote: YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Groves, Mayor Devore and Councilmember Bartkus.

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

3. **RULES AND PROCEDURES 2024 FOR THE CITY OF LOWELL.**

Mayor DeVore stated there are no changes to the Rules and Procedures.

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

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Regular City Council meeting.
- Approve 2024 Meeting Dates.
- Grand Rapids Community College – Collection of Summer Property Taxes for 2023.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$1,095,147.85.

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

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

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

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

There were no comments.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

There was none.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

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

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by SALZWEDEL moved to approve the annual authorization as presented.

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

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

- b. Resolution 01-24, Poverty Exemption.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES that the Lowell City Council approve Resolution 01-24 as presented, with no changes.

- c. Recreation Park Reath Barn Proposal – West Michigan Dog Sports.

Assistant City Manager read his memo explaining the intent of the Kent County Youth Fair Dog Project and West Michigan Dog Sports proposal to lease the Reath Barn located at Recreation Park.

Mayor DeVore asked what the time frame would be.

Councilmember Salzwedel asked if the building had its own meter, he was unsure.

Councilmember Bartkus thanked the group for their letter and asked what they meant by nominal fee.

IT WAS MOVED BY GROVES and seconded by SALZWEDEL that the Lowell City Council approve entering into an agreement with the Kent County Youth Fair Dog Project and West Michigan Dog Sports to lease the Reath Barn located at Recreation Park.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Chambers.

MOTION CARRIED.

## 6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated the Arbor Board meets Monday, January 8, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Coffee with Council meets Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 8:00 am. over at the Chamber. The LL&P is offering a Christmas tree drop off (must be bare) at Recreation Park. Ends January 11, 2024. Was not able to attend the LCTV Fund meeting. Request for funding is due Thursday, February 8, 2024 @ 5:30PM. We have a little over \$142,000 to give to non-profits. Can get the forms at City Hall.

## 7. **CITY MANAGERS REPORT.**

Assistant City Manager Richard LoBombard went over the following:

- Ware Rd – There will be a meeting held with the EGLE PFAS Team on January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm. All property owners that were required to have their water tested were sent certified letter and the BLDI team has received several responses and sampling back. We have a page on the website dedicated to the PFAS on the main web page.
- Washington Street project has all been submitted to the USDA and we are waiting for approval to go out for bid, should be within two or three weeks.
- Jason Rosenwig has began as the City's new assessor on December 19, 2024. Welcome and looking forward to working with him.
- Eric Bartkus welcome to the City Council.

## 8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

It was a general consensus to appoint Beryl Bartkus on the DDA; and to reappoint Perry Beachum to LARA and Jim Salzwedel to Lowell Light & Power Board.

It was a general consensus to appoint John Barnett to the Planning Commission and to appoint Eric Bartkus to the Historic District Commission and to the Arbor Board.

Mayor DeVore stated that we would possibly have two vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) by end of January and one Vacancy on Construction Board of Appeals. City Clerk Sue

Ullery will get with the Board of Appeals and see what vacancies there are and Groves will check with Parks and Rec Board.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Bartkus is happy to be here and work hard for all the citizens; thankful for those who nominated him.

Councilmember Salzwedel thanked the DPW for getting the debris under and around the showboat and putting a piece of conduit to help deter debris from getting stuck there. Salzwedel would like to take the lead in planning for the Expo event and getting some promotional things going for the City so they are better prepared by the event in March.

Councilmember Groves welcomed Eric Bartkus and said the Christmas events went great, hats off to the Chamber.

Mayor DeVore said welcome to Eric Bartkus as well. Next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to adjourn @ 7:26 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

---

Mike DeVore, Mayor

---

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk