

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 20, 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: Councilmember Leah Groves, Councilmember Eric Bartkus, Councilmember Jim Salzwedel, Councilmember Chambers and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Michael Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, City Treasurer Sue Olin, Chief of Police Chris Hurst, General Manager of Lowell Light & Power Charlie West.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the May 6, 2024, Regular City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices for \$197,724.06.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by GROVES to approve the consent agenda as amended adding safety of pedestrians on Riverside Drive.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Bruce Matthews who resides at 326 Riverside Drive spoke on the Community Cleanup that was held and thanked everyone who helped out as well as Lowell Light & Powers staff for all their work, going above and beyond.

Dennis Kent who resides at 1700 Faith Drive would like the City to continue working on finding ways to keep the water rates down.

4. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **Public Hearing – Budget Approval 2024-25.Resolution 11-24.**

City Manager Michael Burns stated he modified the budget and the budget resolutions with the changes that the Downtown Development Authority approved approximately \$121,000 to assist with the bond payments for the water and sewer for Monroe and Washington. Water and sewer rates were decreased as proposed because of this as well.

Mayor DeVore opened the Public Hearing for the 2024-2025 Budget Approval.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he feels Mike Burns and his staff will do what can be done to make progress in lowering rates.

Councilmember Bartkus stated he has spoke to Burns, appreciates the 3.5 % rate staff increase; there was a typo on the line about doors for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. That is for replacing all the doors and that actually is a good deal. Not on board about the RV Sales but looking forward to learning. Wanted to confirm the airport expenditures included the repaving of the road.

Mayor DeVore closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALZWEDEL that the Lowell City Council approve Resolution 11-24 approving the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget as presented.

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Safety of Pedestrians on Riverside Drive.

Councilmember Bartkus stated the area around Easy Street Restaurant and Sabor Restaurant have gotten very congested with people trying to cut through there to miss the light. Very concerned for pedestrian safety trying to cross the street. Would like to consider a work session to talk about something we can do to cut down on the congestion.

Council discussed several temporary ideas. They decided to have a Special meeting at 5:30 on June 17, 2024 for further discussion.

Bruce Mathews who lives at 326 Riverside Drive appreciates the idea and discussion. Thank you for the speed trailer.

Kimball Dlouhy who resides at 810 Riverside thanked them for the speeding trailer and the police stops.

5. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Creekside Kingdom Naming Rights.

Cody Chambers spoke and stated that they had a large donation from the King Milling business in our community and would like to add their name to the title.

Burns noted the City does not have a policy on naming rights.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council accept the \$75,000 donation from King Milling and rename Creekside Kingdom Park, “King Milling Creekside Park”.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Fire Authority Extra Payment.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo asking each jurisdiction for an extra payment this year for Fire Authority operations.

Discussed at length beginning the process to change the way the Fire Authority is funded.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City Council approve the expense for the additional cost to the fire department for \$20,105.23.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Memorial Day Parade.

City Manager Michael Burns read his memo regarding their annual request.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by CHAMBERS that the Lowell City approve the closure of main street from Hudson to Monroe for the memorial day parade as presented.

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

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.**

Councilmember Bartkus stated LARA has disappointing news. The easement did not work out with a property owner, also didn't work with EGLE on the raised bridge. They will now have to go back to talking to EGLE.

Bartkus noted Arbor Board did not have a quorum.

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he attended the Lowell Light & Power meeting, celebrated three staff anniversaries.

Councilmember Chambers stated Planning Commission is working on the Master Plan.

7. **BUDGET REPORT.**

No changes.

8. **CITY MANAGERS REPORT.**

- This week is National Public Works Week. We started the week with an honorary breakfast thanks to Mayor Pro Tem Chambers and King Milling. ur Public Works Dept. does an amazing job and we thank them for their dedication and service. They make my job a lot easier.
- Couple street issues – First one is on Brook Street, we are planning on paving it this year, however, there is a culvert near Schneider Manor, which I didn't even know existed, where water got into the rebar of the culvert. The bridge is structurally sound, but needs repaired before the road is repaved. Waiting to hear back from Williams & Works on that and then EGGLE as well. Also, on Chatham, there is a bridge just west of Bridge Street that services three drives, that needs replaced. It is not a public roadway, so we cannot use our F51 funds, but is in the DDA district so we may be able to go that route. Still waiting on costs and what type funding we can use.
- Trying to seek some funding for Kent Street. I have reached out to MDOT on a grant, still waiting to hear.
- Another grant we are looking at for water and wastewater plant, will let you know when I get more information.
- When there is a water main break, unless it is a massive issue, we do not advertise to everyone, only directly to the homes affected.
- Trying to reconfigure so that Riverside is done in 2025-2026. It was supposed to be done this year but we didn't get the grant money from the County for that project so we are back to the drawing board.
- Washington Street project has been running along smooth, they are moving along on sewer right now and about 2 weeks out on starting the water main. Have had minimal issues.

9. **APPOINTMENTS.**

It was a general consensus by the Councilmembers for the following appointments:

Councilmember Bartkus will continue on LARA.

Colin Plank will continue on Planning Commission.

Emma Wikstrom – Lowell Area Fire Authority

10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Chambers stated for the past two years, he has done the DPW appreciation breakfast. This year it was at Easy Street and King Milling picked up the tab for this. Thank you to King Milling. DPW does a phenomenal job, if you see them thank them. Light & Power does a great job as well.

Councilmember Bartkus stated he wants to thank the grounds crew, the City properties are looking the best he has ever seen them. Thankyou to Rich and his team: Nancy Ellis, Todd, Bruce, Ron and Jennifer. Also, thank you for painting the lines: Jeff, Darren and Paul, it is useful and much needed. Thank you to Brian VanVeelan for attending a seminar and keeping up with training.

Mayor DeVore stated three people won a Gold Customer Award in our presence. That award is long time coming for Lowell Light and Power Charlie, his staff and board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to adjourn @ 8:00 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Sue Ullery, Lowell City Clerk