

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

The Meeting was called to order at 12: 17 p.m. by Chair Jim Reagan.

Present: Greg Canfield, Brian Doyle, Mark Howe, Mike Larkin, April McClure, Mike Sprenger and Jim Reagan.

Absent: Shelley Catlin and Dean Lonick.

Also Present: Dan DesJarden, Sue Olin, Tom Russo, Liz Baker, Police Chief Steve Bukula and Susan Ullery.

IS WAS MOVED BY HOWE and supported by LARKIN to excuse the absence of Boardmembers Shelley Catlin, Dean Lonick and Mike Sprenger.

YEA: 7. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and supported by MCCLURE to approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: 7. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY HOWE and supported by DOYLE to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2013 meeting as written.

YEA: 7. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Sue Olin provided the following reports to the Boardmembers:

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
March 6, 2014

Beginning Balance:	\$203,776.09
Revenue:	
TIFA Revenue	\$477,000.00
Misc Revenue	\$1,375.19
Total Revenues:	\$682,151.28
Expenditures:	
Capital Outlay	
Salaries/FICA	\$18,449.96
Maintenance Supplies	\$12,136.51
Utilities	\$13,355.86
Misc. and Community Promotions	\$42,447.70
Debt Service	\$654.81
Accrued payables	\$7,689.20
Administration	
Transfer to General Fund	\$139,500.00
Total Expenditures:	\$450,776.54
Ending Balance	\$231,374.74

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and supported by DOYLE to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

YEA: 7. NAY: 0 ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** – No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Downtown Development Plan. City Manager Howe provided updates to the Downtown Development Plan as well as the Stage/Showboat Plan. Stakeholder meetings are currently being conducted and general input is being requested from the community. Conceptual ideas will be developed for display at the city booth during the Lowell Community Expo on March 22 at the high school. A Public Open House is also tentatively scheduled for April 17 at city hall.

Boardmember Doyle stated the Riverwalk Extension has received positive feedback.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Request Funds for Portable Restrooms.** Chamber of Commerce Director Liz Baker requested \$1,300 in order to provide portable restrooms near the boat launch from May, 2014 through October, 2014.

IT WAS MOVED BY DOYLE and seconded by SPRENGER to grant \$1,300 to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of providing portable restrooms near the boat launch from May, 2014 through October, 2014.

YES: 7. NO: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

- b) **Budget Discussion.** Legislation was passed last year to phase out the personal property tax along with a statewide ballot proposal is scheduled for this August that would provide 80 percent replacement revenue (100 percent for essential services such as police and fire) to local units of government. As adopted, this would have a dramatic effect on DDA revenue since most of the personal property taxes collected are within the DDA district. A new set of bills, with a new ballot proposal, are being introduced that would provide 100 percent replacement revenue. The new plan would replace the old one and seems to have a wide range of support amount local governments and the business community.
- c) **TIFA/DDA Hearings.** A committee of the Michigan House of Representatives was taking testimony earlier this month on TIFA and DDA districts. There is some discussion about restricting or even eliminating tax capture with these districts. This would be devastating for the community as the DDA has contributed millions of dollars into infrastructure improvements. Howe may be preparing a letter, however, if you see State Rep. Lisa Posthumus-Lyons or Senator Dave Hildebrandt please let them know that the Lowell DDA has been the key to community enhancements and will be essential for future downtown and west side business district improvements.

8. **REPORTS AND MEMBER COMMENTS**

Boardmember Canfield commented on downtown parking. He also discussed his recent purchase of the Moose property.

City Manager Howe suggested spending more time on economic development efforts. A great DDA project would be to increase the amount of banners in the downtown area.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 24, 2014.

IT WAS MOVED BY LARKIN to adjourn at 12:55 p.m.

Date:

APPROVED:

James E. Reagan, Chair

Mark A. Howe, Secretary