

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Councilmember Mike DeVore and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

Present: Councilmembers Greg Canfield, Marty Chambers, Jim Salzwedel, and Mayor DeVore.

Absent: Councilmember Jeff Phillips.

Also Present: City Manager Michael Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, Police Officer Chris Hurst and Light & Power General Manager Steve Donkersloot.

2. **EXCUSE ABSENCES.**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by SALSWEDEL to excuse the absence of Councilmember Jeff Phillips.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approve and place on file the joint and closed minutes of the May 7, 2018 City Council and Lowell Light & Power joint meeting.
- Approve and place on file the regular and closed minutes of the May 7, 2018 City Council meeting.
- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$128,872.13.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the consent agenda as presented.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Chambers.
NO: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Laura Huth-Rhoades spoke to announce a free marketing & communications group just formed that is called Business Brew. Their purpose is to dispense free advice for local businesses or non-profit organizations that need help with marketing and communication. Business Brew will meet every fourth Wednesday of the month at Big Boiler Brewing from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Perry Beachum who resides at 924 Riverside spoke thanking Mike Burns and City Council for putting the sidewalk in at South Broadway to Ottawa but expressed his concern for not completing it all the way to Bowes Road.

Curt Benson introduced himself and spoke regarding his candidacy for Kent County Circuit Court. Benson explained there are two seats open as the current judges Johnston and Lieber are both retiring do to the age limit requirements of their current seats.

4. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Cascade Township Building Inspections Agreement.

City Manager Michael Burns stated at the April 16, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, he was directed by the City Council to prepare an agreement with Cascade Township to continue our relationship regarding Building Inspection Services.

Councilmember Canfield and Chambers both expressed their concern that the City did not really interview any other candidates and would like to make sure we do. Canfield expressed he has some concerns with Cascade Inspection services, so he would like to contact other firms and hear some other presentations.

Brian Wilson from Cascade Inspection Services spoke and explained the purpose of code regulations that are followed by his staff according to our ordinances and the safety that those regulations entail.

Perry Beachum at 924 Riverside expressed his concern with Cascade Inspections as well.

Eric Bartkus who owns the building at 215 W. Main spoke and thanked Brian Wilson for his time he had spent helping him, but expressed his concern for all the Historic District business owners regarding the cost for the rebuilding of the Historic District and hopes the City can find a way to make it a more efficient process in the future.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL, and seconded by MAYOR DEVORE to approve the agreement with Cascade Township for Building Inspection Services as presented.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Mayor Devore.

NO: Councilmember Chambers and Councilmember Canfield. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips.
MOTION FAILED.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD and seconded by CHAMBERS to direct City Manager Mike Burns to contact PSI Inspections, IMS Inspections and a third firm of his choice to see if they are interested in performing inspections for us.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield
NO: Mayor Devore. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Public Hearing - Resolution 16-18 - Adopting Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAMBERS and seconded by CANFIELD to open the public hearing to adopt the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

YES: Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel and Councilmember Phillips. NO: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

City Manager Michael Burns stated that he presented the new budget at the April 16, 2018 City Council meeting. Saturday April 28, 2018 there was a Budget Session meeting held where they went through the budget at length and made some minor modifications. The session proposed one change in the Scheduled Rate of Fees, which is to increase the fee for Zoning Board of Appeals application fee from \$500 to \$1000 which was recommended by William & Works. The water and sewer fees are still being analyzed and will be revisited in the near future. City Manager Mike Burns recommends we approve adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 with the modifications and rate revision as modified.

IT WAS MOVED BY CANFIELD, and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve Resolution 16-18 adopting City of Lowell's Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019, approving schedule of rates and fees and other matters related thereto.

YES: Councilmember Chambers, Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel.
NO: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Approve Adjustment Rates.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to recommend that the Lowell City Council approve the Adjustment Rates with the modification to the Zoning Board of Appeals application fee.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor Devore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Chambers.
NO: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Redevelopment Ready Communities- Resolution 17-18.

City Manager Michael Burns stated in order to continue to remain eligible for assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), municipalities are now mandated to participate in their Redevelopment Ready Communities program. Burns explained the program is a voluntary, no-cost certification program designed to promote effective redevelopment strategies through a set of best practices.

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL, and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve Resolution 17-18 - Redevelopment Ready Communities.

YES: Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Chambers and Councilmember Canfield.
NO: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips. MOTION CARRIED.

5. BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS.

Councilmember Canfield welcomed Rich Conrad to LARA and then stated that Phase 1.8 from Gee Drive down to Alden Nash should be completed by mid-June. Canfield stated LARA is expecting a response on the Grant Application for the MDOT portion of the new trail anytime and that they did receive the DNR response which they've responded to. DNR will walk the proposed route this summer but we do need easements in place and letters of support for our share of the privately raised money. Canfield also thanked Impact church for what they are doing around town.

Councilmember Chambers stated Light & Power voted on a new insurance package and the Planning Commission approved its first Airbnb Special Land Use with restrictions.

6. **MANAGERS REPORT.**

City Manager Michael Burns reported on the following:

- Residents with City water and sewer will start receiving notices regarding smoke testing of the City Sanitary Sewer System, it should not affect them unless their traps are empty and then they can pour a gallon of water into the floor drains to prevent that. Copy of the notice regarding this is on the City website and Facebook page.
- Had a good day with Dan Burton doing the walking audit, learned a lot and Dan will produce a report for the City in the next 60 days. Hope to take the findings of the report and tie them into the current City plan.
- The Hudson Construction Project is slated for June 11, 2018, however we have not received word on which section they are doing first; once we receive information, we will give an update.
- The Department of Treasury sent out a notice to all municipalities that they are looking at how the assessing standards are set here in the State of Michigan and are considering regionalizing the assessing process by using a more regionally standardized specially trained board of review instead of each municipality to have its own. They are also looking at requiring all municipalities to utilize a level 3 assessor (4 is the highest level and our City assessors are level 3).
- There is litigation in the Michigan Court of Appeals regarding the Headlee amendment which is being led by the taxpayers coalition in Michigan, so we are going to be paying attention to what transpires and what that means to us.
- The South Broadway project is moving along and expect it to be done before July 4, 2018 and do not expect it to impact King Millings harvest.
- Construction on North Broadway has begun and we expect about a three week process for completion.

7. **APPOINTMENTS.**

By general consensus the City Council reappointed Bruce Barker to the Planning Commission.

8. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Chambers stated it was good to see the boat design and the project moving forward. He feels the City is alive and vibrant and the boat is an extension of great things we are going to have in our City.

Councilmember Salzwedel thanked City Manager Mike Burns and the City Staff for their efforts with the budget that was approved and that they did a great job.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CANFIELD to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

YES: 4 NO: 0 ABSENT: Councilmember Phillips MOTION APPROVED

DATE:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

APPROVED:

Susan Ullery, City Clerk