

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018, 5:30 P.M.**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Mayor Mike DeVore and City Clerk Susan Ullery called roll.

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Mike Burns, City Clerk Susan Ullery, and Chief of Police Steve Bukala.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by CHAMBERS to approve the agenda as amended adding #5 Discussion on Retiree Health Care.

YES: Councilmember Canfield, Mayor DeVore, Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Phillips, and Councilmember Chambers.

NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

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

There were no comments.

4. **DISCUSSION REGARDING CASCADE INSPECTION SERVICES.**

Councilmember Canfield Recused himself and left the room during the discussion.

City Manager Michael Burns spoke in reference to the request by Council to submit an RFP for building inspection services and that he had had a conversation with our current building official, Cascade Inspection Services, once this request was made by Council. Burns stated he had no issues with Cascade, although there are a few items that may need to be addressed at this discussion.

Burns introduced Brian Wilson from Cascade Inspection Services who would provide an explanation of their services and answer any questions the Council has for them.

Brian Wilson passed out a handout that explained some codes they are dealing with regarding the development of the downtown and explaining the background of those codes, where they come from and how they handle them in their department. Wilson stated he is hoping the Council develops a better understanding of why Cascade does the things they do, why the City of Lowell needs to enforce the codes as well; he also hopes to instill some confidence in their services and be able to continue the partnership they started with Lowell six years ago.

Wilson reviewed the handout explaining the codes were established by Public Act 230 Statewide Construction Code so at the local level, they have no authority to change, ignore the codes or create their

own codes. They are based on International Code Council Codes and are adopted at the state level. Wilson stated their task is to enforce the minimum code requirements that the state has adopted. Wilson continued explaining the details of their services and expressed his desire and expectations to have his staff always be consistent.

Mayor DeVore explained that he felt with better communication between all parties involved (the different departments of the city, business owners, the architects and Cascade Inspections services), any issues can be resolved and he prefers Council consider withdrawing the RFP request for building inspection services and get back to business.

City Manager Mike Burns conveyed he was directed to issue the RFP and he doesn't have any problems with Cascade Inspections Services nor has he heard any complaints from his staff that works directly with them, other than some issues understanding specific codes that pertain to the Historic Buildings. Burns also feels communication can be improved. He is concerned with taking on another inspection service company that could mean inconvenience and more administrative costs for the City, as well as the residents.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEVORE and seconded by SALZWEDEL to withdraw the RFP for Building Services.

YES: Councilmember Salzwedel, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Chambers, and Mayor DeVore.

NO: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: Councilmember Canfield MOTION CARRIED.

5. **DICUSSION ON RETIREE HEALTH CARE.**

City Manager Mike Burns discussed the State changes on Retirement Health Care and how they will impact the City in the future. Burns wants to discuss options to the retiree health care plan as well as switching to a HSA plan instead of an HMO for health insurance for all City employees with which would be a substantial savings for the City. He will research these more and come back with the options to consider.

6. **COUNCIL AND BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS.**

Councilmember Salzwedel stated he would like to discuss, like they did today, future RFP's before they go out.

7. **ADJOURNMENT.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by PHILLIPS to adjourn at 6:28p.m.

YES: 5. NO: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Mike DeVore, Mayor

Susan Ullery, City Clerk