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STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS  
MONDAY JUNE 21, 2010

To: Mayor Hodges, Members of the Lowell City Council and Citizens of Lowell,

Prior to the new fiscal year in June, I have the opportunity to address the Lowell community. Our conditions are examined and at times reexamined. Issues are identified and goals established. Thus, courses of action are set.

The events on a state and national scale have overwhelmed many in economic terms. Despite some encouraging signs, plant and business closures, layoffs, bankruptcies and home foreclosures have continued. Dismaying was the loss of a long standing vehicle dealership.

But, the City has resiliency and continues to show signs of economic growth. Attwood Corporation is a prime example.

As noted in previous address, Lowell will strive to maintain and improve as a business friendly City. Financially, the municipality will seek efficiencies in operation of this government.

With the adoptions of the 2010-2011 Budget, the following goals are established and in some cases reestablished.

- Continue to strengthen the General Fund raising the fund balance. The 2010-2011 budget provides \$226,751 balance representing 9.2% of planned expenditures. The goal of \$300,000 balance or 15% of expenditures is established. Whenever feasible, outside sources of revenues will be sought for projects. Past examples include the library reroofing and Creekside Kingdom ground cover upgrade.
- Continue to promote a concerted effort to improve City streets. Over the past several years, significant upgrades have been made through federal funding. To this end \$97,607 has been allocated to improve South Pleasant and South West Streets using General Fund and Community Development Block Grant funds. In addition, \$25,000 is set aside for road maintenance.

Through federal funding, improvements to Bowes Road will be completed. Sibley Street from North Center to Valley Vista will have improvements finished this summer.

- Continue to work closely with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to provide a clearly communicated process for the public and particularly downtown merchants as the M-21 Flat River bridge reconstruction is completed by October.
- Work cooperatively between the City and the Department of Light and Power to provide efficiencies and cost savings through such projects as joint utility billing.

- Ensure that all municipal facilities and equipment are in good repair and well maintained.
- Sidewalks, particularly school walks, continue to be a priority. Walks in the Amity Street area will be constructed to aid school children going to Bushnell Elementary School and the Middle School.
- Continue to strongly support the Lowell Area Recreation Authority in its efforts to establish a community wide trail system.
- Continue support of the Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Historic District Commission in its efforts to improve the downtown. The improvement to both sides of the riverbank downtown along with upgrading the old amphitheater are priorities.
- Continue to support the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce in its marketing strategy. The Chamber has been a key component in revitalizing the downtown through such activities as the Riverwalk Festival and Christmas thru Lowell.
- With the establishment of the LCTV Endowment Fund Board, opportunities will be promoted for municipal and non profit projects.
- The formation of the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority will give the City, Lowell Charter and Vergennes Townships greater cooperation and sharing of resources for public safety.
- Continue to recognize the Lowell Area Historical Museum, Lowell Area Arts Council, Kent District Library, Lowell Community Wellness and YMCA as important resources to the City's quality of life.
- Support the Airport Board's efforts to attain General Utility status for the Lowell City Airport understanding that safety is the first consideration for improvements.
- Recognizing Lowell-Rockford Ambulance as an integral part of our health community system. This is further enhanced by the Ambulance station completed in 2007.
- Recognizing the work of the City's Arbor Board and the gaining of Tree City USA status to promote the growth and maintenance of trees in our community. This has been further enhanced by the City attaining two Arbor Day Growth Awards.
- Appreciating the service the Lowell Little League, YMCA, Xtreme Softball, Kent County Youth Fair, Lowell Youth Football, Lowell Rugby and Lowell Lacrosse have given to the community's youth.
- Examine the City's waste collection system particularly as it affects the residents. In particular, recycling will be reviewed in terms of options.
- Continue to plan for improvements to the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants. The infiltration study to the City's wastewater collection system will be completed providing where repairs and upgrades should be located.
- In conclusion, as I approach my 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary as City Manager, I count it a privilege to work for the City. The goals and projects provided above are a means of giving greater service to our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,  
David M. Pasquale