

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF LOWELL**

For the Regular Meeting of TUESDAY, **JANUARY 20, 2004**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Shores and the City Clerk called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Hodges, Mathews, Myers, Pfaller and Mayor Shores.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Dave Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Police Chief Jim Valentine, Public Works Director Dan DesJarden and Police Officer James Hinton.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MYERS that the minutes of the January 5, 2004 regular meeting be approved as corrected.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by PFALLER that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (01/20/04)

GENERAL FUND	\$135,138.75
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,777.31
LOCAL STREET FUND	10,518.88
HISTORIC DISTRICT FUND	5,788.00
DDA FUND	4,863.80
AIRPORT FUND	171.60
WASTEWATER FUND	162,421.77
WATER FUND	4,383.97
DATA PROCESSING FUND	50.68
EQUIPMENT FUND	2,613.18
CURRENT TAX FUND	71,908.84

Item #1. **LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS – COLLECTION OF SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2004.** As recently carried out for the Kent Intermediate School District and Grand Rapids Community College, the Lowell Area Schools requested the City collect the summer property taxes for the district. As part of a continuing resolution, the City collects the LAS' property taxes at no fee, but is able to keep the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing these monies.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATHEWS to approve a continuing resolution for the collection of the summer property taxes for 2004 for Lowell Area Schools.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. **RENEWAL OF LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOWELL AND THE WENDELL L. CHRISTOFF TRUST FOR A PEDESTRIAN PATH BETWEEN FOREMAN ROAD AND CREEKSIDE PARK.** In November, 1994, the City and Wendell Christoff signed a five year license agreement to allow a fifteen foot wide asphalted path along the east side of the Litehouse property between Creekside Park and Foreman Road. This allows a safe route for school children who walk from the Valley Vista Subdivision to the elementary and middle schools.

Since this agreement has expired, a new five year license has been proposed and agreed upon.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by HODGES to approve a five year license renewal agreement between the City of Lowell and the Wendell L. Christoff Trust for a pedestrian path between Foreman Road and Creekside Park.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned the reason for having no agreement the last five years. City Manager Pasquale explained the lack of an agreement went unnoticed until Litehouse, Inc. began preparing for a new addition.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #3. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – 2004 – 2005 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS – PUBLIC HEARING.** As noted at the last meeting, Kent County has informed the City an estimated \$49,199 in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds is available Based on the advertisement for projects as part of the public hearing process, the following were recommended:

- | | | |
|--|-------|----------------|
| • Foreman Road (south side) Gee Drive to Creekside Park entrance sidewalk improvements | CDBG: | \$43,199 |
| • North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizens and Handicapped riders | CDBG: | 4,000 |
| • Rockford Ambulance – Automatic Vehicle Locators | CDBG: | <u>\$2,000</u> |
| | | \$49,199 |

In discussing the status of the current Foreman-North Hudson sidewalk project with Dave Austin of Williams and Works, approximately \$2,453.55 (from \$51,000 allocated) remains in 2003 – 2004 Block Grant funds. The Foreman-Gee sidewalk is estimated to cost \$45,100.

The letter dated January 16, 2004, Austin stated he would not recommend spending \$49,000 in funds to extend Gee Drive street improvements. He stressed the Creekside Park entrance is a good breaking point. Beyond this, the entire length of the road needs to be engineered for reconstruction.

Thus, based on the current availability of Block Grant funds, the allocations would be as follows:

• Foreman Road (south side) Gee Drive to Creekside Park entrance sidewalk improvements	CDBG:	\$45,100.00
• North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizens and Handicapped riders	CDBG:	4,552.55
• Rockford Ambulance – Automatic Vehicle Locators		<u>\$2,000.00</u>
		\$51,652.55

No comments were received from the public hearing.

Mayor Shores questioned the amount spent for North Kent Transit last year. City Manager Pasquale believed it was approximately \$10,000. However, the Council does not have to request that high of an amount at this time. He noted a budget amendment can be requested, if necessary.

Councilmember Pfaller asked if the service provided by North Kent Transit could be discontinued, due to budget constraints being faced by the State. Pasquale stated he has received no information to indicate the service will be discontinued. At this point, these monies help subsidize ridership.

Pfaller asked if federal monies for Foreman and Gee Drive could be used on sidewalks. He also questioned why this was not included as part of the reconstruction of Foreman Road. Pasquale explained the Federal street program does not allow the City to utilize monies for sidewalks. Therefore, the City uses Block Grant funds for sidewalks.

Pfaller disagreed with finishing the sidewalk down Foreman Road.

Police Chief Jim Valentine believed the installation of any sidewalk was favorable. Many individuals walk along Foreman when the weather is good. Valentine stated the path works very well. However, there are few individuals who use it this time of year.

Valentine commented on a meeting held the School Transportation Group. Discussion was held concerning an alternate bus route within the Valley Vista Subdivision. The path works well during spring, summer and fall. However, it is difficult for a small child to walk through deep snow. Valentine mentioned the idea of school personnel clearing the sidewalk (near Carol Lynne) to the parking lots.

Pfaller noted the option of extending the path to the Carol Lynne entrance to the park around the exterior.

Councilmember Mathews said Litehouse, Inc. could decide not to renew the asphalt agreement at some point.

Public Works Director DesJarden stated many children enter the park from Faith Drive and continue from the parking lot to the sidewalk on Gee Drive.

Mayor Shores believed many would use the sidewalk, if installed.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by MATHEWS to support the following projects for 2004 – 2005 Community Development Block Grant funding (1) North Kent Transit senior and handicapped assistance, \$6,000 (2) the Foreman – Gee sidewalk of \$45,100 (3) Rockford Ambulance – Automatic Vehicle Locators, \$2,000.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. **MONTHLY REPORTS**. No comments were received.

Item #5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**. No comments were received.

Item #6. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**. Councilmember Matthews commented on how well the roads have been plowed within the City this winter.

Councilmember Myers requested the Council begin to review contract positions held with the City of Lowell. He suggested individual contracts be reviewed throughout the year. Councilmember Pfaller agreed. Myers asked for the Council to discuss how to approach such a review during the February 2, 2004 meeting.

Pfaller suggested City Manager Pasquale list what it cost the City for each service. This will then allow the Council to prioritize which contracts to review first.

Mayor Shores noted the ice skating rink at Richards Park. Many seem to be using it.

Item #7. **MANAGER'S REPORT**. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided for your information:
 - Airport Board meeting of December 2, 2003
 - Downtown Development Authority meeting of December 11, 2003
 - Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of December 13, 2003
 - Lowell Area Trailways meeting of December 17, 2003
 - Chamber of Commerce meetings of November 26 (corrected) and December 30, 2003
2. The Annual meeting of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will be held on Thursday, January 22 at Deer Run.

Item #8. **APPOINTMENTS**. By general consensus the Council elected Councilmember Jim Pfaller as the Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman.

Mayor Shores also asked for consensus of reappointing the following:

- reappointment of Kevin Vezino to the Airport Board with a term expiring 01/01/2007
- reappointment of Perry Beachum to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term expiring 01/01/2007
- reappointment of Dan DesJarden, Ray Zandstra and Greg Canfield to the Construction Board of Appeals with terms expiring 01/01/2006
- reappointment of Dean Lonick to the Downtown Development Authority with a term expiring 01/01/2008
- reappointment of Suzanne Olin to the Building Authority with a term expiring 01/01/2007
- reappointment of Phillip Johnson to the Downtown Historic District Commission with a term expiring 01/01/2007.

By general consensus, the Council agreed.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by PFALLER to go into a closed session at 8:02 p.m. pursuant to the open meetings act.

YEA: 5. (Councilmembers Hodges, Mathews, Myers, Pfaller and Shores)

NAY: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MYERS to return to open session at 8:34 p.m.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, Clerk