

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

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008.**

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

Present: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Pfaller and Mayor Shores.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Hodges.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Police Chief Jim Valentine, Lowell Police Dispatchers Leslie Heffron and Theresa Mundt, Lowell Police Detective Steve Bukula and Lowell Light and Power Manager Tom Richards.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ALTOFT to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Hodges.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 regular meeting as corrected.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

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

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (02/04/08)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$72378.04
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,644.03
LOCAL STREET FUND	9,167.66
DDA FUND	2,339.02
CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND	300.00
AIRPORT FUND	101.35
WASTEWATER FUND	32,566.49
WATER FUND	7,030.54
DATA PROCESSING FUND	758.79
EQUIPMENT FUND	6,262.13
CURRENT FUND	166,030.46
LEE FUND	945.00

Item #1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.** Mayor Shores recommended Jim Pfaller serve as Chair to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by ELLISON to appoint Jim Pfaller as Chair to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. **APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC PARK USE AGREEMENT WITH LOWELL LITTLE LEAGUE.** Councilmember Pfaller explained the Little League agreement mirrors the other signed agreements. It includes the \$5 per participant fee as well as the verbiage exactly the same as the other agreements.

Gary Warning, President of the Lowell Little League believed the agreements needed to be customized slightly for each organization. Most of the organizations using the City parks are non profit with full volunteer leadership. There were approximately 30 teams last year serving close to 400 children. Volunteers spend a great amount of time working on the fields. Warning suggested there be some type of reciprocation, not only with the amount of time invested, but the materials which are placed into the parks. This not only provides better fields for the organizations as well as the entire area.

The fields are utilized for approximately 10 to 12 weeks by these organizations and are always left in good shape.

Warning referred to the 10% fee when tournaments are held. He noted Little League is nonprofit. The organization has struggled with giving the City this money. However, he noted the organization will sign the agreement, but suggested some customization for each organization.

Mayor Shores thanked Warning for all that has been done. It is great to have organized sports for children.

Councilmember Ellison suggested Warning provide a list of expenditures and where and how these monies have been spent.

Councilmember Pfaller explained due to budget constraints, the Parks and Recreation Commission has had to find an affordable way of managing the parks. The fields need to be maintained at a level which is acceptable to such organizations as Xtreme Softball, Lowell Little League and Youth Football. However, the City can not afford to do this. These are improvements in which these organizations use. Pfaller noted the City has many more expenses at these parks beside maintaining the fields and mowing.

Mayor Shores thanked Warning for his comments. She noted a recent study showed the City parks are used by 25% of Lowell City residents and 75% by others. It is the Lowell City

residents who pay taxes on these fields. She also noted the park in Lowell Township charges a fee.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the Parks Agreement with Lowell Little League as presented.

YEA: Councilmember Altoft, Ellison, Pfaller and Mayor Shores.

NAY: None. ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Hodges MOTION CARRIED.

Item #3. **REQUEST TO WAIVE FEE FOR PERFORMING MARRIAGE CEREMONY.** Mayor Shores explained during her prior time as Mayor she did not charge a fee for marriage ceremonies. It was previously voted to set a fee of \$50 to perform a marriage ceremony with the funds provided to the City. Shores requested the fee be waived. Many of the ceremonies involve young adults.

At the time the \$50 was proposed, Shores believed it was too high and she did not vote for it. There has never been a set fee prior to this.

Councilmember Ellison believed there should be a fee of \$25 with Shores having the right to waive the fee, if she so wishes.

City Manager Pasquale stated it is the Mayors choice of whether marriage ceremonies are performed.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by PFALLER to waive the fee for performing a marriage ceremony.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. **REPLACEMENT OF CARPET AND TILE IN THE FIRE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM AND KITCHEN.** The carpet in the conference (community) room and tile in the kitchen of the Fire Station is the original and badly worn. Fire Chief Frank Martin secured the following bids:

- Beachum Flooring \$2,123.01
- The Floor Store (Belding) \$2,336.46

With Beachum being the low bid, Fire Chief Martin recommended the alternate bid of having a non slip vinyl tile in the kitchen and extending this to the conference room entrance and carpet in the balance of the conference room (cost: \$2,571.21).

Councilmember Pfaller questioned the status of the fire agreement. City Manager Pasquale stated he is meeting with Lowell Township Supervisor Paula Bloom, who has further issues to

discuss. Once this has been completed, there will be another fire board meeting for both townships and City representatives.

Martin noted this would be a shared expense.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ELLISON to approve the bid from Beachum Flooring including the non stick tile for \$2,571.21 of which the City will be responsible for 1/3 of the cost.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**. County Commissioner Sandy Frost Parrish introduced herself to the new Councilmembers. In addition to the City of Lowell, she also represents Cascade, Lowell, Vergennes and Bowne Townships. The area she represents is unique because this has rural townships, as well as a City and a suburban township. She is proud and pleased to be our representative.

Parrish serves on the legislative committee, which involves human resources as well as legislative issues which face the county. She serves on the Zoo Advisory Board, the Transportation Policy Committee at Grand Valley Metro Council and the Board of Public Works.

She is particularly interested in Public Transportation and has advocated participation in a Light and Demand Study for the entire County to identify what our needs are in public transportation. Parrish is also very involved in parks and open space and has voted for every increase in park space, including land in Vergennes Township.

City Manager Pasquale stated Parrish is no stranger to the Lowell area. She has been very involved with the Lowell Area Arts Council in terms of funding and raising strategies and plans. One issue involves a study of public transportation needs. This issue has been brought up many times, particularly by senior citizens.

Item #6. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**. Councilmember Altoft stated the DPW has done a good job clearing snow.

Councilmember Pfaller commented on the last Council meeting regarding the Historical Museum. He wanted it noted that the City provides a ¼ mill (\$20,000) to the museum. He further pointed out Lowell Township supports the museum with approximately \$2500 and Vergennes Township provides approximately \$1500. When the request for the millage was first made, Pfaller had requested this also be placed to a vote within the two townships for this ¼ mill. This has yet to happen.

Mayor Shores stated she called Judy Alchin from the Historical Museum and indicated the City of Lowell needs to be listed on the paperwork as donors as well. The taxpayers give a significant amount each year.

Shores also noted "Coffee with the Council" was held this past Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. The Council will be available for discussion the first Saturday of each month.

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

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided:
  - Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of December 15, 2007.
  - Arbor Board meeting of December 17, 2007
  - Planning Commission meeting of November 26, 2007
  - Grand Valley Metro Council meeting of December 6, 2007
2. A work session is scheduled for Monday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the North Washington property and utilization of proceeds from the LCTV Endowment Fund.
3. In observance of Presidents Day, the next scheduled City Council meeting is Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Item #8. **APPOINTMENTS.** Mayor Shores noted an individual is needed to serve on the Parks Commission. Anyone interested may send a letter to City Clerk Betty Morlock. The Commission meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

---

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor

---

Betty R. Morlock, Clerk