

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

For the Regular Meeting of Monday, **AUGUST 2, 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 (arrived at 7:37 p.m.), Pfaller and Mayor Shores.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Police Chief Jim Valentine, Police Officer James Hinton and Planning Commission Chairman Clark Jahnke.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2004 regular meeting as corrected.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATHEWS 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 (08/02/04)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$65,599.11
MAJOR STREET FUND	868.53
LOCAL STREET FUND	411.01
DDA FUND	122.69
AIRPORT FUND	61.58
WASTEWATER FUND	58,083.83
WATER FUND	1,381.01
DATA PROCESSING FUND	398.17
EQUIPMENT FUND	1,518.48
CURRENT TAX FUND	84,103.39

Item #1. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – NORTH KENT TRANSIT SERVICE – APPROVAL OF VENDOR.** At its January 20, 2004 meeting, the City Council approved an allocation of \$6,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to assist senior citizen and handicapped riders through North Kent Transit Service.

The Kent County Community Development Department has requested the Council approve the 2004 – 2005 vendor contract for North Kent Transit Service.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES to approve the Community Development Block Grant vendor contract for North Kent Transit Service involving the 2004 – 2005 fiscal year.

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

Item #2. **LEASE PURCHASE OF TWO POLICE CRUISERS.** On July 28, four bids from area dealers were received for a lease purchase of two police cruisers. The low bid was received from Berger Chevrolet. The lease payment is \$11,935.70 for three years with a \$1.00 purchase at the end of the contract. A total of \$12,500.00 was been budgeted.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by MATHEWS to approve the lease agreement with Berger Chevrolet for two Impala police cruisers at a cost of \$11,935.70 for three years with a \$1.00 purchase at the end of the contract.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSTAIN: 1. (Myers) ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

It was noted Councilmember Myers abstained from discussion due to just arriving at the meeting.

Item #3. **ZONING FEES.** As noted in a memo from Building Inspector Doug Hopkins, sign permit fees are currently only \$1.00. In order to cover costs, a charge of \$25.00 is recommended. This would also be assessed to temporary sign permits. Also, for temporary sign permits, there is a \$200.00 refundable fee, which is currently charged. A recommendation is proposed to charge \$225.00, with refunding \$200.00 once the sign is removed.

Zoning permits necessary to determine the location of accessory buildings as well as fence permits are also recommended at a \$25.00 fee.

Further, City Manger Pasquale proposed a charge of \$25.00 for a site plan review before the Planning Commission. Currently, there is none.

Councilmember Myers questioned what other municipalities are charging for such issues. Pasquale stated most communities charge more than this. Myers wanted the City to research the issue further.

By general consensus, the Council tabled the issue until the next meeting.

Item #4. **BURCH FIELD LIGHTING CONTROL REPAIR.** The Lowell Youth Football lighting control cabinets are in disrepair. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended up to \$3,800 from the Lee Fund to be allocated at its May 8, 2004 meeting. A low bid of \$3,080 was received from Rickert Electric, Inc. However, an additional \$1,050 is needed to reground, install new breaker panel, add keytap for proper tapping, install new branch circuit riser to east side as well as adding \$350.00 for panel regrounding strut used in place of plywood, six circuit panel with main installed in place of two circuit keytap installed in wireway for proper tapping to west side.

Councilmember Pfaller noted a Youth Football representative attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and indicated this is a dangerous situation.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATHEWS to the Burch Field Lighting Control repair award the bid to Rickert Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$4,480.

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

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

Item #6. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Myers apologized for his tardiness. He was out of town.

Myers questioned if a policy could be established which would provide stronger consideration to local businesses even if an outside business provides a lower bid. He believed local businesses should have a slight advantage. City Manager Pasquale stated he would review the City charter and report back at the August 16, 2004 meeting.

Councilmember Hodges agreed consideration should be given, when possible, to local businesses. However, he is against the establishment of a policy as it could result in the City being painted into a corner. Every situation is different

Councilmember Mathews stated the asphalt on M-21 near the west City limits is very broken up. City Manager Pasquale stated MDOT can be contacted.

Councilmember Pfaller requested an update on the sewer plan. Has this started? Public Works Director DesJarden explained letters will be sent to affected residents. Work will begin on the north City limits, west of the river and east of the railroad tracks, working back toward Main Street.

Pfaller questioned if the security system has been installed at the Water Treatment facility. DesJarden stated this has not been completed.

Mayor Shores commented on the 126 Army Band being in town.

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

1. The following boards and commissions meeting minutes were provided:
 - Lowell Downtown Historic District Commission meeting of May 25, 2004
 - Lowell Light and Power and Cable Television Board meeting of May 27, 2004
 - Planning Commission meeting of June 28, 2004
 - Downtown Development Authority meeting of June 24, 2004
2. The City was not on the federal funding list for the Bowes Road project which we had applied last Spring. An application will be submitted when the next grant round is announced.

The City is making positive strides in having Gee Drive receive a federal designation for funding.
3. The Kent County Youth Fair will be held from August 9 to 14.
4. Police Chief Jim Valentine stated approximately 28 headstones were tipped over. It will cost approximately \$250 per headstone to repair.

Item #8. **APPOINTMENTS**. Mayor Shores noted the opening on the Planning Commission, Local Officers Compensation Commission and the Downtown Historic District Commission.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, Clerk