

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Jim Hodges and City Clerk Betty Morlock called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Altoft, Maryalene LaPonsie, Andrew Schrauben, Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Ellison and Mayor Jim Hodges.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manger Dave Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Director of Public Works Dan DesJarden, Chief of Police James Hinton, Light and Power Boardmember, Planning Commissioner and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Hall, Light and Power Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce and Light and Power Boardmember and Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Perry Beachum.

Item #1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and supported by ELLISON to approve the agenda as corrected.

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

Item #2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION MEETING OF JULY 6, 2010.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by SCHRAUBEN to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 6, 2010 as presented.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSE and supported by ELLSION to approve the closed session minutes of the July 6, 2010 meeting as presented.

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

Item #3. **APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISION and supported by LAPONSIE that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: Councilmembers Altoft, LaPonsie, Schrauben, Mayor Pro Tem Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

<u>BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (07/19/10)</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$199,644.38
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,760.43
LOCAL STREET FUND	734.92
DDA FUND	3,219.90
AIRPORT FUND	4,144.91
WASTEWATER FUND	49,918.59
WATER FUND	57,471.51
DATA PROCESSING	710.70
EQUIPMENT FUND	9,360.18
CURRENT TAX FUND	5,164.66
LOOK FUND	27,000.00

Item #4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** Department of Public Works Director DesJarden informed the Council the lights in the Avery Parking Lot, which is to the north of the Police Department, have been converted to CFL lights with new reflectors. He requested the Council to provide him with feed back on the new lights.

DesJarden also requested permission from the Council to present a ground water infiltration at the August 9, 2010 work session.

Mayor Hodges stated item one at the August 9<sup>th</sup> work session will be to discuss the yard waste and recycling issues and item number two will be the ground water presentation.

Item #5. **AMENDMENT TO THE LIBRARY ROOFING PROJECT INCLUDING EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS.** City Manager Pasquale stated last year, the LCTV Endowment Fund allocated \$10,000 to reroof the Englehardt Public Library including soffit and fascia. This amount was provided along with a \$50,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. Thus, the project has \$60,000 in revenues.

Richard Anderson Builders recently completed the reroofing at a cost of \$42,500. It was noted that the wood exterior trim was badly deteriorated. Since Richard Anderson Builders were already completing the roofing work of the soffit and fascia, he provided an estimate of \$26,200 to provide vinyl siding for the trim and cedar shakes on the peaks eliminating future maintenance.

In checking with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the remaining monies from the Lowell Area Community Funds can be used for this project, leaving the City short \$8,700 to complete the project. This information was provided to the LCTV Endowment Fund Committee as an amendment to the original grant. The LCTV Committee recommended the amendment of \$8,700 to complete the exterior renovation of the library to the City Council at its July 7, 2010 meeting.

Pasquale also noted there some additional projects which are being pursued for the library such as insulation work, new carpeting, hand driers for the restrooms and some interior painting. But at this time, the staff wishes to have the exterior work completed on the library and then pursue the other projects.

DPW Director DesJarden provided pictures showing the deterioration of the wood and noted by changing it to vinyl maintenance would be reduced significantly. DesJarden stated if the amendment is approved, a color for the siding needs to be selected. The consensus of the Council was white.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellison noted the LCTV Endowment Board unanimously approved recommendation of this amendment. The Board felt it was a good use of the monies and everyone throughout the community uses the library and it is desperately needed.

Perry Beachum (924 Riverside Drive) stated he is very active in the community serving on the Lowell Parks and Recreation Commission, Lowell Area Recreational Authority, Light and Power Board along with the Pink Arrow Pride event. He agrees that the library needs these repairs and the LCTV funds is an appropriate use. But Beachum is concerned with amending the LCTV Fund grant process after the deadline of the request. Beachum asked if the Parks Commission could amend their grants because they too have additional needs since the fund has additional monies left. The LCTV Board and Council should consider grant requests more than once a year. Beachum felt all groups should play by the same rules.

Mayor Hodges said Beachum's point is well taken and the LCTV Endowment Board and Council might want to look at other periods of time during the year to review applications. Mayor Pro Tem Ellison felt this is a different situation. The LCTV Board did not consider this an additional project but work that was needed to complete the job in a more efficient and cost effective manner. Ellison noted the LCTV Board discussed the issue of considering exception on a case by case basis at their meeting on July 7, 2010.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by ALTOFT to amend the library roofing project to include exterior improvements in the amount of \$8,700 allocated from the LCTV Endowment Fund.

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

Item #6. **CHIP SEALING NORTH CENTER STREET.** DPW Director DesJarden stated North Center Street from M-21 to the dead end has been identified in need of maintenance. Chip sealing will provide a stop gap of a few years to stabilize the road until reconstruction of the street can be undertaken. DesJarden secured one bid for the chip sealing from Fahrner Asphalt LLC of \$14,915.61. As part of the 2010-2011 budget \$25,000 has been allocated for local street

maintenance. This would leave a balance of \$10,000 to use to patch future potholes and crack seal the parking lots. City Manager Pasquale noted this is not the final answer but is stabilizes the road.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by ALTOFT to approve the bid from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC to chip seal North Center from M-21 to the dead end at a cost of \$14,915.61.

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

Item #7. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER AND POLICE DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT.** Chief of Police James Hinton thanked the Lowell community and City Council for their continued support of the Police Department and from all of the members. It is a pleasure to serve Lowell.

Officer Blair Kacos was hired full time on July 1, 2010. With the hiring of Officer Kacos, a schedule change was implemented which has reduced overtime costs and comp time coverage in days off at a time and a half. This allows better forecasting of personnel expenses in future budgets.

The dispatch change over is still on course for October 4, 2010 with the Kent County Sheriff Department. Our dispatchers will be attending additional training sessions to get acclimated with the new dispatch equipment and procedures. New dispatch computer equipment will be installed in the office at no expense to the city, which is part of the Kent County Dispatch Authority funding for equipment that is needed at the Lowell Police Department.

The Lowell Area Community Fund grant of \$45,000 was approved with a 1 to 1 match. Radio and computer equipment needed to transition over to the Kent County Dispatch will be funded by this initiative. The project should be completed by the second week of August. Lowell should be operational way in advance of the deadline date of October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Also, since Lowell Officers are working alone more now, Tasers were purchased with the LACF grant monies. The Kent County Sheriff Department, who serves both Lowell and Vergennes Townships currently carry the Tasers units. Policy and training sessions are currently being worked on.

Hinton also applied for two LCTV grants, one is for pursuit stop sticks and the other was for the City Hall power point projection project.

Hinton had also been attending various community meetings to stay involved such as Chamber of Commerce, Parks and DDA meetings as well as just talking with business owners in general.

Lastly, Chief Hinton just introduced the drug collection box into the community that is in the down stair lobby of City Hall. This will assist with the disposal of prescription drugs to keep these off the streets and out of the water system. This is a County wide initiative and Chief Hinton is one of the first Police Departments to have this in the building.

Chief Hinton introduced Officer Blair Kacos, who started in January 2009 as a part time officer. He is a great asset to the City and has worked many last minutes shifts for the Department. Kacos has been married to his wife, Rachel, for four years and they live in Wyoming and plans to move to Lowell soon.

Officer Kacos thanked the community of Lowell for giving him the opportunity to serve.

Item #8. **MONTHLY REPORTS**. No comments were received from materials presented.

Item #9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**. Councilmember Altoft mentioned the article in the Grand Rapids Press regarding John Erickson and questioned if there was something the City could do to honor him.

Councilmember LaPonsie said the Riverwalk Festival was fun. It was also great when it rained that everyone invited others to come to their porch to get out of the rain. She quoted her father as saying "it was one of life's rich experiences you do not forget".

Councilmember Schrauben also mentioned how he and his wife enjoyed walking about five miles to see everything at the Riverwalk.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellison also enjoyed Riverwalk but also mentioned the dedication of the war memorial. It was very moving and nice that the Townships and City were all part of the event.

Mayor Hodges also commented on being part of the dedication with Township Supervisors Jerry Hale of Lowell Charter Township and Tim Wittenbach of Vergennes and as always, the great organization of the event by Dave Thompson. Hodges also added the Grand River Expedition will be at Lowell this Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch at the Fire Station. Also, the Kent County Youth Fair will be August 8 – 14.

Item #10. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**.

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided:
  - LCTV Endowment Fund Committee meeting of April 13, 2010
  - Airport Board meeting of June 1, 2010
2. A former Lowell Cable employee received added unemployment benefits. The City is responsible for \$724. The LCTV Endowment Fund committee at its July 7, 2010 meeting recommended payment as an expense.
3. We had a terrific Riverwalk Festival!
4. A note was provided from State House Candidate Rob VerHeulen, who currently serves as the Mayor of Walker, would like to meet with the Council. This is not an endorsement , it is just a chance to meet with VerHeulen.

Consensus of the Council was to meet Monday, July 26, 2010 at 6 p.m. prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

5. DPW Director DesJarden said he had received sealed building plans for the brick storage building at 990 North Washington. The Vergennes Township Building Inspector will accept these repairs and estimated it could cost from \$5,000 to \$6,000. DesJarden would like to contact Mr. Dietzel and have his engineering firm provide a cost before the City goes out for bid.

DesJarden also noted in discussing these plans with the Vergennes Township Building Inspector Mark Fleet, under the Michigan Building Code the windows need to be addressed. The windows will need to be either repaired or boarded up from the inside and painted. If these are boarded up, electricity would have to be provided and a light placed inside the building. There are extra costs for the building other than just the roof.

The Council wants the windows replaced and an engineer estimate.

Item #11, **APPOINTMENTS**. Mayor Hodges received a letter of resignation from Doug Folsom of the Planning Commission stating he will be moving out of the City in August. Thus his last Planning Commission meeting will be Monday, July 26, 2010.

The following boards and commissions positions need appointment.

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Board of Review		
To fill in for Jim Wood's position	appointment	06/30/2013
Planning Commission		
Doug Folsom (resignation)	appointment	06/30/2011

Mayor Hodges noted anyone interested in either position to please submit a letter of interest to either himself or to the City Clerk.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and supported by ALTOFT to go into closed session at 8:05 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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James W. Hodges, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk