

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

For the Regular Meeting of MONDAY, **FEBRUARY 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, Pfaller and Mayor Shores.

Absent: Councilmember Myers.

Also Present: Assistant City Manager/Police Chief Jim Valentine, City Clerk Betty Morlock and Public Works Director Dan DesJarden

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATTHEWS that the minutes of the January 20, 2004 closed meeting be approved as corrected.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by HODGES that the minutes of the January 20, 2004, regular meeting be approved as written.

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

Councilmember Pfaller questioned a bill payable to the Amway Grand Hotel. Public Works Director Dan DesJarden explained three DPW employees will be attending a week long conference. Attendance is necessary in order to maintain a water service license. Pfaller questioned why the employees were spending the night at the hotel. DesJarden explained nighttime events will take place.

Pfaller suggested an agenda for the conference be presented at the next meeting.

Mayor Shores believed networking is very helpful.

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

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

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (02/02/04)

GENERAL FUND	\$75,591.53
MAJOR STREET FUND	1,494.50
LOCAL STREET FUND	1,833.11
DDA FUND	3,785.78
CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND	1,279.00
AIRPORT FUND	1,631.02
WASTEWATER FUND	27,473.32
WATER FUND	3,682.21

DATA PROCESSING FUND	3,972.55
EQUIPMENT FUND	375.32
CURRENT TAX FUND	145,624.34

IT WAS MOVED BY MATHEWS and seconded by HODGES to excuse the absence of Councilmember Myers.

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

Item #1. **REQUEST TO PROVIDE ADVERTISING SIGNBOARDS FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS AT CREEKSIDE PARK BY THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HONORS READING CLASS.** Will Bryan and Cory Hagerman from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors reading class were present to explain their social action project. The two students wish to help raise money for the Little League fields at Creekside Park. Each will be asking local companies to donate funds. Each company to donate will receive a banner on the fence. It was noted the signs would be zip tied to the fence and each would be removed once the baseball season is over. The durability of each sign would be approximately five years.

Mayor Shores questioned the size of the signs. Bryan stated 2 X 6, 4 X 4 and possibly a 2 X 8.

Councilmember Pfaller asked if companies would pay a one time donation or would there be an annual fee. Bryan stated each year a company can renew the sign at a less expensive price. These funds received from a renewal would be provided to the Lowell Little League.

Pfaller questioned where the signs would be stored. The students were unsure.

Pfaller asked how the project would continue once the school year is over. Bryan and Hagerman explained they plan to continue work on the project. It was noted Mrs. Stacey's next 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Reading class may also be able to assist.

IT WAS MOVED BY HODGES and seconded by MATHEWS to support the advertising signboards for the Little League fields project and allow it for a time period of five years.

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

Item #2. **PRESENTATION BY JESSICA JOHNSTON, DIRECTOR – LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS.** Jessica Johnston, Director of the Lowell Community Wellness program was present to provide a history of the program and what the future holds. Approximately four years ago, a group of concerned community leaders met to discuss the growing wellness needs of Lowell.

The mission of the Lowell Community Wellness program is to “promote wellness by inspiring individual responsibility through affordable and accessible programs”. It is the intention of the program to help coordinate the efforts of the Lowell community with a focus on holistic health; serving as a resource for the community’s social, physical, emotional, intellectual and the spiritual

health.

In May, 2003 the Community Wellness Project was awarded a two year grant of \$98,000 through the Lowell Area Community Fund. The program also formed a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids to serve as the fiduciary agent for the program.

The position has been divided equally between the Lowell School District and surrounding districts such as St. Patrick's School and any home school programs. Johnston spend 50-percent of her time in the community.

The following projects have been established:

1. Community Resource Directory: directory will outline the current wellness programs within Lowell.
2. Health Fair 2004: fair will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2004. This will be held in conjunction with the Riverwalk Festival and will be held downstairs in the Police garage.
3. Educational Programs: to include healthy cooking, nutrition, healthy finances, and address some of the diversity issues within the community.

Johnston has received much enthusiasm and support for the project and looks forward to serving the community beyond the available grant.

Johnston works out of two offices. One is located at Cherry Creek Elementary School and the other at 206 N. Jackson, owned by the First United Methodist Church.

Item #3. **REPLACEMENT OF CITY WATER SERVICE AT THE RECREATION PARK BALLFIELD.** The old three quarter inch galvanized water service which runs through the Recreation Park Ballfield to the main lift station has been leaking. A new one inch copper line circling around the ball field rather than through it is proposed. The following bids were received for the project:

- Lee's Trenching Service (Byron Center) \$3,000.
- DeWitt Trenching Contractors, Inc. (Grandville) \$4,000.
  - based on providing and installing 290 feet of one inch copper

Based on the low bid received, Water Distribution Supervisor Bob Robinson recommended the Council approve Lee's Trenching Service to undertake this project.

Councilmember Pfaller questioned if the funds would come from the water or sewer fund. DesJarden responded a combination.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by MATHEWS to approve the bid of \$3,000 from Lee's Trenching Service to install a new water line at the Recreation Park Ballfield to the main lift station.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. **REVIEW OF CITY CONTRACTED SERVICES.** As requested by Council, the following is a listing of contract services provided to the City and the costs incurred last year:

- Earth Tech \$294,400.00  
(operation of Wastewater Treatment Plant) (2003-04 budget)
- Imperial Municipal Services \$3,397.50  
(building inspection and code enforcement) (\$45. per hr)  
revenue - \$1,773.50 (5% of building fees)
- Waste Management (solid and yard waste \$85,228.40  
collection - recycling) revenue - \$44,814.00  
(sale of yellow garbage bags-\$39,655.00  
and leaf bags \$5,159.00)
- Richard Wendt, Dickinson-Wright \$17,473.31  
City Attorney (\$135.00 per hr., no retainer)
- Jim Marfia, City Assessor \$31,775.00  
City employee under contract
- Rehman-Robson - auditor \$9,500.00 (City)  
\$6,500.00 (L&P/CATV)
- City of Walker (off hours \$18,000.00  
Police dispatch)
- Horizon Lawn Service \$20,520.00  
(mowing of parks and public areas)

Councilmember Mathews suggested tabling the issue until Councilmember Myers can be present.

Councilmember Pfaller suggested the City also provide which services are under contract as well as the expiration date and how often a contract goes out for bid.

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

Item #6. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Pfaller commented on the phone calls he received yesterday regarding the Cable Internet being down. It appeared there is no emergency number to contact, other than a recorder. Some type of response should be available on weekends.

Pfaller commended the DPW on doing such a great job removing snow from the City streets.

Mayor Shores stated she received a packet of letters from third grade students. She will be visiting the schools soon.

Item #7. **MANAGER'S REPORT**. Assistant City Manager/Police Chief Jim Valentine reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are provided for your information:
  - Lowell Community Leadership Council meeting of January 24, 2004
2. Due to observance of Presidents Day on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> the next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2004.
3. The joint work session between the City Council and the Light and Power/Cable TV Board will be held on Monday, February 9, 2004 at 7 p.m.

Item #8. **APPOINTMENTS**. Mayor Shores asked for consensus of the following:

- reappointment of Jim Serne to the Airport Board with a term expiring January 1, 2007.
- reappointment of Shelley Catlin to the Downtown Development Authority with a term expiring January 1, 2008.
- Appointment of Sue Pomper to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2006.

Shores noted Dan Pipe has resigned from the Downtown Historic District Commission. A letter of resignation was also received from Norm Borgerson of the Board of Light and Power and Cable TV. Both were due to health issues. Shores stated thoughts and prayers are with both.

By general consensus, the Council agreed.

IT WAS MOVED BY MATHEWS to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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C. Jeanne Shores, Mayor

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Betty R. Morlock, Clerk