

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

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.**

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

Present: Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Mayor Pro Tem Pfaller and Mayor Hodges.

Absent: Councilmember LaPonsie.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Police Chief James Hinton, Arbor Boardmember and Lowell Light and Power Boardmember Jim Hall and Lowell Light and Power General Manager Greg Pierce.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ALTOFT to excuse the absence of Councilmember LaPonsie.

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY ELLISON and seconded by PFALLER to approve the agenda as written.

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

Item #2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 REGULAR MEETING.**

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ELLISON to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2009 regular meeting as written.

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

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

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

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

NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. (Councilmember LaPonsie) MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (09/21/09)

GENERAL FUND	\$51,951.52
MAJOR STREET FUND	123.64
LOCAL STREET FUND	35.57
LOWELL AREA FIRE & EMERG. SVCS	139.49
DDA FUND	280.08
AIRPORT FUND	3,741.52
WASTEWATER FUND	135.20
WATER FUND	4,035.28
LOWELL CABLE TV FUND	10,000.00
EQUIPMENT FUND	371.78
CURRENT TAX FUND	1,776,398.06

Item #4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** Dave Thompson 14100 Thompson Dr., of Vergennes Township thanked Mayor Hodges and Councilmember Ellison for attending the opening of the new Senior Neighbors Center and Gilda's Club. An open house will be held on Tuesday, September 22 and 29, 2009. He encouraged the public to attend.

He also thanked Chief Hinton for making it possible to have a police officer present while citizens crossed S. Hudson.

Thompson invited the Council to attend the American Legion Dinner on Veterans Day, November 11th, 2009.

Mayor Pro Tem Pfaller questioned the time of the open house at the Senior Center. Thompson was unsure. He noted it would be in the evening.

Item #5. **EXTENSION OF SOLID WASTE, YARD WASTE AND RECYCLING CONTRACT WITH ALLIED WASTE INDUSTRIES TO NOVEMBER 30, 2010.** Last December 1, the City entered into contract with Allied Waste Industries to provide solid waste, yard waste and recycling services. The term of the agreement was one year with two one year options. Since the City is considering an exclusive franchise to provide such services in the coming year. City Manager Pasquale recommended that the Council extend the Allied contract one year from December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010.

The payment of services would increase:

- Garbage and Rubbish \$1.36 to \$1.43 per bag (resident currently pay \$1.50 per bag)
- Yard Waste \$1.70 to \$1.79 per bag (resident currently pay \$2 per bag)
- Recycling – from \$4.23 to \$4.34 per month per tote (paid by City, twice a month)

NOTE: the bag purchases reflect coverage for recycling.

City Manager Pasquale recommended the Council adopt the attached resolution extending the

Allied contract. Further, the customer charges are recommended to remain the same. Pasquale noted the goal is to consider an exclusive franchise for the next year.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALTOFT and seconded by PFALLER to extend the Solid Waste, Yard Waste and Recycling Contract with Allied Waste Industries to November 30, 2010.

YEA: Councilmember Altoft, Ellison, Mayor Pro Tem Pfaller and Mayor Hodges

NAY: 0. ABSENT: Councilmember LaPonsie MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Ellison inquired if there would be enough money to pay for recycling pickup. Pasquale responded the funds are tighter, but still should be covered.

Item #6. **SEALING OF MANHOLES TO ELIMINATE GROUND WATER INFILTRATION - BIDS.** Earlier in the year, the Council requested information on Water Infiltration of the sewer system. The cleaning completed last year identified three manholes on South Monroe where water infiltration needs to be eliminated. The manholes are located in the floodplain.

Two bids were received as follows:

- Team Elmer's (Traverse City) \$17,730.
- Advanced Underground Inspection, LLC (Westland) \$18,000.

DesJarden noted both firms specialize in sealing manholes and pipes. A plastic sand mix would be sprayed onto the interior walls. Team Elmer's has indicated they would spray the exterior of the tall structure. DesJarden went on to explain the plastic would remain, if the manhole were to fall apart.

City Manager Pasquale and DesJarden recommend the manhole groundwater infiltration project be awarded to Team Elmer's at a cost of \$17,730 allocated from the Wastewater Fund.

The DPW is also working with several firms to give proposals to the Council to monitor the entire sewer system for ground water infiltration. Their purpose is to try and isolate or identify what side of the town it is coming from. It will be broken into four sections.

Pfaller questioned how this is done. DesJarden explained the sewer reads are provided from the City. Meters will be placed in the four locations to monitor how much water is coming into that section.

Pfaller noted he was not questioning if the manholes needed to be sealed. He referred to the report provided from Water Treatment Plant Superintendent George Regan this past month. The average treatment indicates just over 600,000 gallons of water. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is then billed based upon water usage. The average sewer treatment is between 900,000 and 1.3 million gallons. This is just under double wastewater compared to what is processed through the freshwater plant. Pfaller noted he visited the Valley

Vista/Creekside Park area where it appeared the first home closest to the park had an 1 1/2 " line coming out pumping steady water. Three houses in the area had sump pump lines coming out to the curb that was cycling on and off. This indicated to him the two houses in the middle have the same water table as the two on either side. However, these do not have any water coming out to the curb which indicates it may be going into the sanitary system. Pfaller questioned if there was a way to find out who is illegally pumping groundwater into the sanitary. DesJarden responded yes, if this is the avenue the Council wishes to pursue first. Pfaller commented regarding the water table of where these four homes are. He believed the middle two would either have water in their basement or are pumping it into the sanitary system. DesJarden noted the Valley Vista from Sibley location is a high water table. DesJarden stated there are ways in which the City can ask for an inspection.

DesJarden suggested checking with the Wastewater Treatment Plant to determine if a smoke test was completed for the entire City. The department has found some buildings with roof drains still hooked to the sanitary system which should be disconnected.

Pasquale noted this is just one step amongst many which should be done.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER and seconded by ALTOFT to approve the bid of Team Elmer's to seal the three manholes on South Monroe for the amount of \$17,730.

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

Item #7. **PROGRESS REPORT – CITY HALL POWERPOINT PROJECT IN CONJUGATION WITH THE LOWELL ROTARY CLUB.** Police Chief James Hinton provided a progress report regarding the powerpoint project.

On Wednesday, September 16th, 2009 he and City Treasurer Sue Olin met with Rotary Representatives Jim White and Betsy Davidson to determine the entire scope of the powerpoint project and the proposed cost projections.

The powerpoint project would be completely paid for by Lowell Rotary in lieu of a \$75.00 per meeting fee per week. Instead of taking payment for the use of the Council room, Lowell Rotary would complete the powerpoint project in two phases. Phase I would be the installation of a projector, screen (south side of Council chambers), desktop computer, gateway device and mouse with laser pointer. Phase I will cost Rotary approximately \$4,200.00 with a due date on or before June 30, 2010. Phase II will be an additional projector, screen (north side of council chambers) and installation with an estimated cost of \$3,300.00. This project could be completed earlier, depending on Rotary funding.

Hinton believed this is a win-win scenario for the City of Lowell, Lowell Rotary Club and the City Council.

The next step as a committee is to agree on the equipment to be installed and cost.

Item #8. **MONTHLY REPORTS.** Councilmember Ellison questioned the passport situation. It does not appear many are being done. City Clerk Morlock responded this has slowed down. Ellison asked if it cost the City to offer this service. Morlock responded no. The City receives \$25 each time one is done. Every so often, the City holds a "Passport Night" when City Hall is open after 5 p.m. to process passports.

Item #9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilmember Altoft apologized to the individuals who attend the City Council meetings regarding something not on the agenda. He did not want the public to think they are being shunned because the Council does not act upon it or provide much discussion. It is simply the Council does not have all the information. Altoft suggested individuals wishing to discuss an issue provide information to City Manager Pasquale prior to the meeting, so it can be included in the Council packets for review. Further discussion can then be held during the meeting.

Councilmember Ellison stated she attended the Gilda's House ceremony. It was very moving especially when everyone encircled the entire property. It was amazing.

Ellison noted she attended the Voters Organized In Civic Excellent (VOICE) meeting. It was a very good group of people. They have done much work on the yard waste program. She thanked the group.

Mayor Hodges thanked the Thompsons as well as Coach Noel Dean and everyone involved with Gilda's Club. It is a wonderful place and will provide a terrific service to the community. In one way or another we are all affected.

Hodges sent thoughts to Councilmember LaPonsie, whose father recently passed away. He also thanked the Lowell Senior Neighbors and the Lowell Area Housing Authority who help make many things happen. Hodges stated he was invited to participate in the opening of the Walgreen's store on Thursday, September 17, 2009. Lowell Township Clerk Linda Reagan and Trustee Carlton Blough also participated.

Coffee with Council will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Hodges also noted the City is looking at having Mayor Exchange with the City of Greenville in the Spring of 2010.

City Manager Pasquale noted he also attended the open house on Sunday at Gilda's Club and was very impressed.

Item #10. **MANAGER'S REPORT.** City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

1. The following boards and commissions meetings minutes are enclosed:
 - Arbor Board meeting of July 13, 2009

- Lowell Area Recreation Authority meeting of August 12, 2009
2. A copy of the 2008 Water Fluoridation Quality Award given to Lowell by the Michigan Department of Community Health.
 3. Fallasburg Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27.
 4. A work session for City Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at 7 p.m.

Item #11. **APPOINTMENTS**. None.

IT WAS MOVED BY PFALLER to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

James W. Hodges, Mayor

Betty R. Morlock, Clerk