

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. by President John Alessia. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Town Administrator Susan Peterson called the roll. Members present were Donald Huseman, Phillip Kuiper, David Gard and John Alessia. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters was absent. . Also present were Town Attorney Gregory Sobkowski, Director of Public Works Greg Shook, Town Police Chief John Shelhart, Community Development Director Wilbur Cox, three members of the media, and approximately eighteen interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28th regular meeting and the February 22nd special meeting, seconded by Councilman Gard and carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Alessia stated that he had reviewed White Vouchers #1244-1296, White Police #4024-4032, Water Vouchers #2136-2168 and Waste Water Vouchers #3104-3124. Councilman Huseman made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Kuiper and the motion carried by voice vote.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS

Consolidation Study - American Postal Workers Union - President Alessia read a letter from the AFL-CIO Gary Area Local 266 asking them to contact the USPS Consumer Affairs Manager and express your disapproval of this type of consolidating of mail and to the "Service" in the USPS. They were also extended an invitation to attend two events, a meeting March 13, 2011 and May 19, 2011.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Councilman Kuiper made a motion to accept the monthly reports from February, 2011 as presented, seconded by Councilman Huseman. The motion carried by voice vote.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

1st Reading - Ordinance #2011-03 - Additional Appropriation - Freedom Park Public Hearing - from line 451 Improvements in the amount of \$12,000.00. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the first reading and hold Ordinance #2011-03 over for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Gard. The motion carried by voice vote.

President Alessia opened a public hearing for ordinance #2011-03.

Councilman Gard made a motion to set the rules aside, seconded by Councilman Kuiper. The motion carried by voice vote.

Councilman Gard made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2011-03 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Huseman. Roll call vote carried with five ayes.

Councilman Kuiper made a motion to set the rules back in order, seconded by Councilman Gard. The motion carried by voice vote.

Resolution #2011-02 - Reduce 2011 budget per DLGF - President Alessia read the Resolution as presented \$258,000.00 total of all funds. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-02, seconded by Councilman Gard. The motion carried by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Enter into agreement for engineering and survey for roadway design at 1275 Harrison Street - S&H Engineering & Surveyors - Community Development Director Wilbur Cox asked the Council to act on the proposal by S&H Engineers, they had three proposals and they came in the lowest. The road will be going north from Harrison to a lot that is owned by Lake County in return they will give us \$175,000.00 to use to demolish the old school building on Main Street. Councilman Huseman made a motion to approve the proposal from S&H Engineering seconded by Councilman Gard. The motion carried by voice vote.

Approve Official Bond for Thomas Vanes, Town Judge. Councilman Gard made a motion to approve the bond, seconded by Councilman Huseman. The motion carried by voice vote.

Act on favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission: Approve zone change from PUD to R-3D - 310 South Nichols Street - Community Development Director Wilbur Cox asked the Council to have Town Attorney Gregory Sobkowski to prepare the ordinance for the next meeting. Councilman Gard made a motion to prepare the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Kuiper. President Alessia asked Community Development Director Wilbur Cox to explain what that means, he went on to explained that the Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to change the old Jim Prange house office from a PUD to a R-3D, that means years ago that was zoned to be a residential instead of an apartment unit with a office downstairs. The motion carried by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Alessia stated the next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 28th at 7:00 PM
Public Hearing - Fire Territory

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the press asked for a copy of the budget and the postal letter and they were given to her.

Another member also asked for a copy of the budget and was given one. She also asked for the cost of the Harrison Street project and was told when the design period was done they would put out bids, but it should be around \$30,000.00. S&H services will be \$3,250.00. She also asked what the additional appropriation for Freedom Park was for and she was told operating expenses.

A member of the press asked how the road on Harrison Street would run and was told it will be west of the library entrance. The road is being put in because there will be a person living there that qualified for low income housing and if the Town puts the road in we will get \$175,000.00 from CDBG funds to demolish the old school house building on Main Street.

Ed Bradbury 5704 W. 171st Ave, asked if this road was going to be more of a driveway for the people that live there. He was told no it will be a street and there are two houses on it.

There being no further business or discussion, Councilman Gard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kuiper at 7:17 P.M.

John Alessia, President

Attest:

Susan Peterson, Town Administrator