

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 11, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday June 11, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. by President Phillip Kuiper. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Craig Earley, Robert Philpot, Donald Parker, Phillip Kuiper, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Town Attorney Gregg Sobkowski, Director of Public Works Greg Shook, Police Chief John Shelhart, Town Administrator Susan Peterson, Building Official Tom Trulley, two members of the media and twelve citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the May 29th regular meeting and the May 29th work sessions, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Kuiper stated he reviewed White Vouchers #1605 - #1682, White-Police #4089 -#4095, Water #2318 - #5117, Waste Water #3300 - #3329 and recommended them for approval. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS

MONTHLY REPORTS – May, 2012

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the monthly reports for May, 2012, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by voice vote

SPECIAL COMMITTEES – Annexation Committee

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

- 1st reading - *Ordinance #2012-09 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #1 – North Nichols.
- 1st reading - *Ordinance #2012-10 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #2 – Nammari.
- 1st reading - *Ordinance #2012-11 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #5 – W. 175th Avenue.
- 1st reading - *Ordinance #2012-12 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #6 – Holtz Rd – Novak
- 1streading - *Ordinance #2012-13 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #7- Holtz Rd – Pendorski.
- 1st reading - *Ordinance #2012-14 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #8 – Holtz Rd – Nichols.
- 1st reading – *Ordinance #2012-15 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #9 – Holtz Rd – Pratt.

1st reading – *Ordinance #2012-16 – Annexing Real Estate – Area #10 – Holtz Rd – Heiser.

President Kuiper read each legal description for all the Ordinances. Attorney Sobkowski explained the assignment of council districts is not exactly the same in each ordinance. The areas described in Ordinance #2012-09 is assigned to District One, Ordinance #2012-10 is assigned to District Two, Ordinance #2012-11 is assigned to District Three and the balance of Ordinances #2012-12 thru #2012-16 are all assigned to District Four. Councilman Parker made a motion to hold Ordinances #2012-09, #2012-10, #2012-11, #2012-12, #2012-13, #2012-14, #2012-15, and #2012-16 for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by voice vote.

Resolution #2012-18 – Transfer of Funds – Freedom Park - President Kuiper read Resolution #2012-18, transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,000. Attorney Sobkowski explained the effective date should be June 11, 2012 and not May 29, 2012. Councilman Parker made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-18, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Department Update. Public Works Director, Greg Shook stated Roger Kotlowski of Commonwealth has finalized a drawing that will be submitted to DNR, Army Corp and IDEM on the Powell Ditch and the delineation has been completed and flagged in the field. Mr. Shook asked the Council for permission to hire a surveyor to survey those flags. He was going to talk to Commonwealth Engineering and First Group Engineering who is doing the survey work for the curb and sidewalk project and would like the Council to set a “not to exceed” number for the survey. President Kuiper asked if they could do a not to exceed number of One Thousand Dollars for the survey. Councilman Parker made a motion to give permission to get a survey not to exceed Fifteen Hundred Dollars, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

WWTP JMOB Requests
Water Infrastructure Improvement Plan
Streets/Sidewalks

*Water Filter Program. Public Works Director Greg Shook stated twelve years ago the Town was experiencing a lot of rusty dirty water. There was a program put in place where approximately two hundred fifty filter systems were offered to homeowners. Over the last fifteen months only forty of the two hundred and fifty have come in to pick up new filters and out of that forty only half of them within the fifteen month period came in one time to receive a packet of filters. He further stated since the system is not being used as much, he and Town Administrator Susan Peterson would like to discontinue this program when their current filter supply has been depleted. Susan Peterson stated she has about fifty packets of filters left and when the program first started she was buying one hundred packets every three months at Seven Hundred dollars a quarter. In the past

few years, she has been purchasing filters once every six months and was still buying one hundred packets. The price has gone up eight dollars a package and the fifty packets that are left will probably last about three to four months. Mr. Shook stated there were about a half a dozen homes where it looks like they used quite a few of them, some are getting a filter every time they pay their water bill which comes out to twelve filters a year. By checking the addresses and the neighbors it does not show a problem with our system. He thinks they are down to the people who still have problems and will work with them to see what can be done. President Kuiper asked if some people would still need filters, is there an easy access to get them. Susan Peterson stated she purchases them from Tri-Creek Lumber. Councilman Earley made a motion to accept the recommendation to stop the Water Filter Program, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

*WWTP Improvement Project – Approve Pay Request #12 – Payment #2 to Thieneman Construction - \$885,558.28 – (\$841,280.37 to Contractor, \$44,277.91 to Retainage Account) and forward to SRF for payment. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve Pay Request #12, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

Tabled from previous meetings:

Resolution #2012-08 & Resolution #2012-09 – adopting fiscal plans for Area #3 & Area #4. President Kuiper stated these items would stay tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to pay mulch from recycling funds. Clerk-Treasurer Walters explained the Parks Department got mulch from the Touch of Grass and paid about \$2200.00 and since the Park's budget was so thin, she is asking for this to be paid from the recycling funds. She further stated the Street Department has asked to purchase a new trim-mulching mower at a cost of around \$700.00, which can also be paid out of the recycling fund. Councilman Earley made a motion to give permission to pay for the mulch and mower from the recycling fund, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

Permission to bid out for new street sweeper. Public Works Director Greg Shook explained they hardly used the street sweeper last year and has tried to repair it but has seen better days. He further stated he has had conversations with the Clerk-Treasurer and Financial Solutions and they have found a way to purchase one. Clerk-Treasurer Walters explained they would lease/purchase it over a five-year period with the first payment due in 2013 and would split that between local road and street and the MVH fund. She further stated they paid the last lease payment on the total patcher this year and paid the last payment for the truck they purchased last year. President Kuiper asked if the sweeper would fall under the recycling fund also. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated she would look into that. Councilman Earley asked if the street sweeper was also a part of the MS4 program. Mr. Shook stated it was also a part of the combined sewer overflow plan, which is the sanitary side. Councilman Corns made a motion to seek bids for a street sweeper, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

*Enter into annual agreement for weed control at WWTP – Keithley Farms. President Kuiper read the agreement for the year 2012. Councilman Corns asked how many acres were involved. Mr. Shook stated about six or seven acres. Councilman Corns made a motion to enter into the annual agreement with Keithley Farms, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Kuiper announced that Friday, June 15th there will be a ribbon cutting at Freedom Park for the new recycling drop off center at 3:30 PM.

President Kuiper announced there will be a work session Monday, June 25th at 6:00 P.M. – Water Supply Evaluation and Recommendation and the next regular meeting will be Monday, June 25th at 7:00 P.M.

MEDIA QUESTIONS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brenda Roberts, 15008 Morse St. announced a Flag Day ceremony on Thursday, June 14th in Cedar Lake at 5:30 P.M.

Scott Pickering, 1608 Dewey wanted to know when the State was going to put in the lines on Rt. 2 for turns and he also noted the back wall of the bathroom in Evergreen Park has graffiti. Mr. Shook stated there also has been some vandalism to that bathroom and the graffiti is chalk. Mr. Shook stated the State was supposed to be stripping Rt. 2 Thursday and Friday of last week but did not get it done. He stated he would call and see what he can find out.

Councilman Corns asked about the status of the house on Main St. because it looks like someone is living there. Building Official Tom Trulley stated he turned that over to the Code Official and the Code Official could not contact the owner when he stopped at the house. He further stated that was not a house but a garage. Councilman Corns stated this building originally started out as a plumbing shop.

There being no further business or discussion, Councilman Parker motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Earley at 7:27 P.M.

Phillip Kuiper, President

Attest:

Judith Walter, Clerk-Treasurer

