

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. by President Edgar Corns. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. 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 David Westland, Town Administrator Susan Peterson, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Police Chief Erik Matson, Building Official Tom Trulley, two members of the media, and six citizens.

**OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT**

Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilman Philpot and carried with five ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the November 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with five ayes.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Corns stated he reviewed White Vouchers #2227 - #2262, White-Police #4249 - #4263, Water #2762 - #2786, Waste Water #3625 - #3644, Stormwater Utility #5061 - #5064, and recommended all of the vouchers for payment. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Kuiper and carried with five ayes.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARING -**

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Ordinance #2013-18 - Additional Appropriation - General Obligation Bonds - \$800,000 - President Corns read Ordinance #2013-18, an Ordinance appropriating the proceeds of the 2012 Obligation Bonds. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to hold Ordinance #2013-18 over for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by roll call vote with five ayes. President Corns opened the public hearing. With no questions or comments from the public, President Corns closed the public hearing. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with five ayes. Councilman Earley made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013-18 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Philpot. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters stated we did have the bond sale on Thursday and City Security came in as the lowest bidder with 2.69%. The original bond

from 2009 was at 3.95% so to be refinancing at this point was a good move. The motion to adopt Ordinance #2013-18 by name and title only carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Ordinance #2013-19 - amend Chapter 27, stop intersection - Lucas Parkway/Deanna- Councilman Kuiper asked if it was that important to have both the first and second reading tonight on Ordinance #2013-19. Police Chief Erik Matson stated it may be a good idea to have the stop sign in place before the weather gets any worse. President Corns read Ordinance #2013-19 by name and title only. Councilman Parker made a motion to hold Ordinance #2013-19 over for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with five ayes. Councilman Parker made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013-19 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Philpot and  
LTC REGULAR MEETING - 11/25/13 - Page 2 of 3

carried by roll call vote with five ayes. Councilman Earley made a motion to set the rules back in to place, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Works Department Update - No report given.

WWTP Improvement Project - This item was not discussed.

Discussion of PSAP Agreements - Councilman Earley stated there have been several meetings regarding the PSAP agreements, and some of us have met with St. John. A few weeks ago when they were still amending the Lake County 911 Commission's proposal, we were advised not to meet with the County until we had a revised inner-local agreement. He stated that we do have that revised agreement now and he feels it is important to sit down and discuss it with them. This agreement is much better than what it was before, but it still leaves out a vital issue which is the backup site to the PSAP that they are planning on creating. Councilman Philpot stated it is his understanding that there will only be one PSAP, but when this was originally done, there were supposed to be two. He stated he agreed with Councilman Earley in that if the PSAP goes down, we are basically dead in the water without a backup site. The St. John proposal is proposing two PSAP's, but there seem to be a few big cities that are still sitting on the fence. He stated he is reluctant on going one way or the other because it could be vitally important to the cost depending on which way we go. Councilman Kuiper stated the original agreement was for a PSAP and a dark site, not specifically two separate PSAP's. There has never been a clear opinion if that second PSAP is a dark site, but until they say it is not, we are assuming that it is. He stated he has the same feeling and would be very cautious in going with just one PSAP. Councilman Kuiper stated he was not too shook up about cities like Hammond being on the fence because they are in the best position of anybody. They will not have to give up their PSAP if they choose not to. He stated he agreed that the Council needs to sit down with the County and ask some of their own questions. President Corns asked if someone would

like to set up a meeting to discuss the proposal with the County. Councilman Earley stated the Council needs to as soon as possible. He stated the two biggest issues he had was the fact that he would like to keep our Public Safety money, which they gave us in the new agreement, but they took out the dark site, which would have been a backup. He stated he would also like to ask the County what type of representation we will be afforded within their agreement. Attorney David Westland stated the Commission's representatives have been trying to line up different work sessions with other cities and towns. He stated he could find out the best way to set up a meeting between the Council and the County Commission. Discussion followed regarding setting a meeting with the Commission and it was decided that Attorney Westland would try to set up a work session some time next week.

NIRPC appointment - President Corns stated he needed a motion to be removed from the NIRPC board due to prior engagements on the date of the vote. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to appoint Councilman Earley to the NIRPC board, seconded by Councilman Philpot and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Tabled from previous meetings:

9/9 South County Community Services - President Corns stated that he had discussed this matter with Clerk-Treasurer Walters. Mrs. Walters stated there was an attachment in an e-mail she had received that broke down the estimated ridership cost for the Town of Lowell, which came out to \$1392.60. She stated she could transfer \$2500 in to Community Relations if the Council would choose to donate that amount. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to donate \$2500 to the South County Community Services, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

LTC REGULAR MEETING - 11/25/13 - Page 3 of 3

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Request to amend Salary Ordinance - Police Commission - President Corns read the request to amend the Salary Ordinance for the Lowell Police Department. Discussion followed regarding the wording of the request and possibly adding in that the degrees need to come from an accredited institution and limiting those who have multiple degrees. Attorney Westland stated technically the way this request reads right now is if you have an officer with a bachelors and two masters degrees, his certification pay under this would be \$2400, payment for each degree. If this is what you want to do to encourage more degrees, that is fine, but if you want to cap it at the highest degree and only give them one certification bonus, that needs to be delineated more clearly. Councilman Philpot asked if this bonus would be given each year. Attorney Westland stated that is the way he reads it. Police Chief Matson stated we have received a similar bonus every year, but it has not been part of our Salary Ordinance. The way it has been done in the past is that you get one certification pay for your highest degree. He stated he believed that was the intent of the Police Commission. Discussion followed on how the officers have received certification pays in the past compared to the new requested Ordinance they would like to draft. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated it is not in the 2013 Salary Ordinance, but we can make

a motion to approve the payment in 2013, and then we will include it in the 2014 Salary Ordinance. Councilman Parker asked if an amended Ordinance could be made by the next meeting to include the payment for 2013. Attorney Westland stated he would be able to draft that. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated payment is normally made in December.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Corns announced that the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade of Lights is on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. followed by the tree lighting and Santa at the Town Hall. He also stated that the Christmas tree has been put up. Director Shook added that the tree is standing and they will begin decorating it tomorrow.

President Corns also announced that the next regular meeting will be held December 9, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

### **MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Melanie Csepiga, The Times, asked if Sue Peterson's position was going to be filled after she retires at the end of the year. President Corns stated that Director Shook will take over that duty and some of the other employees at the Town Hall will also be picking up additional duties.

Ms. Csepiga asked if Mr. Shook was going to be taking over the recycling and garbage. Councilman Kuiper stated right now all of Mrs. Peterson's duties will be covered in house by Mr. Shook and a few other employees until the Council makes a decision.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Parker made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 P.M., seconded by Councilman Philpot and carried with five ayes.

---

Edgar Corns, President

Attest:

---

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

