

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, October 27, 2014 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, and Edgar Corns. Phillip Kuiper was not in attendance. Also present were Town Attorney David Westland, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Building Administrator Tom Trulley, Police Chief Erik Matson, SEH Representative Craig Hendrix, two members of the media, and seventeen citizens.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the October 13, 2014 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried with four ayes.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Corns stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #2028 - #2067, White-Police #4210 - #4219, Water #2740 - #2765, Waste Water #3574 - #3599, and Stormwater Utility #5107 - #5109, and recommended all of the vouchers for payment. Councilman Philpot made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with four ayes.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS-**

Ordinance #2014-17 - Annexing Certain Real Estate to the Town - WWTP Property - 68.34 acres - Ordinance #2014-18 - Annexing Certain Real Estate to the Town - Water Property - 218.50 acres - Attorney David Westland stated the first reading is already complete for these ordinances, and that the second reading will take place at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. President Corns opened the public hearing. Doug Zubrenic, 17339 Oak Valley Drive, asked why the property being annexed is so large. President Corns explained that the Town owns all of that property, and we are annexing these plants because currently if we do any major improvement projects, we are having to pay the County for permits. With no further questions or comments, President Corns closed the public hearing.

2<sup>nd</sup> reading - Ordinance #2014-20 - additional appropriation - PO Grant Hours -\$4793.81 - Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance #2014-20, seconded by Councilman Philpot and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - Ordinance #2014-21 - additional appropriation - PO Grant Hours - \$4745.63 - Councilman Philpot made a motion to hold Ordinance #2014-21 over for the second reading,

seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with four ayes. Councilman Earley made a motion to set the rules aside, seconded by Councilman Philpot and carried by roll call vote with four ayes. Councilman Philpot made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance #2014-21, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

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

Resolution #2014-14 - support of recalibration of the state's school funding formula - Dr. Debra Howe, Tri-Creek School Superintendent, introduced the School Board President Doug Ward, Vice-President Michelle Dumsky, Business Manager Dana Bogathy, and the Director of Technology Jay Blackman. She explained that school districts have four important responsibilities: "to ensure all students have the

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opportunity and resources to be college and career ready, to ensure the teachers have the training and support to ensure that our students are proficient and achieving at a high level, to ensure that our organization is fiscally sound, and that our teachers and staff are adequately compensated and when possible very competitive in their salaries." She stated in 2009, the State of Indiana changed the funding formula which resulted in a decrease of monies to our particular school corporation. Dr. Howe stated the school board passed a resolution on October 9<sup>th</sup> requesting that the State recalibrate the funding formula. Dr. Howe presented a video, "Rise Above the Mark", which speaks specifically as to what is happening in the State of Indiana regarding funding. The video gave an example that in 1998, with an average of twenty to twenty-two students per classroom, schools received right around \$100,000 per classroom. This money went towards the teacher's salary, education aids, physical education, music, art, cafeteria, etc. In 2002-2003 the average was \$107,895 per classroom, which was barely staying ahead of inflation. Currently the funding is down to about \$82,543 per classroom. The video went on to explain the cuts that have occurred in the State and the adjustments that are having to be made in the schools and to their programs. Dr. Howe explained that Tri-Creek is below the state average in terms of funding, and that if they were at the state average, they would have an additional \$2 million to support their schools. She stated she is asking the Council to pass the resolution in support of the schools. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve Resolution #2014-14, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters asked where she should forward the approved resolution to. Dr. Howe stated she could forward it to her.

Resolution #2014-15 - temporary loan - from the Sewer Improvement Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$350,000 - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve Resolution #2014-15, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Works Department Update - Public Works Director Greg Shook stated the milling at the Fire Station has been completed along with the concrete aprons out front. Big Jim's concrete will be there Wednesday to take out the rear aprons so by the time we wait for the concrete test, it will be the first of next week. He stated he anticipates the Fire Station being done by the end of next week. Regarding the paving of the roads, he had been informed that everything should be done by the end of tomorrow. Director Shook stated that Powell Ditch materials should be in next week so construction can begin on it. He also stated that he has received one appraisal from the properties they are looking at on the west side of town, and once he receives the second, he will forward them on to Attorney Westland and the Council members.

SEH Representative, Craig Hendrix, stated there was money left over in the budget for paving, so we have added 177<sup>th</sup> to the list of streets to be paved. This project was always next on the list so since we came in under budget, we were able to add it. Councilman Parker asked if they had seen any roads that previously had no base. Mr. Hendrix stated they all had stone, but Hickory had an inch of asphalt on it. He explained the process that was used on certain streets that only had asphalt laid. Mr. Hendrix stated everything is going very well, and that striping should begin next week.

Mr. Hendrix stated that they are nearing the point in the water study where some dialogue needs to begin, and are hoping to get together for a work session to discuss the project. Councilman Parker stated he would like to see a work session, President Corns agreed. After some discussion, the Council decided to schedule a work session at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, before the regular meeting.

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Request from Traffic Commission - Police Chief Erik Matson stated based on a recommendation from the Bike Safety Commission, we are asking the yield sign at Dewey and Mockingbird be changed to a stop sign. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the request and stated that this suggestion came from the study that was done by the Active Transportation Alliance Group. Councilman Parker seconded the motion. Councilman Parker asked Attorney Westland if this was the right way to go about moving forward with the recommendation. Attorney Westland stated he assumed the Council wanted to proceed with drafting an ordinance. Discussion followed. The motion carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

Approve Pay Request to Commonwealth Engineers for preliminary engineering \$18,070.40 - and forward to INDOT for payment - SR 2 Curb & Sidewalk Project - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the pay request, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Corns announced that the next regular meeting will be held Monday, November 10, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

**MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robyn Johnston, Lowell Tribune, asked if the stop sign would be just on Dewey Drive. Police Chief Matson stated the recommendation is for both of the yield signs to be changed to a stop sign.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Parker made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 P.M., seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with four ayes.

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Edgar Corns, President

Attest:

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Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

