

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 26, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, May 26, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. by President Christopher Salatas. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all of the fallen soldiers. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Craig Earley, LeAnn Angerman, Donald Parker, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Town Attorney David Westland, Police Chief Erik Matson, Public Works Director Greg Shook, SEH Representative Craig Hendrix, two members of the media, and ten citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the May 11, 2015 regular meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Salatas asked for approval of White Vouchers #1482 - #1521 - \$261,348.93, White-Police #4105 - #4116 - \$3,331.27, Water #2321 - #2350 - \$63,430.55, Waste Water #3273 - #3291 - \$56,214.53, and Stormwater Utility #5065 - #5072 - \$29,682.97. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS

Letter of resignation - Marcia Carlson - Shared Ethics Commission - President Salatas stated there has been one application submitted for the Shared Ethics Commission, but believes that the position needs to be advertised. Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to advertise the open position for thirty days, seconded by Councilman Parker. Councilman Corns stated he believed that Bob Philpot should be appointed to that position since he started that Commission, and has applied for the open position. After some discussion, the Council agreed that the position should be advertised. The motion carried by roll call vote four to one with Councilman Corns voting nay. Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to accept the resignation of Marcia Carlson from the Shared Ethics Commission, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried with five ayes. Councilman Parker stated the Council does appreciate the efforts that Ms. Carlson put forth in attending the meetings and keeping the Council informed. The Council members agreed.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

2nd reading - Ordinance #2015-02 - annexing real estate a part of Town of Lowell - C&D Landfill - Councilman Parker made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2015-02, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote four to one with Councilman Earley voting nay.

1st & 2nd reading - Ordinance #2015-09 - additional appropriation - Police Grant Hours - \$2638.08 - Clerk-Treasurer Walters explained this is to appropriate money to pay off duty officers who work the DUI Grant. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve Ordinance #2015-09 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes. Councilman Corns made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with five ayes. Councilman Earley made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2015-09, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes. Councilman Corns made a motion to set the rules back in to place, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with five ayes.

Resolution #2015-05 - transfer of funds - Freedom Park budget - Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters stated an additional appropriation hearing was held about a month ago for the Freedom Park Budget, and at the time we believed they needed to have a \$5,000 line item in their repairs and maintenance for their bush hog, but we have since repaired it in-house. Since that money was not used, the Committee would like to have \$4,000 of that transferred in to the Park Improvement Fund. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-05, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

Resolution #2015-06 - Official Intent to proceed with Bonds for Water Improvement Project - Attorney Westland stated this resolution sets forth your desire to proceed with the not to exceed \$4.5 million gross bond. It also formally hires Financial Solutions Group as your Financial Advisor, and Shanahan and Shanahan as your Bond Counsel. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-06, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote four to one with Councilman Earley voting nay.

Resolution #2015-08 - Temporary Loan - from Sewer Improvement to General Fund - \$200,000 - Clerk-Treasurer Walters explained that the Town will not receive a tax draw until June 30th, so this temporary loan will help cover payroll and operating expenses until the tax draw comes in. At that time, the \$200,000 will be paid back. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-08, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Department Update - No report given.

Water Improvement Project - Act on agreement for engineering services with SEH - \$307,420 - Public Works Director Greg Shook stated the \$4.5 million bond issue is for the water project that we have been talking about for some time, and SEH has made a proposal for a scope of work that includes the well, elevated tank, and various improvements at the plant. The agreement is a total of \$307,420, which would be a part of the \$4.5 million. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote four to one with Councilman Earley voting nay.

Powell Ditch - SEH Representative Craig Hendrix stated there is a retainage left, but Director Shook has not been able to meet with the contractor yet. Mr. Hendrix asked for this item to be tabled until the next meeting.

Act on proposals for 2013-2015 CDBG Funds for sidewalks/ramps - \$49,060 - Director Shook stated this does include all of the applicants that qualified for replacements, and it also includes some handicap ramps. There were three bids submitted; Hooks Concrete - \$28,666.25, C&S Concrete - \$25,379.00, and Konradi Concrete - \$23,469.00. Director Shook recommended that the project be awarded to Konradi Concrete. Councilman Parker made a motion to award the project to Konradi Concrete at the price of \$23,469.00, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with five ayes. Director Shook stated we have a total of \$49,060, so the plan is to take the remaining money and install more handicap ramps where we feel have the most pedestrian traffic. This also enters in to our ADA Transition Plan that was put in place a while back. Director Shook asked for the Council's approval to move forward with that plan pending the County's approval of it. Councilman Corns asked if the handicap ramp at 177th and Marion would be fixed. MS4 Coordinator Greg White stated NIPSCO had torn up that area, and we are waiting to hear when they are going to fix it. Director Shook stated he would get a hold of NIPSCO again. Councilman Corns made a motion to allow Director Shook to use the remaining funds as proposed, pending the County's approval, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Act on Resolution #2015-07 and Cooperation Agreement to enter into agreement with Lake County to participate in Community Development Block Grants for 2016-2018 - Director Shook stated this is the same program we just spoke of, but the County has to do their own submission to HUD in order to continue the program. This is basically our support to the County for the program. Attorney Westland stated he did not get the chance to look over the resolution, but that it looks the same as the last time. To have the opportunity to receive these funds, you have to enter in to the agreement. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-07 and the Cooperative Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Act on recommendation from Sick Bank Committee - Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated there is an employee that needs an additional twenty days from the Sick Bank that requires Council approval. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve up to twenty more days for the specific employee, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

Act on favorable recommendation from Plan Commission - Zone change from R-1 to L-1 - Harding, 112 W. Oakley Avenue - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the recommended zone change of 112 W. Oakley Avenue, seconded by Councilman Earley. Attorney Westland stated normally the Findings of Fact would be attached to the minutes, but based on the minutes and the fact that Councilman Parker and Councilman Earley were present at that meeting, you can see that there were no remonstrances. The motion carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Salatas announced that the next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilman Parker stated he currently sits on the Solid Waste Board, but has not been able to make many meetings. He stated this is an important board and with the annexation of the landfill we may have two seats on that board. Councilman Parker stated he would like to step down and allow the Council to appoint someone else that will be able to attend the meetings, which are held the third Thursday of the month. After some discussion President Salatas stated the issue would be brought up again for a decision at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Parker made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 P.M., seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with five ayes.

Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

