

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, December 14, 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 the victims of the terrorists attacks. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Craig Earley, LeAnn Angerman, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Donald Parker was not in attendance. Also present were Town Attorney David Westland, Police Chief Erik Matson, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Building Administrator Tom Trulley, one member of the media, and seventeen citizens.

TREASURER'S REPORT - November 2015

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the November 2015 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with four ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the November 20, 2015 executive session and special meeting minutes, and the November 23, 2015 work session and regular meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with four ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Salatas stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #2217 - #2306, White-Police #4272 - #4291, Water #2821 - #2883, Waste Water #3650 - #3694, and Stormwater Utility #5152 - #5163. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with four ayes.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS

President Salatas stated that Mr. Guerrettaz had informed him that the Water Bonds had sold at a lower interest rate than expected, which will save us \$750,000 over the life of the bond and \$50,000 per year for the first five years of the bond, which could be used for capital improvements. We have also been able to maintain our A+ credit rating.

Proclamation - Indiana Statehood Day and the Official Kickoff of the Bicentennial - President Salatas read the proclamation and presented the flag that will be flown to celebrate the bicentennial. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with four ayes.

MONTHLY REPORTS - November 2015

Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the October 2015 Monthly Reports, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with four ayes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES - Annexation

Councilman Earley stated in mid-October, the Council passed ordinances annexing the Russell Farm, but we have been informed that there are some issues with that annexation. Apparently some land that made the C&D Landfill contiguous has been found to not be owned by the C&D Landfill, which in turn puts us

out of the 1/8 contiguous rule to continue annexing. He asked where the Russell Farm annexation stood. Attorney Westland stated there is not a definitive answer to this question, but right now we are working through that issue the best we can. If the contiguity is not there, then there would have to be a re-annexation of the Russell Farm. Discussion followed regarding the documents that were received from the title company showing a piece of property that would make them ineligible for a contiguous annexation. Councilman Earley asked if the title work should have been secured before the annexation was brought up. Attorney Westland stated the property was shown on the map in one name, but when Mr. Trulley went to the County it was shown in a different name. This caused us to get the title work, which actually shows it in a third name. Councilman Corns asked where they were on the thirty acres that was supposed to be included in the C&D Landfill annexation. Attorney Westland stated C&D Landfill is agreeable, so it is just a matter generating a fiscal study and moving forward with the friendly annexation.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2015-18 - Temporary Loan from CCD to Park Fund in the amount of \$50,000 - Councilman Corns made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-18 by name and title only, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

Resolution #2015-19 - Transfer of Funds within the General Fund - Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-19 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

1st reading - Ordinance #2015-38 - Establish responsible bidding - Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2015-38 by name and title only, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman. Councilman Earley asked why this issue was coming up now and why the water tower project now needs to be bid out again. President Salatas asked Mr. Wager to speak on the issue. Josh Wager, Policy Director for the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting, stated the foundation is a non-profit joint labor and management organization funded by participating contractors and were established to support, promote, and encourage fair and quality contracting. The ordinance you are considering is a protection plan for your tax payers and you as a public body. It establishes a set of standards that construction contractors must meet in order to be able to bid on a public works project in your town. The purpose is to help insure that your community contracts with responsible contractors that provide the highest quality work efficiently, safely, on time and on budget. He went on to list who the ordinance has been endorsed by and explained that it increases the likelihood of local craftsmen working on these projects rather than companies from out of state. Mr. Wager applauded the Council for considering a responsible bidding policy because it is a protection plan for the taxpayers and it establishes expectations that you have for vendors that want to do work for the town. Councilman Earley thanked Mr. Wager for the excellent explanation. The motion carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

1st reading - Ordinance #2015-39 - Additional Appropriation - Police Grant Hours - Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2015-39 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

1st reading - Ordinance #2015-40 - Establish Excess Levy Fund - Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2015-40 by name and title only, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

1st reading - Ordinance #2015-41 - 2016 Salary Ordinance - Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2015-41 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Corns. Councilman Earley stated we are passing these ordinances and no one in the audience knows what we are passing. He asked what they were supposed to offer the public. Attorney Westland stated you can read

it by title and during discussion you can elaborate on an ordinance if you would like. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated the 2016 salary ordinance is the maximum that can be paid and it includes a 3% raise. No increase will be paid until we receive a certified budget from the State. There is also a new line item in e which is the first class patrolman's pension cost increase, which will be completed by the second reading of the ordinance. The motion carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Department Update - There were no updates given.

SR2/Curb Project - Approve Pay Request to Commonwealth Engineers for right-of-way engineering - \$19,550 and forward to INDOT for 80% reimbursement - Public Works Director Greg Shook stated we have finished up the right-of-way survey work and the appraiser will be starting soon. He stated he had also asked First Group Engineering to appear before the Council to update them and to give them some of the do's and don'ts when it comes time for the actual purchasing of the right-of-way. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the pay request to Commonwealth for \$19,550, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Jack Allendorf, 911 Deputy Director, gave a brief overview of how the 911 consolidation was formed. Mr. Allendorf mentioned that as of January 1st, all dispatchers became County employees. There were six supervisors hired, all of which were trained various ways, along with ninety-five full-time dispatchers. He stated that every experienced dispatcher that applied was hired. Mr. Allendorf also touched on some of the difficulties they had when moving all of the departments to the center due to budget constraints. The last department was finally moved in on October 22nd and we currently dispatch for fifteen different police departments and every fire and ambulance service in Lake County. In the seven weeks since the final consolidation, we have handled 38,137 emergency calls; approximately 56,000 routine calls; and 654,456 radio transmissions through the radio system with no delays. We have had some growing pains and are expecting it to take nine months to a year to have things running the way we want them. Councilman Corns stated he knew of three deaths that have been mishandled, and asked how they would be assured that this would not continue. Mr. Allendorf stated we are coming up with new ways to increase training. Being in the fifteen centers, we were not able to implement training in to the new systems because all of the individual centers did not want to change policies or procedures until they were in the new center. All of the difficulties we have had have come from human error and we have dealt with the discipline in those issues. Councilwoman Angerman asked if she was correct in stating that some of the issues that we have been experiencing are not new issues nor are they directly related to the consolidation. Mr. Allendorf stated absolutely. Some of the issues you have been hearing about related to the delay in calls getting out are no different than what they were before the consolidation. He explained some of the other difficulties they have had just in the ways some of the dispatchers used to do things and are now having to be retrained so that everyone is doing the task the same way. Councilwoman Angerman thanked Mr. Allendorf for his due diligence and reiterated that all police phone calls are to go through 911. Police Chief Erik Matson stated the Police Department's hours for business are now Monday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Wednesday 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM, and Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Councilman Earley also thanked Mr. Allendorf for sticking with the process and that it will get a lot better with his help.

Approve quarterly fees for Park Department - Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the quarterly Park Department fees, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated the fees are based on the hot dog vendor providing for the soccer picnic, so if that is going to change, then the fees need to be re-figured because she bases her fees on that. Councilman Corns rescinded his motion, and Councilwoman Angerman rescinded her second. President Salatas stated the item would be tabled.

Discuss amount of lime in water lines - Adam Gutjahr - Mr. Gutjahr, who lives in the Meadowbrook subdivision, handed out various parts of pipe that would lead to his faucet. He stated that you could clearly see deposits of lime which has created sediments in the water heater, causing him to replace his water heater after only ten to twelve years. Mr. Gutjahr explained that he currently drains out two buckets of water per month to get rid of sediment at the bottom of the tank, which has been helpful.

After speaking with various plumbers and other homeowners, he has been having to change the lines to his sink faucet every two years. Councilwoman Angerman stated on the form that was filled out, you indicated you spoke with Mr. Shook who said he would check in to the amount of sodium chloride that is being added at the plant. She asked Mr. Shook if he had looked in to that. Director Shook stated everything is normal. Every type of treatment we use is going to lead to some calcium carbonate. What you see is not just the lime, but it is the lime after it is reactive with the minerals in the ground water. He stated he had been asked multiple times why the lake water up north does not have this problem. Those areas are still treating their water with lime, but they are treating surface water, not ground water, which has more minerals. Our lime is used to treat the minerals which is a chemical reaction, and one of those byproducts is calcium carbonate. Once the aerator is replaced, we should be getting better water clarity. If not, we may be able to use polymers, which we have done in the past, but it upset the system possibly due to a high sulfur content. We are still looking in to different things to do, but you will have at least some calcium carbonate that comes through. He stated he always tells people to drain the bottom of their hot water heater at least once a year. Councilman Corns mentioned that Lowell will never get Lake Michigan water because of Federal Regulations, and the fact that we are not in the water shed, we are in the Kankakee River water shed. Councilman Corns asked if water is ever sampled periodically at the different stations. Director Shook stated not for calcium carbonate. Councilman Corns stated the owner of the chair cover business was complaining about chlorine. Director Shook stated the chlorine level is checked at different places in town. Councilman Corns stated we should check at his business. Director Shook stated people have different tolerances for chlorine. The chlorine levels in the water are kept at IDEM and EPA standards, so we could not lower it. Discussion followed. Director Shook stated he would look in to the businesses downtown.

Act on employment contract with Gregory Shook through December 31, 2016 - Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the employment contract with Gregory Shook through December 31, 2016, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with four ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Salatas presented Building Administrator Tom Trulley with a retirement gift and thanked him for his service and dedication to the Town. He also announced that a cookie and coffee open house would be held at the Town Hall on Friday from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. for Mr. Trulley's retirement. Mr. Trulley stated it had been a pleasure working for the Town.

President Salatas announced that the next regular meeting would be Monday, December 28, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Corns made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with four ayes.

Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

