

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. by President Christopher Salatas. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Michael Gruszka, LeAnn Angerman, Will Farrellbegg, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Town Attorney David Westland, Police Chief Erik Matson, Town Manager Jeff Sheridan, Public Works Director Greg Shook, two representatives from Shrewsbury & Associates, two member of the media, and twenty-two citizens.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - March 2016

Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the March 2016 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the March 28, 2016 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg and carried with five ayes.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Salatas stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #1345 - #1406, White-Police #4063 - #4075, Water #2210 - #2262, Waste Water #3191 - #3231, and Stormwater Utility #5035 - #5043. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg and carried with five ayes.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS**

Introduction of D. Jeffrey Sheridan - Town Manager - President Salatas introduced Mr. Sheridan and read his credentials. Mr. Sheridan thanked President Salatas and stated that he looked forward to working with the town. President Salatas stated he was very happy to have him as well.

**MONTHLY REPORTS** - March 2016

Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the March 2016 Monthly Reports, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

2<sup>nd</sup> reading - Ordinance #2016-04 - amend Chapter 27 - stop intersection Michael Drive/173rd Lane - Councilman Corns made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2016-04 by name and title only, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

1<sup>st</sup> reading - Ordinance #2016-08 - Additional Appropriation - Police Grant Hours - \$4,126.93 - Councilman Gruszka made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2016-08, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Resolution #2016-05 - to accept easements for town properties - SR2 Sidewalk Project - Public Works Director Greg Shook stated the Town owns some property where the sidewalks will be replaced, the Fire Station, Police Station, and Evergreen Park, and this is the paperwork for the town's portion of the sidewalk and curb replacement. He stated he was not sure if Attorney Westland had time to do the Resolution because he had not seen anything yet. Attorney Westland stated there is a resolution that was prepared, but apparently was not forwarded. Director Shook stated they were still waiting on other parcels so this could be tabled until

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the next meeting. Councilman Corns made a motion to table Resolution #2016-05 until the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes.

Resolution #2016-06 - adopting Uniform Internal Control Standards - President Salatas stated that Town Manager Sheridan has asked that Resolution #2016-06 be tabled until the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in order for him and the Clerk-Treasurer to further review it. Councilman Gruszka made a motion to table Resolution #2016-06 until the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

Resolution #2016-07 - transfer of funds - Planning & Building - from Administration to Professional Services in the amount of \$20,000 - Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve Resolution #2016-07, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Works Department Update - This item was not discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Act on 2016 Vendor for Park - President Salatas stated there were two applicants, Tuxedo Dogs and Happy Dogs. He asked Clerk-Treasurer Walters if these were both for Evergreen Park. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated it was advertised for Park properties, but last year we did have one at Freedom Park, because we had two vendors. Tuxedo Dogs is who was at Freedom Park last year. President Salatas asked if there was any favor from the Council to put Tuxedo Dogs at Evergreen and Happy Dogs at Freedom Park. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated the vendor that was at Evergreen Park last year did not want to go to any of the other parks, which is why we gave that to Tuxedo Dogs, and stated she was not sure if the gentleman at Tuxedo Dogs would want to be at Evergreen Park during the week and then at Freedom Park when soccer is going on. Town Manager Sheridan asked if it would help if he met with both vendors before the next meeting to see what their preferences are. The Council agreed that was a good idea. Councilman Gruszka made a motion to table a decision on the 2016 Vendor for the Park until the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg and carried with five ayes.

Act on Professional Services Agreement with Shrewsberry & Associates for WWTP - Andrew Cochrine, Shrewsberry & Associates, stated they are requesting general services agreements for three different task orders to be signed. Task Order One is for a general services on-call assistance, Task Order Two is for long-term control plan assistance, and Task Order Three is for an alternative analysis for the design of fosters at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the professional services agreement with Shrewsberry & Associates, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Request for Capital Funds for Police Department renovation - President Salatas read an e-mail from Police Chief Matson requesting funds to remodel the existing squad room at the Police Department. Police Chief Matson included in the e-mail the best quote he had received which was from JR Custom Cabinets at \$11,260. Councilman Gruszka made a motion to approve the expenditure, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman. Councilman Corns asked what fund it would come out of. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated it would come out of the CCD fund. Councilman Farrellbegg stated he had went to the Police Department and felt that the renovation was needed. The motion carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Salatas announced that the next regular meeting would be Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. that would include a Public Hearing on Ordinance #2016-09 Regarding Parental Responsibility for School Attendance of Minor Children.

**MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Melanie Csepiga, The Times, asked how much the transfer of funds was for Resolution #2016-07. President Salatas stated it is for \$20,000 from Administration to Professional Services. Ms. Csepiga asked if Shrewsbury & Associates are from Indianapolis. President Salatas stated yes, but they have an office in Gary as well. Ms. Csepiga asked what they would be tasked with specifically. President Salatas stated it is for the long-term control plan of our sewer system and the phosphoreus control that IDEM has now made mandatory.

Kevin Sawaska, GMI, asked if the Council had the chance to discuss any plans on putting the garbage contract out for bid. President Salatas stated he would like to point out that this is just for public comment, and for the Council to hear him. Mr. Sawaska asked if there were any questions on the print out he had handed out. Councilman Farrellbegg stated himself and Councilman Gruszka were not involved when this decision was made and that he would like to make a motion to put the garbage contract out for bid with the understanding that we have a sixty day, \$10 “get out” statement, and that the contract should be with a unionized company. Councilman Gruszka seconded the motion. Attorney Westland stated we would need to put together bid specs, which may take some time, and notices should not be sent out until those specs are created. One of those specifications would be that it has to be a union company. Councilman Farrellbegg stated that was correct. Councilwoman Angerman stated with a new Town Manager, she would like him to look in to it and hear what his recommendation would be. President Salatas agreed. The motion failed three to two with Councilman Gruszka voting aye, Councilwoman Angerman voting nay, Councilman Farrellbegg voting aye, President Salatas voting nay, and Councilman Corns voting nay.

Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to direct Town Manager Sheridan to look at and evaluate all of the documents received so far for the garbage contract, and report back to the Council. She asked if two weeks would be long enough. Town Manager Sheridan stated thirty days would be better in order to get with the attorney and figure out what steps we need to go through. He stated he would report back at the next Council meeting, but may not have the process complete. Attorney Westland stated as part of this survey, an analysis of the current extension should be included as well as a survey of neighboring municipalities/Lake County rates. Councilman Corns seconded the motion. Councilman Gruszka stated that contract is renewed July 1<sup>st</sup>, so time is of the essence. Town Manager Sheridan stated he will meet with the attorney and start evaluating the information. It will be challenging to both evaluate and draft bid specs and have them ready to go out and receive prior to June. The motion carried by roll call vote with Councilman Gruszka voting nay, Councilwoman Angerman voting aye, Councilman Farrellbegg voting nay, President Salatas voting aye, and Councilman Corns voting aye.

Mike Troxell, Schererville, IN, stated he was there because during the last meeting he was told that former Councilman, Don Parker had mentioned his name regarding some activities and the bidding of garbage for the Town of Schererville. One comment that he heard was that one of the bids was thrown out, but none of the bids were thrown out. All three that were submitted were accepted. Also, there have been some communities that have put bid specs together recently, so it should be easy to get those specs that are made up already.

Kristen Schmidt, Union Street, Lowell, IN, stated she was good with the Council looking in to bidding out the garbage service and that she also had a petition from citizens who agree with bidding the service out. She said it seems responsible for the Council to bid the service out, as well as better for the citizens. President Salatas clarified that they were not going out to bid, just investigating it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

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Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

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Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

