

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, January 25, 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 Mike Gruszka, LeAnn Angerman, Will Farrellbegg, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Town Attorney David Westland, Police Chief Erik Matson, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Building Administrator Carl Ferro, one member of the media, and fifteen citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the January 11, 2016 regular meeting minutes, and the January 12, 2016 and January 15, 2016 executive session minutes, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Salatas stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #1062 - #1114, White-Police #4009 - #4021, Water #2044 - #2074, Waste Water #3040 - #3066, and Stormwater Utility #5006 - #5011. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS

Perfect Attendance - Town Employees - Vice President Angerman listed the town employees that received perfect attendance for the year 2015 and after each name included how many times they had received perfect attendance since 2007. The names were as follows: Erik Matson-3 times, Todd Angerman, Cory Burkus-5 times, Nicholas Kaczmarczyk-2 times, David Lee-4 times, Neil Olson, Matthew Philbin, Christopher Thompson-2 times, James Woestman-7 times, Marlene Sutphen-8 times, Deborah Earley-8 times, Cassie Smith, Gena Knapp, Dianna Cade-2 times, Daniel Myers-4 times, Shawn O'Connell-2 times, Scott Krass-5 times, Kevin Gray, Eric Barnhill-2 times, Frank Lovely-7 times, John Roby Goad-4 times, Lyle Willett, and Tom Sullivan-8 times. She stated the Council would like to extend their appreciation to the employees for their dedication to the Town.

Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated normally every year those that are enrolled in the sick bank donate one of their days to the bank, but due to the high number of days that are in there, she asked for a motion from the Council to waive the donation of one day and have the employees keep their day. Councilman Corns made a motion to waive the donation of one day per employee to the sick bank, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg and carried with five ayes.

DEPARTMENTS - 2016 Goals, 2015 Accomplishments - Councilman Gruszka made a motion to approve the department's 2016 goals and 2015 accomplishments, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

2nd reading - Ordinance #2016-01 - Discharge Firearms, Air Guns, Etc. - Councilman Gruszka made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2016-01 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg. Attorney Westland stated the areas that were amended included the discharge of fireworks, which the Town currently has an ordinance in place, 93.101, that allows the discharge of fireworks on certain days

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of the year, and then in regards to Section 2, it was limited to Town Hall to bring that section in to compliance with I.C.35-47-11.1. The motion carried three to two by roll call vote with Councilwoman Angerman and Councilman Salatas voting nay.

Resolution #2016-01 - annual transfer from Sewer Oper-Maint to Sewer Improvement Fund - Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated per our Bond Ordinance, anything over what is determined for a two month operating balance is transferred into the improvement fund in order to make improvements to the system. This year's transfer is \$100,000. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve Resolution #2016-01, seconded by Councilman Farrellbegg and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Department Update - There were no updates given.

Route 2 Curb/Sidewalk Project - Act on Pay Request from Commonwealth Engineers for Right-of-Way Engineering - \$56,350 and forward to INDOT for 80% reimbursement - Public Works Director Greg Shook stated this pay request is for the right-of-way acquisition that has started and the ongoing work for the project. At this time we have had three homeowners question the acquisition once they had received the pamphlet, and we were able to explain to them the size of property that we were talking about acquiring. Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the pay request for \$56,350, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Act on Statement of Benefits (SB-1) Form-Real Estate Improvements and Statement of Benefits (SB-1-PP) - Personal Property - Aunt Millie's Bakeries 790 W. Commercial Ave. - Approve Resolutions #2016-02 - Attorney Westland stated he believed there should be two motions made, one to approve the Statement of Benefits and then the other to approve Resolution #2016-02. Once you approve the application, the information on page two of two for the Statement of Benefits Personal Property and Real Property will be filled in for a ten year abatement. Councilwoman Angerman made a motion to approve the Statement of Benefits, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes. Councilman Corns made a motion to approve Resolution #2016-02, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Enter into agreement with INDOT - Group I Safety Grant - Sign Modernization - Director Shook stated we received a grant of \$90,000 through NIRPC from INDOT for traffic sign modifications. He state it is a 90/10, so we will be using 90% Federal money and 10% Local money, and we will be doing an inventory of all of the signs in town and then changing out the traffic signs. In another year or so we will look in to changing out the street signs. He stated we are doing this in order to meet the Uniform Traffic Code, which include higher reflect signs. Councilman Gruszka made a motion to enter in to the agreement with INDOT, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Enter into 2016 agreement to provide firefighting services - LVFD - Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to enter into the 2016 firefighting service agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Approve 2015 Encumbrances into 2016 Budget - Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated there were a number of purchase orders that were out of 2015 encumbrances that will be paid in 2016, which total \$60,901.39. Councilman Gruszka made a motion to approve the 2015 Encumbrances into the 2016 Budget, seconded

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by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Approve annual Conflict of Interest Statements per I.C.35-44-1.3 - Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Statements per I.C.35-44-1.3 for James Konradi and Leann Angerman, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Approve annual Certification of Compliance with Nepotism Policy - 2015 Town Council - Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated she needed signatures from the 2015 Council members. This is an annual certificate that Councilmembers sign stating they are in compliance with the Nepotism Policy and it has to be filed on the DLGF website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Salatas announced that the next regular meeting would be Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melanie Csepiga, The Times, asked how much the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department contract was for. President Salatas stated it is for \$137,350. Ms. Csepiga asked if that was an increase from last year. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated there was a 3% increase. Ms. Csepiga then asked if the tax abatement for Aunt Millie's Bakeries could be explained further. Attorney Westland stated the Council approved the first step tonight in the tax abatement process. Now there is a final form that needs to be filled out by the designating body, which will then be sent for final approval. At this point they are pretty much approved from the Town's perspective. Ms. Csepiga asked if there were any numbers that could be provided at this time. Attorney Westland stated we can provide the document, but there is quite a range regarding the number of employees and salaries.

Two representatives, Jay Miller and Judy Babilya-Feher, from Aunt Millie's Bakeries introduced themselves. Mr. Miller stated he would like to thank the Council as well as Clerk-Treasurer Walters for their guidance through the application process. Mr. Miller stated they are very excited to be coming to Lowell and gave some background about the company. He stated they will be investing about \$25 million in equipment and building improvements and hope to be operational by April of 2017. Mr. Miller also stated they were looking to employ about one hundred and seventeen people with a payroll around \$5 million plus full benefits. By the end of this year we should be employing around twenty-one people, and then by the end of next year, once we are fully operational, we will employ the full one hundred and seventeen. President Salatas stated the Town is very excited to have them here.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Farrellbegg made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 P.M., seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes.

Attest:

Christopher Salatas, President

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer