

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 19, 2015

A work session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 5:30 P.M., by President Christopher Salatas. Members present were Craig Earley, LeAnn Angerman, Donald Parker, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Attorney David Westland, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Building Administrator Tom Trulley, SEH Representative Craig Hendrix, and one interested citizen. The purpose of the work session was General Town Business, and a discussion of the 5-year Water Capital Plan and the Firearms Ordinance.

5-year Water Capital Plan - SEH Representative Craig Hendrix began the discussion by stating they were trying to get some ideas together as to what needs to be included in the 5-year Water Capital Improvement Plan. He explained that the Town was already in to Stage 1 of the Water Improvement Project, and that some high priorities for Stage 2 included an extension from Brookwood to 171st and 172nd, costing around \$560,000; Harrison Street between East Street and Burr Street, costing around \$700,000; and Main Street between East Street and Mill Street, costing around \$1.36 million. The benefit of the priorities in Stage 2 are to be able to move water from the new tower down to around the Burr Street area, and to help move water around for fire protection in the Mill Street to East Street area. Mr. Hendrix added that the Water Plant will be in good shape after Stage 1 is complete, leaving Stage 2 open for these water main projects. He also touched on the proposal from a developer which included a water main up Nichols Street. Discussion followed regarding running water out to Lake Prairie Elementary School and where that could be included in the plan. A discussion followed on approximately how much would go in to the Improvement Fund over the next five years and how some projects in Stage 2 may be able to be completed without having to take out a bond.

Public Works Director Greg Shook stated one thing he could think of that should possibly be added is the mechanisms inside the softening basins, which are twenty years old. Mr. Hendrix stated a softener should not be over \$100,000, Director Shook agreed. Discussion followed regarding what these four projects in a five-year plan would do to the Town's bond rating, and what actually needed to be shown in the five-year plan if some of the projects may be done without bonding. Mr. Hendrix reiterated that the loop on the north side of town was of high priority and that it needed to be included in the plan. After discussion, it was agreed ,that since we should have \$1.25 million in the Improvement Fund in five years, to pick projects that total the \$1.25 million in order to not negatively impact our bond rating. Mr. Hendrix will prepare a 5-year plan based on discussion, and forward to Financial Consultant Greg Guerrettaz for his review.

Firearms and Archery Ordinance - Attorney Westland stated he has not gone any further on the archery ordinance, but had sent a draft of the firearms ordinance to President Salatas. President Salatas stated he believed the draft matched what the consensus of the majority of the Council felt and that both ordinances would be rolled out together to the entire Council for review once the archery ordinance was drafted. Attorney Westland explained some issues he had with drafting an archery ordinance from a policy and public safety aspect. He stated if we stopped at allowing an archery class with a certified instructor, that would be easy, but including backyard

target practice with safety measures, that is where it gets hard. A discussion followed between the Council members regarding how far they want to get in to setting the safety criteria for archery, and that in most cases, arrows are included in weapons ordinances. Councilman Earley stated you can find all types of national standards for archery when you talk about event locations or businesses that cater to the general public, but it is difficult to find standards for backyard target practice. He stated he was in favor of making sure that the park could continue their program, but if backyard target practice is taken away from the hundreds of other people that practice in town, a place should be made available for them as well. Further discussions were held regarding bow hunting within Town versus target practicing and the conflicts within the current firearms ordinance. Councilman Parker suggested that Attorney Westland distribute the firearms ordinance for review, clear up the current conflicts in the ordinance, and make sure to allow the Parks Department to continue their archery classes. Discussion followed. Councilman Early had forwarded his comments on the archery ordinance to Attorney Westland for his comments, and will now forward to Council members.

Director Shook asked if the firearms draft included an exception for the police range that is out at the Sewer Distribution Plant, since it is now in town. The point that the range has become a potential insurance issue was mentioned and a discussion followed of ways that the range needed to be monitored in order to only allow sworn in police officers to use the range for practice. Attorney Westland stated that the range is not mentioned in the draft ordinance, but it can be amended and then sent out for review. Councilman Earley asked if it was still the general consensus of the Council to not allow firearms in the Town Hall. President Salatas stated yes, that is the general consensus.

Mr. Hendrix stated he had a sanitary study to present to the Council as well and asked if he could do at a work session before the November 23rd meeting. President Salatas stated they could tentatively set it for November 23rd.

Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters stated that Mr. Shanahan asked that she remind the Council they need to appoint three members to the Building Corporation at the next regular meeting. Mr. Shanahan had mentioned that they cannot be Town Council members, but they can be Town employees.

The work session adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

Judith Walters
Clerk-Treasurer