

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MAY 22, 2023

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 5:35 P.M., by President Todd Angerman. Members present were Todd Angerman, John Alessia, John Yelkich, and Shane Tucker arrived at 6:08. Mr. Angerman had to leave at 6:05. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Town Attorney David Westland via Zoom, GIS Director Greg White, and Police Chief Jim Woestman and Fire Chief Chris Gamblin. Also present was one citizen. The purpose of the work session was general town business.

Street Trucks - Street Superintendent Frank Lovely was present to review the availability of getting 1-ton and 2-ton trucks and the need to update his fleet, especially during snow plowing. He stated currently if we were to order a 2-ton truck, we would not see delivery until 2025. He stated he has been working with the sales representative from Monroe Truck and they currently have two 1-ton trucks available at this time, but they are four door, which are longer than they currently have. Mr. Lovely stated without knowing what may become available in the future, he hated to pass on these trucks. He stated that the trucks are gasoline because he is getting away from diesel trucks because they are expensive to fix. Discussion followed. Council agreed to purchase one truck at this time and hold off to see if another 1-ton will become available and to budget for two new 2-ton trucks in the next budget with escrowing the amount for the purchase over a lease purchase. The item will be acted on during the regular meeting.

Live Streaming and Archiving Meetings - HB1167 - Town Manager Craig Hendrix stated we have been have discussions with Attorney Westland on how long we have to keep the live transmissions of public meetings and preparing a policy for the town, and consequently the Governor has recently signed into law HB 1167 that would require how a public agency will have to store live streaming upto at least 90 days. The law doesn't become effective until 2025, but since we are preparing a policy we will just have the policy written per state statute. Attorney Westland will review the new legislation to see if work sessions and technical review committee meetings have to be recorded, as we currently live stream them but don't record. The live streaming would be posted on our website on a Youtube channel. Attorney Westland will be preparing a policy for review.

136 W. Washington Street (Patricia's Dance) Update - A second appraisers has been hired before an offer can be made.

Discussion of Sanitary Connection Fees - Discussion had been had in the past of increasing sewer tap fees for new homes. Mr. Hendrix will contact our financial consultant to review.

WWTP Capital Project - EQ Basin - Mr. Hendrix had spoken with INDOT on the agreed order that we will not be repairing the basin liner per our Long Term Control Plan, but will be rebuilding the basin. They have recommended remaining in the LTCP while building the basin so if we have a combined sewer overflow it would still be allowable.

West Side Sewer Project Update - Mr. Hendrix stated the easements and design work is done and Etica cannot do the survey work so we have an agreement to act on during the regular meeting with Abonmarche to write the legal descriptions. Randy Rainer has been hired to do the appraisals and look at the

property and a buyer has been hired to make the offers for the 20 parcels that will be needed. Mr. Hendrix stated a public meeting with the homeowners that the project affects will be held at the end of June at Lake Prairie School. He hopes to bid out the project at the end of summer. A question was asked if a homeowner doesn't want to give an easement, and Mr. Hendrix stated the town has eminent domain power, but hopes we can negotiate as the project is funded and needs to be done by end of 2024.

Freedom Trail Update - Mr. Hendrix stated at this time INDOT has not scheduled a public meeting, but is anticipated for the end of June.

Trash container - Discussion followed on a business community trash container on the location where the old garden center was located that the town now owns. Mr. Hendrix hoped the town could install the dumpsters and charge the store owners like they do in Crown Point and Hobart. Mr. Hendrix will reach out to business owners and see if the project would work for them.

Paving - The 2022-2 paving project will begin on June 5th. The streets being paved include Eastwood, Southwood, Meadow Lane, Northview, Bluebird and East Street. The 2023-01 grant project for Union Street will be bid out soon and be a late fall project.

Freedom Park - The bid project for the pickle ball courts are being opened on Wednesday, May 24th.

Evergreen Park - The vandalism done at Evergreen Park has been identified as being done by juveniles and they have been issued trespassing warnings, and will be cited in the town court and will have to make restitution and do community service. Mr. Hendrix stated he hopes people realize we have surveillance equipment and learn we will be enforcing citations.

Mr. Hendrix gave an update on the Taco Bell, Tractor Supply, and the Cedar Creek Trilogy development.

Mr. Hendrix stated they are finalizing plans for Nassau/Liberty Park. He showed an aerial of the property that he hoped to buy from CSX, but they are not currently selling property and we will have to lease the property for \$1200 per year from them to build the parking lot. CSX believes there is another area they have access to and he will be reviewing that area. Mr. Hendrix stated they plan to bid out the project in late summer. The Street Maintenance building will need more discussion on how to finance.

Unsafe buildings/town violations - Staff will be meeting with Attorney Bennett on the process to issue citations.

Opioid Settlement - Discussion followed on ideas to use the settlement. Mr. Hendrix had a contact who could help direct us on ways to use the funds and Chief Woestman would like to use some of the funds for the new canine fund.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:35 P.M.


Todd Angerman, President

Attest:


Judith Walters
Clerk-Treasurer