

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. by Council President Todd Angerman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Jill Murr called the roll. The members present were Todd Angerman, Mike Gruszka, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Staff present were Police Chief Jim Woestman, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, and GIS Director Greg White. Town Attorney David Westland and Corby Thompson Krohn & Associates joined via Zoom.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Town Council President – Motion by Michael Gruszka and seconded by John Yelkich to nominate Todd Angerman as Town Council President, being no other nominations, nominations were closed; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Town Council Vice-President – Motion by John Yelkich and seconded by Shane Tucker to nominate Michael Gruszka as Town Council Vice-President, being no other nominations, nominations were closed; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Tucker made a motion to approve the December 23, 2024, Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes on voice vote.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Councilman Yelkich made a motion to approve the December 2024 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Angerman stated he reviewed the vouchers. White Vouchers #13010 – 13084 \$534,718.93; White – Police #1360 – 1366 \$1,343.02; Wastewater #6022 – 6060 \$202,948.19; and Stormwater Utility #6407 – 6422 \$21,487.71. Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Tucker to approve the vouchers as listed and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Fire Chief Christopher Gamblin gave a historic review of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Christopher Gamblin is the first Fire Chief to be a town employee. Clerk Treasurer Jill Murr Swore In Fire Chief Christopher Gamblin, Deputy Chief Cory Wietbrock, Division Chief Irene Malamatos, Captain Kyle Lasecki, Captain Matthew Hitzelburger, Captain Austin Schreiber, Safety Officer Mike Ham, Lieutenant Dominic Schmidt, Lieutenant Kevin Johnson, Lieutenant Erik Schmitt, and Lieutenant Phil Sabaitis.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2024-19 – Appropriation Transfers. Motion by Councilman Gruszka and seconded by Councilman Yelkich to approve Resolution No. 2024-19; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 2025-01 – Rezone

Motion by Councilman Gruszka and seconded by Councilman Tucker to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-01; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Councilman Gruszka and seconded by Councilman Tucker for the 2025 Board Appointments & Representatives and the 2025 Board and Commission appointments as follows:

2025 Board Appointments & Representatives:

Board of Finance - Todd Angerman and Jill Murr;
Lake County Solid Waste District - John Yelkich;
Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission - John Yelkich;
Freedom Park Committee - John Alessia, Dorothy Eich, Heidi Goetz-Laub and Alice Dahl;
Fire Department Liaison - Mike Gruszka;
JMOB - Mike Gruszka and John Yelkich;
Shared Ethics Committee - John Yelkich;
Ambulance Board - Todd Angerman.

2025 Boards & Commission Appointments

Plan Commission

Town Council appointments - John Alessia, Shane Tucker, Greg White; Citizen appointment – James Konradi (four-year term);

Board of Zoning Appeals

Daniel Calhoun to the Board of Zoning Appeals as the Town Council BZA appointment; and James Konradi as the Presidential Appointment

Police Commission

Mark Schwartz and Ray Borchert to the Police Commission (three-year terms);

Stormwater Board

Courtney Anderson to the Storm Drainage Board (two-year term);

Historic Preservation Board

Courtney Allen-Elliott to the Historic Preservation Board (three-year term);

Redevelopment Commission

Appointing the Town Council Members to the Redevelopment Commission.

Motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Emergency Management Director

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Yelkich to appoint Police Chief Woestman as Emergency Management Director, Motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

2025 Firefighting Agreement with Lowell Volunteer Fire Department

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Tucker to approve the 2025 Firefighting Agreement with the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Employment Agreement – Fire Chief

Motion by Councilman Gruszka and seconded by Councilman Tucker to approve the Employment Agreement with Fire Chief Christopher Gamblin; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Town Hall Meeting Room usage request

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Tucker to approve the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department request for usage of the Town Hall meeting room; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Spring Run Phase 3 Maintenance Bond

Motion by Councilman Yelkich and seconded by Councilman Tucker to approve and accept Spring Run Phase 3 Maintenance Surety Bond #2633998 in the amount of \$321,841.28 and approve white voucher #13085 to release BLB St. John LLC cash bond in the amount of \$321,841.48; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

2025 Floating Holiday

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Tucker to approve Monday, February 17, 2025, as the 2025 Floating Holiday; motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Approval of Police Vehicles

Motion by Councilman Gruszka and seconded by Councilman Gruszka to approve the purchase of three police vehicles; motion carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

West Side Sewer Project Easements

Motion by Councilman Yelkich and seconded by Councilman Tucker to authorize and direct Town Attorney Westland to move forward with the condemnation for properties/easements for the SR2 Sewer/Water extension project.

El Paraiso LLC, Samantha Schmidlin, request

Samantha Schmidlin, El Paraiso, requested guidance from the Town Council on her building permits. Discussion occurred on the permit process, Tim Henke responded on the timeline, what has occurred and issues with the contractor on projects. Tim Henke referred to a January 6th email requesting additional information as the plans are incomplete as well as the State design release is expired, an extension will be needed, a written scope of work for the project, the documents should be sent digitally including a price for the project, signage is noncompliant, and the application needs to be re-submitted with contractors listed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next regular meeting – Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

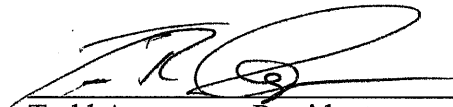
Mike, 547 Creekside Drive, inquired on hunting within town limits. The council noted safety issues and concerns with hunting. Councilman Alessia suggested reaching out to DNR regarding deer.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business, Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Gruszka to adjourn at 7:50 pm; motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Attest:


Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer



Todd Angerman, President