

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey

Mayor Sandy Railey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those attending were Councilmember Phil Bonham, Councilmember Ken Ervin, Councilmember Candy Funderburk, Councilmember DeWayne Chitwood, Councilmember Thomas Gillespie, City Attorney Jim Windham, City Manager Kevin Krouse, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Police Chief Scott Bates, Development Services Administrator Scott Attaway, Finance Officer Kevin Haney, and various citizens.

II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Gillespie gave the invocation and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

Mayor Railey added Item C under New Business for selection of a firm for contract administration of the CDBG grant.

Councilmember Chitwood added Item B under Closed Session to discuss a Personnel issue in accordance with provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to accept the amended agenda, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Cato and Wells Eddleman had comments about the proposed FY2019-2020 budget.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation for Law Enforcement Officers Week

Mayor Railey read the Proclamation for Law Enforcement Officers Week in the City of Lowell to be observed May 12-18, 2019. Councilmember Ervin made a motion to accept the Proclamation and recognize May 12-18, 2019 as Law Enforcement Officers Week in Lowell, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 9, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the April 9, 2019 Council meeting minutes, followed by a second from Councilmember Bonham. The vote was unanimous.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. An Ordinance (#1-2019) to Designate a One-Way Street

Kevin Krouse stated staff has reviewed the request by City Council to consider the impact of making W. Second Street between N. Main and N. Church a one way. Mr. Krouse stated police, fire, and the planning departments all met and concluded that public safety would be improved with this change and no negative impacts were indicated.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. #1-2019, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

B. Public Hearing Regarding Proposed 2019-2020 Budget

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to go into Public Hearing regarding the proposed FY2019-2020 budget, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

Kevin Krouse gave a summary of the proposed 2019-2020 budget to Council.

Highlights given by Mr. Krouse were:

- No tax increase proposed. Recommends current rate of \$0.43/100 of assessed value
- No fee increased for Governmental Services
- 3% increase in Water and Sewer Rates

Larry Simonds and Wells Eddleman both had concerns regarding the proposed FY2019-2020 budget.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to close the Public Hearing, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set Public Hearing for Rezoning Case No RZ19-03

Scott Attaway stated the rezoning case #RZ19-03 had been recommended for approval by the Lowell Planning and Zoning Board on May 7, 2019 and requested City Council to schedule the required public hearing for June 11, 2019 during the next Lowell City Council meeting.

Councilmember Chitwood made a motion to schedule the public hearing for the rezoning case #RZ19-03 for June 11, 2019, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

B. Consideration to Purchase New Shelter at Harold Rankin Park

Kevin Krouse stated staff is recommending a new shelter for sun protection for users of the new exercise equipment at Harold Rankin Park. He stated three quotes for the sunshade had been received. Mr. Krouse stated staff is recommending the quote from Next Level be accepted.

Councilmember Bonham made a motion to accept the quote from Next Level and proceed with installation, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was three in favor, and two opposed (Funderburk/Chitwood). The motion passed with the majority being in favor.

C. Selection of CDBG Grant Administration

Kevin Krouse stated the City of Lowell is required to select contract services to administer the CDBG grant process. He stated the RFP was advertised multiple times and staff recommends selecting Withers Ravenel.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to select Withers Ravenel to administer the CDBG grant work, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

Scott Attaway gave an overview of the Lowell Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Foundations Report that had been received from Kimley Horn.

Thomas Shrewsbury gave an update on upcoming street resurfacing projects.

X. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Jim Windham had nothing new to report.

XI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kevin Krouse gave updates on the following items:

- Lowell Woods
- Fire Inspection Costs
- CDBG-I and CDBG Housing Grants
- Pedestrian Improvements
- Stormwater Audit
- Water Meter Project

- Build Grant

XII. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Funderburk inquired about a possible Ordinance to be considered in the future for an eviction process for rental houses involved in drug arrests.

Councilmember Gillespie spoke about the May 16 Police Memorial to be held at Bethlehem Baptist Church

Mayor Railey inquired about a possible ribbon cutting at Sonic Automotive

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) & NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)

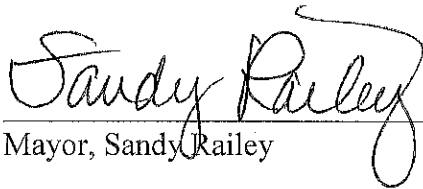
A motion was made at 9:24 pm by Councilmember Ervin to go into Closed Session in accordance with provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

The Council reconvened from Closed Session at 10:00 pm.

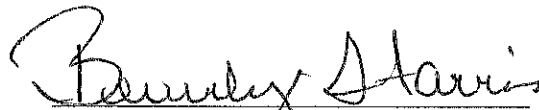
There were no actions taken in Closed Session.

XIV. ADJOURN

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 10:05 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris