

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 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 Thomas Gillespie, City Attorney Jim Windham, City Manager Kevin Krouse, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Police Chief Scott Bates, Parks & Recreation Director Cristy Cummings, Development Services Administrator Scott Attaway, and various citizens. Councilmember DeWayne Chitwood was absent.

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

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Cato was against alcohol served at Freedom Festival.

Larry Simonds had concerns over audit and proposed budget.

Ann Worthy was against the African American Flat project and monument.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 14, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2019 Council meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget and Fee Schedule

Kevin Krouse stated the proposed FY2019-2020 budget maintains the current tax rate of \$0.43/\$100 and no fee increases in the General Government. A 3% increase in water and sewer rates is proposed for the Proprietary Enterprise Fund to pay for needed Capital projects.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2019-2020 budget and fee schedule, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

B. Public Hearing for Rezoning Case No. RZ19-03

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to go into Public Hearing for rezoning case no RZ19-03, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

Scott Attaway stated the city had received a request from Mr. Geoffrey Brian Weber to rezone the property located at 119 Ashe Street, Lowell, NC Property Parcel ID #185402, from the RMF Zoning District to the C-3 Zoning District.

Doug Arthurs presented the request on behalf of Geoffrey Brian Weber to Council.

James Johnson, (Johnson Circle), wanted to know if he lived in Lowell city limits or county. He had concerns about services not offered to non-city residents.

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

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the rezoning case no RZ19-03 changing zoning from RMF to C-3, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment for Parks and Recreation

Cristy Cummings presented a budget amendment for the transfer of \$5,736 from the General fund balance to Park and Recreation for the purchase of a new shelter at Harold Rankin Park that was approved at the May 2019 Council meeting.

Ms. Cummings introduced Penny Stubbs and Jimmie Johnson from the Lowell Women's Club. The Lowell Women's Club donated \$2000.00 towards the purchase of the new shelter at Harold Rankin Park.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the transfer of \$3,736 from the General Fund balance to Park and Recreation for the purchase of a new shelter at Harold Rankin Park, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

B. Resolution of Support for Grant Application for 2019 BUILD Grant Funding

Kevin Krouse stated the Mayor and City Planner will be traveling to Washington DC to meet with a lobbyist to discuss the grant application for the 2019 BUILD grant funding. Mayor Railey read the Resolution of support for the Grant Application for 2019 BUILD Grant Funding.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to approve the Resolution of support for Grant Application for 2019 BUILD Grant Funding, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

C. Speed Radar Signs

Kevin Krouse gave an overview and showed a video on the manufacturer of speed radar signs. Mr. Krouse stated the purchase price for them can go as high as \$4000/ea. Council directed staff to research other vendors and pricing on the speed radar signs.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Freedom Festival Report

Cristy Cummings gave an overview of the Freedom Festival report. She also stated she would like to explore moving the festival to a cooler time of year and away from the Memorial Day weekend. Council directed staff to research possible dates for next year.

IX. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Jim Windham didn't have anything new to report.

X. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kevin Krouse informed Council about the employee cookout scheduled for Friday, June 28th.

XI. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Gillespie stated Ann Worthy's comment on the Flats project upset him. He felt there should be a sign there for everyone to remember the families that lived in that area. Councilmember Gillespie also asked that the order of protocol be followed in the future in regards to Mayor Pro-Tem representing the City of Lowell in the Mayor's absence.

Councilmember Funderburk thanked the citizens who stayed until the end of the meeting to hear the Council's reports. Councilmember Funderburk gave clarification to citizens to previous comments stated during Public Comments that was untrue about Council and how the City operates. She also stated she was proud of the staff, budget, and work that had been accomplished for the City.

Councilmember Ervin thanked the City Manager and staff for outstanding work they do daily. He also gave an update on a recent monthly Lowell VFD meeting he attended.

Mayor Railey thanked all citizens for coming to the meeting and thanked staff.

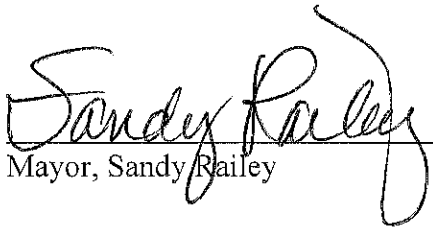
XII. CLOSED SESSION – ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY - NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5).

A motion was made at 8:41 pm by Councilmember Funderburk to go into Closed Session in accordance with provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5), followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

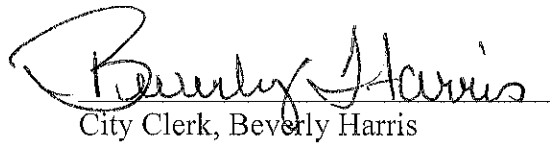
The Council reconvened from Closed Session at 9:10 pm.

XIII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 9:10pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris