

# MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 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 Manager Kevin Krouse, City Attorney Jim Windham, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Police Chief Scott Bates, Development Services Administrator Scott Attaway, Parks and Creation Director Cristy Cummings, 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

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

## IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

### A. Badge Presentation for new Police Officer Amy Oxendine Bowen

Badge presentation by Chief Bates and was pinned by Officer Bowen's family member.

### B. Badge Presentation for new Police Officer Christopher Wayne Mulkern

Badge presentation by Chief Bates and was pinned by Officer Mulkern's family member.

### C. City flag presentation in memory of Allen F. Starrett for his service to Lowell

Mayor Railey presented a flag and read a Proclamation in memory of Allen F. Starrett for his service to Lowell City Council.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were public comments by the following citizens:

- Mike Quilliams (In support of current Mayor and Council's ability to lead in a respectful manner. Supports new flag display, new crosswalk and safety signals. Against the opposition's wrong information being given to citizens and the threat of removing city employees.)

- Larry Simonds (In support of Allen Starrett Proclamation and the new flag display. Against old flag pole being removed, tax revaluations, budget increase, water rates, and employee salaries.)
- Ed Jackson (In support of current Mayor and Council and stated they are growing the town instead of letting it die.)
- John Cato (Stated a concern that a current Councilmember put personal information about him on Facebook and broke the Code of Ethics.)
- Candice Funderburk (Spoke as a citizen on her behalf of accusations by John Cato.)
- Pam Smith (Thanked Cristy Cummings for the improvements to the Parks and Recreation department in Lowell.)
- Martha Burris (Welcomed the new police officers. Thanked Recreation Department for improved activities for adults in community. Proud of economic growth in community and new businesses in town now. Thanked Council and Mayor for working together to create a positive image for Lowell in Gaston County.)
- Harold Falls (Wants flag pole placed back on City Hall building.)

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **A. September 10, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the September 10, 2019 meeting minutes, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Dyslexia Awareness Proclamation
- B. Selection of Auditor for 2018-19 Fiscal Year (Collis & Associates)
- C. Selection of Engineer for CDBG-Infrastructure Grant (Withers Ravenel)
- D. Adoption of CDBG Infrastructure Grant Compliance Plans
- E. Adoption of CDBG Infrastructure Grant Capital Budget Ordinance
- F. Adoption of CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Budget Ordinance

Mayor Railey read the Dyslexia Awareness Proclamation.

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

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. NCDOT Signalization Agreement**

Kevin Krouse explained the NCDOT Signalization Agreement to Council.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the NCDOT signalization agreement, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

B. Demolition Ordinance for the vacant structure at 1102 N Main Street

Jim Windham stated the property owner abandoned and did not appeal the decision to demolish the structure at 1102 N Main Street. Mr. Windham stated the lender filed an appeal and he is expecting the lender approval anytime.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the demolition ordinance contingent on final approval of the lender, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

C. Discussion of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant

Kevin Krouse explained Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants and the process for applying. He stated a city parks Master Plan would need to be created.

Consensus was given by Council to look into possible Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants for future planning.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports.

**X. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Jim Windham had nothing new to report.

**XI. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Kevin Krouse gave updates on the following items:

- Two Rivers Utilities Water Treatment Plant Dedication
- New Gaston County Manager Open House Reception
- EDC Meeting
- New water meters have arrived. Should see installations start in November or December.
- Police department radio financing is in place. Laptops and new police cars have been ordered.
- WWTP Report findings to be presented next month.

**XII. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Ervin stated he and Mayor Railey have reached out to Dominion Gas regarding the sunken roadway near Harold Rankin Park. He stated they would be responsible for the repairs because of the recent gas line installations there. He also thanked Public Works for their recent street work.

Councilmember Funderburk would like to see a flashing pedestrian beacon installed near Grits & Greens. She asked the City Manager to look into pricing.


Councilmember Gillespie thanked city of Lowell maintenance workers. He also made several comments regarding people having the right to make the choice to rent instead of own property. He stated the ability to run for Council is open to anyone. Being a Councilmember is not about your possessions, it's all about your character.

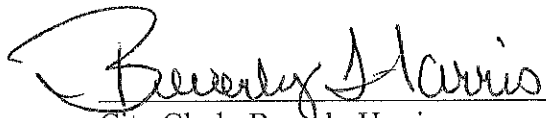
Councilmember Bonham thanked Cristy for the Lowell Fall Festival.

Mayor thanked everyone for coming and voicing their comments and opinions. She stated their opinions mattered to her and this Council. She also thanked Cristy for the Lowell Fall Festival.

### **XIII. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

  
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Mayor, Sandy Railey

  
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City Clerk, Beverly Harris