

**MINUTES**  
Lowell City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 8, 2017

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sandy Railey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those attending were Councilmember Ken Ervin, Councilmember Candy Funderburk, Councilmember Thomas Gillespie, Councilmember Sam Mitchem Jr., Councilmember Shane Robinson, City Manager Kevin Krouse, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Financial Officer Kevin Haney, Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury, Police Chief Scott Bates, and various citizens.

**II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Mitch Evans (Woodlawn Baptist Church) led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. William Pack: Mr. Pack rescheduled to speak at the June meeting.

B. Mark Cramer, Executive Director of Greater Gaston Development Association: Mr. Cramer gave Council a presentation regarding the Charlotte airport expansion project. He stated the Greater Gaston Development Association is requesting \$3500 from each municipality in Gaston County to participate in the project in order for Gaston County to be recognized in the expansion project.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion for Lowell to buy into the project with the donation of \$3500, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

C. Martha Burris, Master Planning Committee Chairperson: Pam Smith spoke on behalf of Martha Burris and the Master Planning Committee. Ms. Smith gave an update on the façade grant program and the new self-watering planters donated by an anonymous person. She also stated the Lowell Women's Club has agreed to pay for the flowers to go in the planters. There will be no cost to the City of Lowell for this beautification project. Ms. Smith also stated the Master Planning Committee is recommending that City Council partner with the MPO and request County Commissioners to reallocate funding earmarked for the sidewalk to Poston Park to be used for the MPO development plans to improve the downtown area.

- D. John Cato: Mr. Cato commended Yvette Broussard on her hard work for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- E. Ann Worthy: Ms. Worthy reported that several street lights down South Main Street are out and needs to be reported to Duke Energy.

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. Approval of Minutes from the April 10, 2017 City Council Meeting

Councilmember Mitchem made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2017 council meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Presentation of Downtown Transportation Study – Lauren Blackburn of VHB

Ms. Blackburn, VHB, gave an update on the Downtown Transportation Study. Ms. Blackburn went over some intersection or roadway marking changes along NC7 that could be made in the short-term and she also covered other mid/long term improvements for the future.

### B. River Falls Preliminary Plat Approval – True Homes

Kevin Krouse stated the preliminary plat for the River Falls expansion had already been presented and approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Krouse stated staff recommends approval of the plat contingent upon True Homes meeting the two additional engineering requirements: (1) Army Corps approval for the culvert installation; (2) NCDEQ approval for the water and sewer extensions. He also stated True Homes had agreed to pay for fees incurred in accordance to our fee schedule that would exceed \$15,000 and up to a maximum of \$21,000.

Councilmember Mitchem made a motion to approve the plat. Councilmember Robinson made a motion to amend the original motion to include approval of the plat contingent upon True Homes meeting the engineering requirements of the Army Corps approval for the culvert installation and the NCDEQ approval for the water and sewer extensions; and for True Homes to pay for fees or anything in addition to \$15,000 and up to a maximum of \$21,000, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

### C. Discussion of Township Grant Project Options

Kevin Krouse stated staff does not yet have a cost on paving the parking lot at Harold Rankin Park. Mr. Krouse stated this item will be tabled for now.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Draft FY 17-18 Budget Presentation

Kevin Krouse presented Council with the FY2017-2018 budget message and worksheets for review.

### B. Set date for Special Budget Meeting in May

The Council set Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-12:00pm for the Special Budget Workshop Meeting.

### C. Set Public Hearing for FY 17-18 Municipal Budget for June 12, 2017

Councilmember Robinson made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the FY 2017-2018 municipal budget during the regular scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, June 12, 2017, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

## VIII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Jim Windham had nothing new to report.

## IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kevin Krouse reminded everyone about the upcoming Freedom Festival.

## X. MAYOR AND COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Gillespie was glad to the Lowell Police Department taking part in the officer memorial service for Gaston County.

Councilmember Funderburk asked additional questions regarding the MPO transportation study.

Mayor Railey stated Lowell was well represented for the National Day of Prayer and encouraged citizens to attend next year's event.

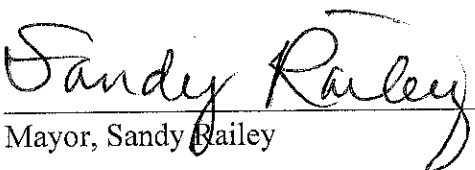
Councilmember Mitchem stated how proud he is of the Lowell Police Department.

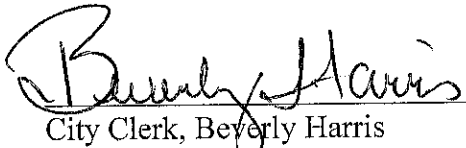
Councilmember Robinson asked for the City Manager to forward Council copies of the two presentations presented that evening.

Councilmember Ervin gave an update on the Veterans Club meeting and stated the club would be meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

## XI. ADJOURN

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Mitchem. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 8:32 pm.

  
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Mayor, Sandy Railey

  
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City Clerk, Beverly Harris