

MINUTES

Lowell City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sandy Railey called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Finance Officer Kevin Haney, Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury, Police Chief Scott Bates, City Attorney Jim Windham, and various citizens.

II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Thomas Gillespie 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 Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A motion was made by Councilmember Ervin to go into Public Hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Funderburk reported that she had received some complaints about a reported rivalry between the Lowell and Ranlo volunteer fire departments on getting to locations of fire department calls. Scott Moore, Fire Chief, explained why under certain circumstances another fire department might respond to a call before Lowell does. The Lowell VFD monitors response times to all calls. Chief Moore said he would share this information with Council.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made to close the public hearing on the budget by Councilmember Ervin, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous and the public hearing was closed.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Ervin to approve all three items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous. Those items were:

- A. Approval of Minutes from the May 8, 2017 City Council Meeting and the May 26, 2017 Special Budget Workshop.
- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Revised Agreement with the GCLMPO for the Use of Transportation Planning Grant Funds.
- C. Contract with Collis & Associates to conduct the City's Financial Annual Audit.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Submit Crosswalk Safety Improvements to Gaston County Commissioners as an alternate use of the Township Grant Funding.

After discussion among Council Members regarding uses of the grant money, including downtown crosswalks, signals, and possible Community Center renovations, a motion was made by Councilmember Gillespie and a second by Councilmember Ervin to present this to the Gaston County commissioners. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of Deputy Clerk – a motion was made by Councilmember Funderburk and seconded by Councilmember Ervin to appoint Kevin Krouse, City Manager, as deputy clerk, in the absence of City Clerk Beverly Harris. The vote was unanimous.
- B. Certification of Annexation Petition received from DeNorma S. Gunter to voluntarily annex 3.68 acres of land at 4820 Wilkinson Blvd. Kevin Krouse certified petition as accurate, so no action was needed.
- C. Set Public Hearing for July 10, 2017 for Annexation Petition of 4820 Wilkinson Blvd. Motion was made by Councilmember Funderburk, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. Vote was unanimous.
- D. Discussion and Possible Action to Refer Text Amendment Request to the Planning and Zoning Board. Two Men and a Truck, a franchised moving company, had requested to amend the UDO to add Moving and Storage facilities to the IU classification. The company is planning to move into a vacant facility across the street from the Community Center. A motion to refer the text amendment to the Planning Board for this was made by Councilmember Ervin, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.
- E. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance. After a brief discussion concerning the elimination of city recycling, a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented was made by Councilmember Ervin, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Contract with Collis and Associates to Perform an Annual Audit of the Lowell VFD. Fire Chief Scott Moore stated that the Fire Department will pay the \$2400 fee for this audit. Motion to approve the contract with Collis and Associates and the City of Lowell for the audit of the Lowell VFD was made by Councilmember Ervin and seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

G. Discussion and Possible Action of Stormwater Funding Feasibility Study. The Council decided to take no action on this item at this time, requesting that the City Manager get other competitive bids and other information before proceeding.

IX. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Jim Windham had nothing new to report.

X. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kevin Krouse announced that he would be on vacation June 19-23. Thomas Shrewsbury, Public Works Director, will be the person in charge while Mr. Krouse is away.

XI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

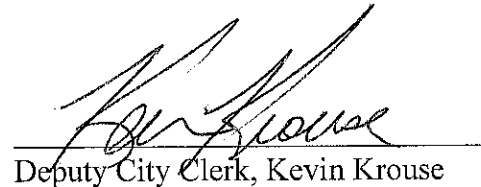
There was no general discussion.

XII. 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 8:25 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



Deputy City Clerk, Kevin Krouse

Minutes taken by Kevin Haney, Finance Officer, in absence of Beverly Harris, City Clerk.