

MINUTES

Lowell City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 10, 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, 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

A motion was made by Councilmember Ervin to amend the agenda to add in Section VIII, New Business, a discussion of the Truck Route through downtown. Seconded by Councilmember Robinson. The vote was unanimous.

A motion to adopt the amended agenda was made by Councilmember Ervin, seconded by Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lowell resident Michelle Sebastian commented on the cessation of the city recycling program. Ms. Sebastian stated that recycling was important to her family, and without the city recycling containers, it is a 25-minute drive one-way to the closest recycling center. She encouraged the City Manager and Council to come up with other options on a timely basis.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Funderburk to approve the June 12, 2017 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Ervin. Councilmember Robinson commented that he would like to see Jim Windham's name added as an attendee at all meetings he is present for. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchem to go into Public Hearing regarding a Text Amendment to the UDO, seconded by Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. To change pages 7-10 of the UDO to include IU district, moving and storage facilities to use by right. Motion made by Councilmember Ervin, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.
- B. Discussion regarding a stormwater feasibility study. Councilmember Ervin stated that he would like to move forward on the study, and asked the other Council members their thoughts on the subject. Councilmember Robinson commented that he wants to consider the costs of the study and not base it on the only one quote received. City Manager Krouse will follow up with Steven Miller of Martin McGill to get a quote from Martin McGill.
- C. Discussion for possible Public Hearing for an annexation request for Enterprise Rental Cars. Public Hearing will have to be set for August because the Gaston Gazette did not run the ad. A motion to hold a public hearing on August 14, 2017 was made by Councilmember Robinson, seconded by Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Truck route through downtown – City Manager Krouse has looked into moving the truck route. He discussed this issue with the Gaston County MPO and the NC Department of Transportation. This issue is not on the MPO agenda until September, 2017. The route, if changed, would go from McAdenville Road to Mill Street to East First Street instead of using Main Street through downtown. City Manager Krouse said that he would contact the affected persons living on Mill Street by direct mail to inform them of the possible change in the truck route.

A motion for a public hearing to begin the process of changing the truck route (turning Mill Street into the proposed truck route) was made by Councilmember Ervin, seconded by Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

IX. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Jim Windham had nothing new to report.

X. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kevin Krouse commented on the striping plan for NC Highway 7 cost through VHB would be greater than \$1000.

The Enterprise Rental Car site work at 4820 Wilkinson Boulevard is moving along. There is another auto sales company, Waymore Automotive, that is working on the site at 4525 Wilkinson Blvd.

City Manager Krouse also noted that Doster Realty is going to occupy space at 140 Robbins Street.

The old Shed Depot site at 4600 Wilkinson Blvd. is being developed into a used car sales lot.

Echo Park has be issued a sign permit for 109 Kenworthy Street.

The water leak at Exit 22 near McKenney Chevrolet was addressed. Thomas Shrewsbury, Public Works Director, gave an update on the leak and possible costs to repair. City Manager Krouse passed out information for Council to consider as to how to fund this major repair.

XI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Funderburk commented that since Lowell has discontinued its recycling program, the nearest recycling center is on Long Avenue in Gastonia near the Gastonia Farmer's Market.

Councilmember Gillespie commented positively on the Montcross Chamber of Commerce's recent publication that highlighted Lowell.


Councilmember Robinson commented that he would like the city to investigate curbside recycling as an option since our recycling program has been discontinued. He also commented on the financial report, stating that General Fund revenues were slightly less than budgeted year-to-date, that Water and Sewer revenues were right on target per the budget, and that expenses in both General Fund and Water and Sewer fund were less than budgeted year-to-date.

Councilmember Mitchem complimented the City of Lowell employees and staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Ervin commented on the recent police report and gave commendation to the Police Department for an outstanding job of handling over 400 calls in the most recent month.

XII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Mitchem made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 8:11 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Bailey



Deputy City Clerk, Kevin Krouse

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