

# MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

## 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., City Attorney Jim Windham, City Manager Kevin Krouse, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury, Police Chief Scott Bates, and various citizens.

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION

Councilmember Gillespie led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

## III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

Mayor Railey asked that a Closed Session be added to discuss the city attorney's contract.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the Closed Session, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

## IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Recognition for Sue Lowe for exemplary performance on the job  
The City Clerk, Beverly Harris, presented a gift basket to Sue Lowe and thanked her for her exemplary performance on the job while Ms. Harris was out of the office on medical leave.
- B. Recognition for Thomas Wilson, Jr. on the completion of his recent internship with the City  
Yvette Broussard presented Thomas Wilson, Jr. with a certificate of recognition for completion of his internship with the City of Lowell.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is an opportunity for those who desire to address the council on any topic not listed on the night's agenda. Speakers should sign up on a provided sign-up sheet prior to the meeting's start to be recognized. Each speaker is asked to observe a five-minute time limit on his or her comments. Because such topics usually require more information or research, council may, but should not feel compelled to, respond to comments or to take any action. The council may, at its discretion, direct staff to provide research and more information and schedule the topic for a future agenda.

- A. Request to Speak: Mr. Larry Simonds

There were public comments from Larry Simonds and Pam Smith.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **A. Approval of Minutes from the July 10, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting**

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular Council meeting on July 10, 2017, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

### **B. Approval of Minutes from the August 2, 2017 City Council Special Meeting**

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Council meeting on August 2, 2017, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. Public Hearing Regarding the Annexation of 4820 Wilkinson Boulevard**

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to go into the public hearing regarding the annexation of 4820 Wilkinson Boulevard, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

There were no public comments during the hearing.

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

### **B. Public Hearing Regarding the Truck Route on Mill Street**

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to go into public hearing regarding the truck route on Mill Street, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

John Cantrell stated all homeowners on Mill Street are opposed to the truck route being moved to Mill Street and he is concerned with the truck route impacting the value of his home.

There were no other public comments during the hearing.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to close the public hearing, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Annexation of 4820 Wilkinson Boulevard**

Kevin Krouse stated the city has met all requirements regarding the annexation of 4820 Wilkinson Boulevard. Mr. Krouse also stated this is a voluntary annexation.

The City Attorney informed the City Manager of a needed date change on Page 10, Section II on the ordinance to reflect the current date and year of August 14, 2017.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to approve the ordinance to annex 4820 Wilkinson Boulevard with the noted date change, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Truck Route on Mill Street

Kevin Krouse stated the council needed to pass a resolution moving the truck route to Mill Street for NCDOT. Mr. Krouse stated NCDOT will make the final decision on the truck route.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the resolution to move the truck route on Mill Street, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was three to one in favor of the resolution. Councilmember Gillespie voted against.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Master Planning Committee Appointment of Michelle Sebastian, 1017 Marguerite Drive

Martha Burris stated the Master Planning Committee would like to request appointment of Michelle Sebastian of 1017 Marguerite Drive to the committee.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to appoint Michelle Sebastian to the Master Planning Committee, followed by a second from Councilmember Mitchem. The vote was unanimous.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint a City Council Representative to the CLT Airport Positioning Strategy Steering Committee

Kevin Krouse stated he will be serving on the technical committee for the project and a councilmember needed to be appointed to the Charlotte Airport Positioning Strategy Steering Committee. Councilmember Gillespie showed interest in the position.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion for Councilmember Gillespie to be appointed to the Charlotte Airport Positioning Strategy Steering Committee, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

C. Discussion of Mural at Police Department as proposed by the Master Planning Committee

Martha Burris gave an update on recent projects the Master Planning Committee has completed in the city (flower pots and façade grants). Ms. Burris stated in the process of setting priorities for 2018 the committee will be focusing on improving appearance in the downtown area as

visitors pass over the railroad track and enter the business district. Ms. Burris stated the Master Planning Committee are requesting permission to install a mural on the back of the police department and approval to purchase supplies not to exceed \$1000 from their 2017 budget.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to approve the installation of the mural on the police department and the \$1000 from the 2017 budget, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

**X. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

The City Attorney had nothing new to report.

**XI. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Kevin Krouse gave updates on the following items: Exit 22; River Falls Phase III; downtown transportation study; water and sewer rate study; and the upcoming ribbon cutting at Two Men and a Truck.

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

Councilmembers Funderburk and Ervin thanked public works for their efforts on the leak fix at Exit 22. Councilmember Gillespie reminded everyone of Congressman McHenry's upcoming meeting.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION – NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)**

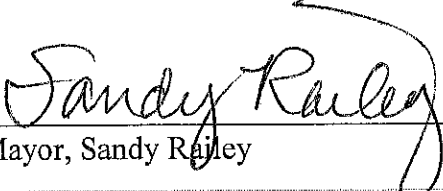
A motion was made at 8:00 pm by Councilmember Ervin to go into Closed Session in accordance with provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), followed by a second from Councilmember Mitchem. The vote was unanimous.

The Council reconvened from Closed Session at 8:25 pm.

There were no motions made during Closed Session.

**XIV. 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 8:25 pm.

  
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Mayor, Sandy Railey

  
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City Clerk, Beverly Harris