

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Monday, October 9, 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., Councilmember Shane Robinson, City Attorney Jim Windham, City Manager Kevin Krouse, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury, Finance Officer Kevin Haney, Police Chief Scott Bates, Parks and Recreation Coordinator Yvette Broussard, and various citizens.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION

Councilmember Thomas Gillespie led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

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

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Mr. Mark Cramer: Update on Greater Gaston Development Corporation (GGDC) initiatives

Mr. Mark Cramer gave an update on the Greater Gaston Development Corporation (GGDC) initiatives. Some of the updates he covered were: Gaston Outside "GO" campaign; a new bridge over the Catawba River; the Charlotte Airport Connection Project; and Tech Works of Gaston County.

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.

There were public comments at the meeting from Pam Smith and Mark Mahr.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting
- B. Resolution to endorse NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application
- C. Resolution to endorse TIGER Grant Application
- D. FY17-18 Budget Amendment #2

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Township Grant

Kevin Krouse stated the next step for the Township Grant would be to garner support from the Gaston County Commissioners by inviting them to Lowell for a tour of the downtown and Community Center needs in-person.

- B. Hwy 7 Striping Plan

There was discussion among Council members regarding the Hwy 7 striping plan. Councilmember Robinson submitted striping request changes to Council for review (attached).

Councilmember Robinson made a motion to leave Section A (W First St) and B (S Main St) the way they were previously, and to eliminate all parking and return the right turn lane in Section G (N Main St), and keep parallel parking in the downtown area on Main Street, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of System Development Fee

Kevin Krouse stated House Bill 436 provides new guidance for the development and implementation of a System Development Fee (Availability Fee). He stated it was imperative to begin the process of developing this fee for Lowell as new residential development is approaching. Professional analysis must be used to develop the fee. Staff recommended accepting the proposal from WR Martin Consulting (formerly Martin McGill).

Council requested an additional estimate for comparison before making a decision. Council asked the City Manager to speak with other Gaston County towns already in this process to see who they have obtained proposals from, and Councilmember Ervin recommended the Mayor request a Special Meeting once this information is ready for re-submission back to Council.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Sidewalk Plan

Kevin Krouse stated he had submitted the Church Street sidewalk project for funding. The project made the top 20 regional projects and will be submitted to the state. He stated the MPO told him the project must be part of an approved plan or it cannot be submitted and the deadline was mid-October. Mr. Krouse stated staff recommended approval of the submitted Lowell sidewalk project plan (attached) for submission to the state.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the sidewalk plan, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

C. Discussion and Possible Action to Erect a No Parking Sign in accordance with City Code 73.18

Kevin Krouse stated a no parking sign needed to be erected on Power Drive near the entrance to Lowell Elementary School in accordance with City Code section 73.18.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to erect a no parking sign at the location specified by the City Manager on Power Drive near the entrance to Lowell Elementary School in accordance with City Code section 73.18, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

IX. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Windham had nothing new to report.

X. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kevin Krouse told Council about an upcoming pre-construction meeting with True Homes and then he handed out the audit for the Fire Department.

XI. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Ervin thanked the employees for doing an excellent job. And he thanked Council on working together.

Councilmember Robinson stated his concern with the Mayor's Message in the latest newsletter. He felt it was written as a personal gain for the Mayor. And he stated there should be guidelines on the newsletter going forward.

Councilmember Mitchem stated there are a lot of things needing to be fixed in Lowell but the Council would need to work as a team in order to get them done and for Lowell to be as they want it.

Councilmember Funderburk pointed out the Police Department's new uniforms and also stated she wanted staff to get information on curbside recycling.

Councilmember Gillespie stated he had concerns with a flyer that was found at the post office in Lowell regarding him not supporting the Lowell Police Department. He stated that was not true.

XII. CLOSED SESSION – NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)

A. To consider the approval of closed session minutes from August 14, 2017

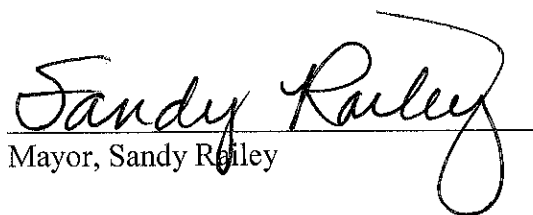
A motion was made at 8:28 pm by Councilmember Ervin to go into Closed Session in accordance with provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1), followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to approve the Closed Session minutes from August 14, 2017, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

The Council reconvened from Closed Session at 8:31 pm.

XIII. ADJOURN

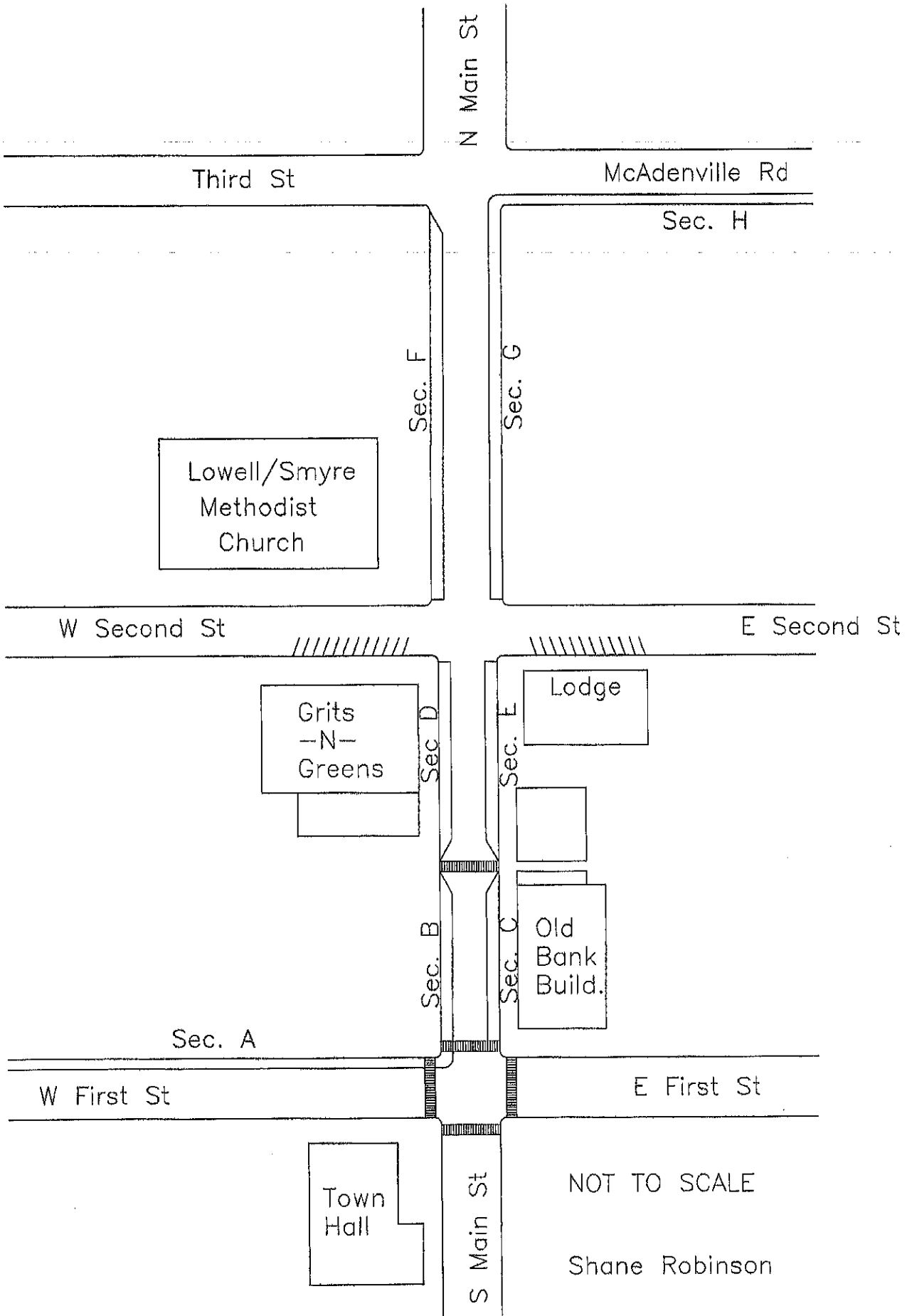
Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 8:31 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Reiley



City Clerk, Beverly Harris



OVERVIEW MAP

SIDEWALK PROJECT

- SITE 1: Lowell Spencer Mountain Road
- SITE 2: S. Church Street
- SITE 3: N. Main Street
- SITE 4: Mill Street
- SITE 5: Caroline Avenue
- SITE 6: Oak Street
- SITE 7: Stowe Drive

