

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey

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 Phil Bonham, Councilmember DeWayne Chitwood, City Attorney Jim Windham, City Manager Kevin Krouse, Finance Officer Kevin Haney, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury, Police Chief Scott Bates, and various citizens.

II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

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

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Recognition of service to the GCLMPO Board Presented to Council Member Candy Funderburk
Mayor Railey presented Councilmember Funderburk an award for recognition of service to the GCLMPO Board.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Cato would like to see a car given to Yvette Broussard to use in the Parks & Recreation department and he would also like to see a Vietnam memorial put up in Lowell.

Ann Worthy would like to see a Cash Points atm in Lowell.

Terry Benson felt like he was not being treated fairly on code enforcement regarding a fallen tree in his yard. He requested code enforcement complaints from 1/2000 – 5/2018.

Mr. Gittens had concerns regarding a tree and trash on Martha Avenue.

Wells Eddleman read from his documents complaining about the Council and the new budget, etc.

Darryl Tate asked Council to also look into honoring Mike Keeter. He would also like to see 3 police officers hired.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Text Amendment to Section 8.1.11 of the UDO

- i. **Open Public Hearing**
Councilmember Ervin made a motion to go into Public Hearing, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie.
- ii. **Staff Report**
Kevin Krouse stated staff recommends making PRD's a conditional use once again. This is to ensure that the architectural standards are adhered to after the passing of HB 150 that restricts these standards to conditional uses or Multi Family developments. He also stated the Planning Board reviewed the matter at their meeting on May 7, 2018 and recommended that the text amendment be approved as proposed.
- iii. **Public Comment**
There were no public comments.
- iv. **Close Public Hearing**
Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to close the Public Hearing, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie.
- v. **Council Action**
Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the text amendment to Section 8.1.11 of the UDO, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from the April 9, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2018 regular council meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

B. Approval of Minutes from the April 28, 2018 Special Meeting

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2018 special meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment – Presenter Kevin Haney, Finance Officer

Kevin Haney presented the budget amendment to the FY 2017-2018 budget. Mr. Haney stated the administration, police and sanitation departments were over by a combined \$17,400 from what was originally budgeted. Also, the Water and Sewer Fund required more adjustment than the General Fund. Water revenues were adjusted downward slightly to take into account projected end-of-year figures that are less than originally budgeted. There was also a significant increase in Wastewater expenses to account for sludge disposal which cost more than anticipated.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the amended and restated budget ordinance for the FY 2017-2018 budget, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution to Commit Funds to Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning Grant Initiative

Kevin Krouse stated the City of Lowell has an agreement with NCDOT to accept the \$36,000 in grant funding to complete a Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant. The City of Lowell will incur a \$4,000 cost agreement for the plan bringing the total project cost to \$40,000.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to authorize the city manager to execute the agreement with NCDOT, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

C. Discussion and Possible Action to Formally Request NCDOT for an Updated Traffic Study of the Intersection of Main Street and First Street

Kevin Krouse stated at the last meeting, turn signals at the intersection of First and Main Street were brought up. Staff researched the item and found that the City Council requested a traffic study of this intersection in 2013. The NCDOT conducted the study and determined that no changes were justified due to traffic counts and crash data. Mr. Krouse stated staff is requesting direction on whether to submit another request to NCDOT to study the intersection again.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to direct the city manager to submit another traffic study request to NCDOT, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

D. Discussion and Possible Action in Support of Naming the Main Street Bridge after Vietnam MIA Veteran Larry Morrow

Councilmember Funderburk stated she had been in contact with Senator Harrington about the renaming of the bridge on North Main Street after a MIA Vietnam Vet Larry Morrow. Senator Harrington asked for a support letter from the City Manager expressing this request.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to authorize the city manager to draft the support letter, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

E. Set Public Hearing for June 11, 2018 for the Revised System Development Fee
Councilmember Ervin made a motion to set a Public Hearing for June 11, 2018 for the revised system development fee, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

F. Set Public Hearing for June 11, 2018 for the 2019 Municipal Budget
Kevin Krouse presented the 2019 Municipal Budget to Council and also stated the budget will be made available for review at City Hall beginning Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to set a Public Hearing for June 11, 2018 for the 2019 Municipal Budget, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

X. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney did not have anything new to report.

XI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager did not have anything new to report.

XII. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Chitwood stated he would like to invite Mr. Gittens to present his recycling proposal to Council at a regular meeting. He also stated he appreciated city employees.

Councilmember Ervin thanked the employees and Kevin Krouse for the work they have been doing. He assured the citizens there is no big conspiracy theory going on in Lowell. He stated the Councilmembers have been truthful and honest with citizens. Councilmember Ervin stated the rumors of Council giving away the water system is untrue and asked if anyone has a question or hears rumors to please call him directly. Councilmember Ervin stated he treats every citizen like his family and his dis-hearted with the rumor mills in Lowell.

Councilmember Funderburk thanked Kevin Krouse for the good job he is doing as City Manager. She stated she felt Mr. Krouse has the city's best interest at heart. She asked that if anyone puts flyers out into the community about the Council or staff to please get their facts together first. Councilmember Funderburk stated the Council did not have a hidden agenda or secret agendas. She thanked the police department for doing a good job.

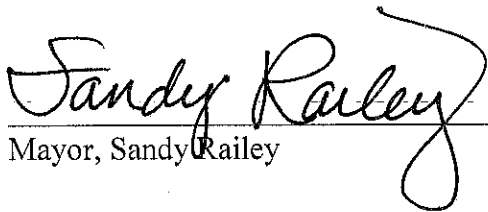
Councilmember Gillespie stated he was grateful for the assistance the City Attorney gave his nephew years ago. He was proud to announce his nephew graduated from the UNC School of Medicine on May 12.

Councilmember Bonham thanked Kevin Krouse for putting the budget together and he encouraged all of Council to look at it in detail. Councilmember Bonham stated there was no fat in the budget to trim.

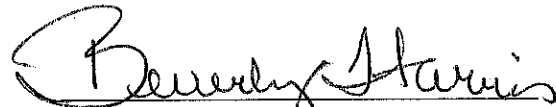
Mayor Railey thanked staff. Then she stated the way you get things done is you work together. If you work against each other you are moving backwards. She stated the Council has worked diligently with Kevin Krouse to accomplish what they need to accomplish for the City of Lowell. She stated past boards have done nothing and the City of Lowell has gone nowhere. She stated if the City of Lowell wants to move forward to please keep supporting them. She stated the Council is not trying to pull anything over the citizens eyes and reminded citizens that they live in Lowell too. The Mayor asked for citizens to understand that these increases in the proposed budget are necessary. She told citizens that when the leak happened at Exit 22 the City of Lowell could not get grants because the City of Lowell was not charging enough to qualify for grants. The Mayor stated the Council is working for the citizens and the city and they want to do the best they can for the citizens. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their input.

XIII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Chitwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 8:40pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris