

MINUTES

Lowell City Council
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 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 DeWayne Chitwood, Councilmember Thomas Gillespie, City Attorney Jim Windham, City Manager Kevin Krouse, City Clerk Beverly Harris, Police Chief Scott Bates, and various citizens. Councilmember Phil Bonham was absent.

II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Gillespie gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance. Everyone observed a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

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

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition of Officer Steve Ford on His Recent Retirement from the Lowell Police Dept.

Chief Bates presented the service side arm and badge to retired Police Officer Steve Ford. Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the Resolution retiring Officer Steve Ford's service side arm and badge, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Ervin paid the \$1.00 purchase price for the service side arm (Glock, Model 21, .45 Caliber, Serial Number BCDK818) to be permanently retired by the Lowell Police Department.

B. Recognition of Officer Ross Hoffman on His Promotion to Sergeant for the Lowell Police Dept.

Chief Bates recognized Officer Ross Hoffman on his promotion to Sergeant with the Lowell Police Department.

C. Welcoming of the New Recreation Director; Cristy Cummings

Kevin Krouse welcomed Cristy Cummings as the new Lowell Recreation Director. Cristy Cummings thanked everyone and gave updates on upcoming events for Lowell.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lakisha Williams requested the following items from the City (temporary power source, extra trash cans, grass mowed, sprayed for fire ants) for a neighborhood celebration to be held at the Joe Hudson park on October 20 11am-6pm.

John Branham also requested additional items for the neighborhood celebration to be held at the Joe Hudson park (grass to be mowed 20 feet back, pot hole fixed, water source, and restrooms).

Pam Smith asked for approval from the Council to proceed with planning for Octoberfest, Treat Walk, and the Light Up Lowell events. She was also asking the City to co-sponsor these events and provide lighting and security. Councilmember Funderburk made a motion for the City of Lowell to support these three events, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

John Cato inquired again about the bushes that need to be trimmed at the end of Mill Street.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – From the meeting August 13, 2018

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2018 regular Council meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Application – Amanda Whitaker to Present

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to go into Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Application, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

Amanda Whitaker of Withers Ravenel was present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing for the City of Lowell's CDBG-Neighborhood Revitalization Program funding application. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizen's views and to allow responses from the public to funding proposals and answer any questions posed by citizens. She stated the public hearing will cover the City's community development needs, development of the proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the City's CDBG-NRP funding application to the state of North Carolina.

Councilmember Gillespie asked how long home owners are committed to staying in the house after receiving the funding. Ms. Whitaker stated eight years.

Councilmember Funderburk asked if rental properties qualified for funding. Ms. Whitaker stated only if the renter and home owner both qualified but that was rare.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to go out of Public Hearing, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

(See Public Hearing Meeting script attached from Withers Ravenel template for more detail.)

B. PUBLIC HEARING: Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Application – Amanda Whitaker to Present

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to go into Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Application, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

Amanda Whitaker of Withers Ravenel was present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing for the City of Lowell's CDBG-I funding application. Amanda Whitaker stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to obtain citizen's views and to respond to funding proposals and answer any questions posed by citizens. Amanda Whitaker also stated that the public hearing must cover the City's community development needs, development of the proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the City's CDBG-I funding application to the state of North Carolina.

Ms. Whitaker stated the City of Lowell proposes requesting funding from NCDEQ'S CDBG-I program for the West First Street Neighborhood Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to close the Public Hearing, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

(See Public Hearing Meeting script attached from Withers Ravenel template for more detail.)

C. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT: Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit the Lowell Community Development Neighborhood Housing Project – Amanda Whitaker to Present

Amanda Whitaker with Withers Ravenel stated a Resolution of Support for the Community Development Neighborhood Housing Project would need to be approved by Council in order to start the grant application process.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

D. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT: Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Lowell Sewer Infrastructure Project – Amanda Whitaker to Present

Amanda Whitaker with Withers Ravenel stated a Resolution of Support for the Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Lowell Sewer Infrastructure Project would need to be approved by Council in order to start the grant application process.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

E. Approval of Minutes from the CDBG Public Hearings

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes from the CDBG public hearings, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

F. Information Regarding the Enforcement and Equipment Grants Through the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program – Officer Mark Corum to Present

Officer Mark Corum presented to Council information regarding the Enforcement and Equipment Grants through the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Councilmember Chitwood made a motion for the Lowell Police Department to start the process in trying to obtain the Enforcement and Equipment Grants through the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION in Support of the USDA Loan Application to Provide Funding for Water Meter Replacement Project

Kevin Krouse stated Council approval of the Resolution in Support of the USDA Loan Application to Provide Funding for Water Meter Replacement Project was a requirement to start the USDA Loan Application process.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

B. Action Needed to adopt the City of Lowell Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan (AMP) and subsequent updates and modifications made in accordance with CDBG guidelines through 2018.

Kevin Krouse stated to apply for the CDBG grant an Asset Management Plan is required. An asset management plan is a process water and wastewater utilities can use to make sure that planned maintenance can be conducted and capital assets (pumps, motors, pipes, etc.) can be repaired, replaced, or upgraded on time and that there is enough money to pay for it.

Mr. Krouse stated staff has worked with Withers and Ravenel to produce this plan. In order to submit the City's CDBG applications for the \$2,000,000 and \$750,000 Council needs to adopt the Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan (AMP) and subsequent updates and modifications made in accordance with the CDBG guidelines through 2018.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the Water and Sewer Asset Management (AMP) Plan, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

C. Budget Amendment Request: Discussion and Possible Action to Implement Managers Proposal of Increased Police Officer Salaries for Retainment and Recruitment

Kevin Krouse stated in order for the City of Lowell to be competitive with other Gaston County towns and to help with filling the current police officer positions, he was recommending an increase of approximately \$3,000 per officer. Mr. Krouse recommended if passed the salary increase would be effective immediately.

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment #2 for Budget Ordinance FY 18-19 increasing the police salary increases, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

D. Recycling Update and Proposal from Staff – Thomas Shrewsbury to Present

Thomas Shrewsbury presented two options for recycling. He stated he had received prices from Waste Management and Republic Services. He stated Waste Management came in as the lowest bidder.

The first option would be having three containers at two locations like before without the staffed position to monitor use for \$55,000 with Waste Management.

Staff recommends the second option with Waste Management by having a secure and staffed location at Harold Rankin Park only. Two containers open six hours per day, three days per week. The recommended annual budget would be \$39,000.

Councilmember Chitwood made a motion to approve the second option presented with security and a staffed location at Harold Rankin Park only, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

E. Master Planning Committee Bylaws and Name Change – Martha Burris to Present

Martha Burris stated the Master Planning Committee was created in 2014 as a Council appointed committee. Ms. Burris gave Council an overview of the committee's purpose and a brief history on what has been accomplished. Ms. Burris stated she is presenting Council with by-laws for Council review and also recommended a committee name change from Master Planning Committee to Community Improvement Advisory Committee.

Ms. Burris stated the by-laws and name change have already been approved by the committee and this was being presented for review at this time and the Council could consider taking action at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to accept the proposal for review and will place it on the October agenda, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

F. Discussion of Proposed Outdoor Christmas Vendor Ordinance – Beverly Harris to Present

Beverly Harris presented a Temporary Vendors Prohibited During December Ordinance for review to Council. She stated during the McAdenville Christmas lights traffic is usually a concern. Staff has experienced a growing request for sidewalk and residential yard vendors either selling or giving away items during this occurrence. The police department has expressed concern as these activities can disrupt the flow of traffic and cause pedestrian safety issues.

Ms. Harris received an ordinance passed by McAdenville to control the same activities in their city. She stated the ordinance is being proposed for consideration at this time. Advisement can be given from Council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to accept the ordinance for review and will have this item added to the October agenda, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

IX. ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND CONVENE HOUSING SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting and convene the Housing Selection Committee meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

A. Adoption of Committee By-Laws

Amanda Whitaker with Withers Ravenel presented the Housing Selection Committee By-Laws for approval.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adopt the Housing Selection Committee By-Laws, followed by a second from Councilmember Chitwood. The vote was unanimous.

X. ADJOURN HOUSING SELECTION COMMITTEE AND CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn the Housing Selection Committee meeting and convene the City Council meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

XI. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney had nothing new to report.

XII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager gave Council and citizens updates on the following items:

- Grand Marshall selection for the Christmas parade should be selected by Council and to start thinking about it to be placed on a future agenda.
- New website update. Work in progress.
- Altitude Trampoline Park coming soon in Fall 2018.
- Echo Park has changed plans on their car dealership and have decided to move their corporate offices to the space at Exit 22.
- Washington Alloy will be moving into the old Bryant Supply building as a distribution site. Bringing 25 new jobs to Lowell.
- Hurricane Florence updates can be found at Ready.Gov

XIII. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

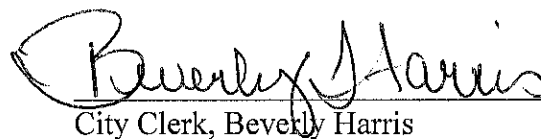
Councilmember Funderburk reminded City Manager about the Larry Morrow bridge naming article. Councilmember Gillespie thanked Kevin Krouse and the Police Department for their work on grants. Councilmember Ervin thanked Council for cooperating and working together. Mayor Railey thanked all citizens for coming to the meeting.

XIV. 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 9:15 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris