

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. by Vice-President John Yelkich. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Michael Gruszka, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. President Angerman was absent. Also present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestman, Town Attorney David Westland via Zoom, and eleven interested citizen present and four via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Alessia made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and work session from October 11th, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with four ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vice-President Yelkich stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #11162 - #11217, White-Police #6147 - #6151, Water #2801 - #2831, Waste Water #4466- #4688, and Stormwater Utility #7114 - #7119 . Councilman Gruszka moved to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

1st reading - Ordinance #2021-28 - Lake County Trust/Lennar Homes Annexation - 152.18 Acres - Councilman Gruszka asked for the location of the annexation. The property is located on Cline Avenue south of Meadowbrook. The petitioner had provided a concept plan of the type of homes that would be built at the last plan commission meeting. Councilman Gruszka asked if they would tie into Medowbrook, because he has been talking to them about police patrol in their private subdivision. Town Manager Hendrix stated no, there may be a access south of Carriage Crossing. Councilman Gruszka moved to hold Ordinance #2021-28 aside for a second reading and set a Public Hearing for November 8th, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes.

Resolution #2021-18 - Transfer of Funds within Police and Park Fund - Councilman Alessia moved to approve Resolution #2021-18, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Act on Notice to Proceed and approve contract - WWTP UV Disinfection Replacement

Austgen Electric - \$324,607.00 - Councilman Gruszka moved to approve the contract with Austgen Election in the amount of \$324,607, and issue Notice to Proceed, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Tabled from previous meetings:

03/22 - Contract with Lake County Sheriff's Department for animal control service -

04/26 - Propose a Community Garden

Councilman Alessia moved these items remain tabled, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with four ayes.

10/11 - Acceptance of Letter of Credit - \$385,000 - Beverly Estates II, Unit 1 - This item had been tabled at the last meeting because the correct information had not been provided for the letter of credit. The new letter of credits submitted are \$286,750.00 for performance of the lift station and as-builts, and maintenance letter of credit in the amount of \$345,728.75 for the purpose of insuring proper maintenance of public utilities and roadway improvements. Councilman Gruszka asked why the difference from what was tabled. It was explained the right information was not provided at the last meeting and these are for performance and maintenance so they can begin construction. Councilman Alessia moved to approve the Letter of Credit in the amount of \$286,750, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Alessia moved to approve the Letter of Credit in the amount of \$345,728, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept Cash Letter of Credit - \$1,675,011.13 -Performance - Sierra Ridge, Unit 2, Phase 2 - Mr. Hendrix stated this is a cash letter of credit and will be held until infrastructure is completed. Councilman Alessia moved to accept the Letter of Credit from Sierra Ridge in the amount of \$1,675,011.13, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with four ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice- President Yelkich announced the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 8th at 7:00 P.M.

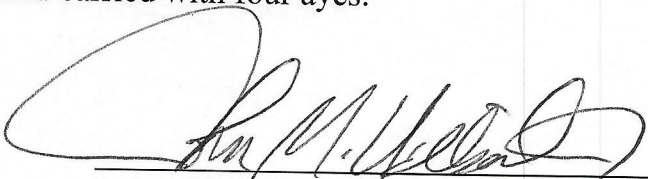
MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joeilynn Townsley, Broadway Avenue, stated that she was speaking for the entire community and said they are very disappointed that the Parade of Lights is not going to happen. She stated the Labor Day Committee has joined with the Chamber of Commerce to bring Winterfest to town. She stated she understood that the Park Department is gone, as she was told the employee resigned this morning. Councilman Gruszka stated he wanted to see the Parade of Lights happen also, but said we have lost 12 employees in the

last few months and we just are too short staff to do for 2021, but hoped to have back in 2023. We are still planning to have Santa on the fire truck going around town. Ms. Townsley said she heard they had lost another employee and asked how they are going to continue to do programs and asked if that was a Town Council or Town Manager decision. Councilman Yelkich stated the part-time employee has resigned, and said she had been hired in the interim until they decide what to do with the position for what is planned at Liberty Park. Ms. Townsley stated they received more money from the Lion's Club and Rotary than from the town. Councilman Yelkich explained the Town is short staffed at this time because we are waiting for the completion of the water sale to American Water. When that is complete, we will address our staffing issue. He stated the Town cannot just give taxpayer money away, and that is what the Rotary and Lion's Club exist for is to help non-profit organizations. Discussion followed. Ms. Townsley asked when they could sit down with Council members and get answer to their questions. Town Manager Hendrix stated we do not respond to comments on Facebook, and stated the Town has a new website. Michelle Dumbsky, Cline Avenue, said the Town should respond to Facebook because she said there is where you know where the community stands. She stated Cedar Lake and Crown Point is adding program and Lowell is taking away and is going to lose the community. Will Farrellbegg, Illinois Street, said that they should not expect the Town Council to pay for everything. Deanna Sutton, W. 165th Avenue, stated we are not asking the Town to pay for anything but stated as a community organization they are willing to help. She stated if there are other programs that are not going to happen they would like to be informed so that maybe they could sponsor. Town Manager Hendrix stated that nobody has said the parade is gone forever, we are going to re-evaluate the programs and hopefully things will go back to normal. Ms. Sutton stated she is concerned that some programs will not come back. Councilman Gruszka offered to meet with citizens after the meeting for additional input.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business, Councilman Alessia made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 P.M., seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with four ayes.



John Yelkich, Vice-President

Attest:



Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer