

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. by Vice-President Michael Gruszka. 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 Todd Angerman was absent. Also present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief James Woestman, Town Attorney David Westland, GIS Director Greg White, one member of the press, and seven interested citizens.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - February 2022

Councilman Alessia made a motion to approve the February 2022 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Tucker made a motion to approve the regular meeting and work session minutes from February 28<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Vice-President Gruszka stated that President Angerman had reviewed the following vouchers: White Vouchers #10230 - #10284, White-Police #1033 - #1047, Water #2107 - #2135, Waste Water #4123- #4162, and Stormwater Utility #6021 - #6027. Councilman Yelkich made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS**

Letter of Resignation from Rebuilding Together - South County - Susan Peterson had submitted a letter from the Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together. She stated she had been a member since 2002 and it was extremely rewarding experience. Councilman Alessia moved to accept the letter of resignation, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes. A new appointment will need to be made and Town Manager Hendrix stated he was planning to appoint Building Administrator Tim Henke.

## **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

1<sup>st</sup> reading - Ordinance #2022-05 - amending Chapter 155.080(E)(2) changing date for recreational vehicles to be permitted in front of setback between April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> - Councilman Alessia moved to hold Ordinance #2022-05 aside for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Alessia moved to suspend the rules to hold second reading, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes. Councilman Alessia moved to adopt Ordinance #2022-05 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Tucker moved to put the rules back in order, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried.

1<sup>st</sup> reading - Ordinance #2022-06 - PO Grant Additional Appropriation - \$7,844.46 - Councilman Tucker moved to hold Ordinance #2022-06 aside for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Tabled from previous meeting -

03/22/21 - Contract with Lake County Sheriff's Department

04/26/21 - Propose a Community Garden

11/0//21 - Enter into professional agreement with Etica Group.

02/28/22 - Approve agreement with SEH for design services for Liberty Park Improvement - \$397,000

Councilman Alessia moved to remove the items contract with Lake County Sheriff's Department and propose Community Garden from the agenda, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

The agreement with Etica Group will remain tabled.

Councilman Yelkich moved to untable the agreement with SEH for design services for Liberty Park Improvement in the amount of \$397,000, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Councilman Tucker moved to accept the agreement with SEH for design services for the proposed Liberty Park improvements in the amount of \$397,000, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Act on Task Order #11 with Wessler Engineering - West Side Sewer Extension Design & Bid - \$183,500 - Councilman Alessia moved to accept Task Order #11 in the amount of \$183,500., seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-President Gruszka announced the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 28th at 7:00 P.M.

## **MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chuck Abraham, Lowell Tribune, asked for copies of the ordinances approved and asked what the PO Grant was for. Clerk Treasurer Judy Walters explained that amount is being reimbursed for police officers working the DUI grants and is be re-appropriated. He also asked about the design work being done by SEH. Town Manager Hendrix stated the contract will begin the process for improvements at Liberty Park with hope to start bidding out the project in the fall. He stated it may be done in phases.

Mattie Stonebraker, 533 Timberlake, representing her parents Art & Chris Haberlin of 1308 Hilltop, on the sewer back-up of 22 inches that occurred in their basement on February 8<sup>th</sup>, asked about a solution moving forward to the problem that they presented at the last regular meeting. She went on to explain that they currently have two pit meters, four sump pumps, a generator and have hired a company to address the issue of water in front of their house. Ms. Stonebraker stated they had \$24,000 loss in damages and didn't want to spend an additional \$13,000 if it is going to happen again. She stated her parents are doing their part to make improvements but wanted to know what the town is doing. Mr. Hendrix stated the Town did surveying on Friday for a short-term solution to pump the stormwater directly to the manhole. Mr. Haberlin was concerned putting into manhole when it is full is too much pressure and would have no where to go. He stated the sanitary sewer should not be filled with water. Discussion followed. Vice-President Gruszka stated they have the same problem in Indian Heights and are trying to find short term solutions because that is all we can do right now. Ms. Stonebraker stated they feel that no one has come to look at it and have even heard in the past the suggestion to build a berm round their yard. Mr. Hendrix stated the sewer crew has been out with the sewer camera and both Rich Oman and Tim Henke have been out. Ms. Stonebraker asked if they could see the footage from when the sewer was cleaned last August and she was told yes. She asked if an 8 inch pipe was large enough for the area, and Mr. Hendrix said that is for sanitary there was no storm sewer designed when the subdivision was built in the 1960's. Mr. Hendrix said the long term solution is to install storm drains and have all the houses disconnect their gutter drain from their sump pump., but that is a millions of dollar project and said the Stormwater Drainage Board is working on improvements but it is going to take time. Mr. Hendrix said he had been here two years and

never heard the berm solution, and said there is a check valve on the house for a reason and the sewer got in because it didn't work properly. He said they would have still gotten water because of the volume of water due to the rain and thawing, and that is why they are recommending the floor drain to the manhole. Mr. Hendrix spoke of improvements being made in the Indian Heights neighborhood over the last two years to alleviate some problems without spending a lot of money. Councilman Alessia commented citizens have to support stormsewer improvements because it will be an increase in rates. Mr. Hendrix said they will be tracking the storm sewers this summer to look at long term solutions. Mr. Hendrix stated Mr. Henke and Mr. Oman will be contacting the Haberlin's about the proposed temporary solution.

Rene Luca, 171<sup>st</sup> Avenue, inquired about 171st Avenue and the damage to the road from Saco trucks and the smashed culvert this is not working and spoke about the puddle that sits on the road and causes ice on the road. Town Manager Hendrix stated they are formulating a plan and will be contacting the owner for improvements on their private property.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

No further business, Councilman Alessia made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 P.M., seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes.

  
Michael Gruszka, Vice- President

Attest:

  
Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer