

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
AUGUST 8, 2022

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., by President Todd Angerman. Members present were John Alessia, Todd Angerman, Mike Gruszka, and John Yelkich. Councilman Shane Tucker arrived at 6:10 P.M. Also present were Deputy Jill Murr, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Town Attorney David Westland via Zoom, GIS Director Greg White, and Police Chief Jim Woestman. The purpose of the work session was general town business.

Reclassification of Washington Street - Town Manager Craig Hendrix explained the classification of roadways and the purpose of reclassifying roadways. The reclassification of Washington Street would make it eligible for Federal funding for roadway reconstruction which could include stormwater infrastructure, sanitary improvements, roadway, curbs, and sidewalks. Future plans include redevelopment and park improvements and the extension of the TIF district. He explained a reconstruction project for Washington Street and Mill Street. There is federal dollars coming to states for projects. This is an agenda item for consideration.

Councilman John Alessia inquired on the installation of sidewalks on Burr street heading north. Mr. Hendrix stated that there is a sidewalk fund and a curb fund. Discussion on sidewalks included Nichols. Mr. Hendrix stated that when Nichols is scheduled for repaving sidewalks could be installed locally. Discussion occurred on the Lump parcel and if there was an interest in selling and Mr. Hendrix explained the process of selling a Town owned parcel and noted that the Council should consider what they want there. Councilman Mike Gruszka noted he received a call on the Costas parcel. There was discussion on the potential for this parcel as well as other parcels in the area including the Centier parcel. Mr. Hendrix stated that a developer would put a development plan together; the town does not need to acquire the parcels. The areas zoning should be Town Center.

Liberty Park discussion included status on the White Foundation on matching funds; Mr. Hendrix will check on this. Mr. Hendrix reported that SEH is working on the design and should be coming to them soon. Funding on this project will make the difference.

Evergreen Sign - Mr. Hendrix presented a design for the Evergreen Park sign with a digital message board. The message board would be for town and community messages. The sign would include a plaque honoring the woman who left the endowment. This sign will match other signs for the parks. The cost is \$73,745 with \$50,000 coming from the endowment. This is an agenda item for consideration.

Legion donation - Town Manager Hendrix stated that the Legion requested assistance with the potholes along the side of the building before the Labor Day Festival. Mr. Hendrix stated that perhaps next year there could be a grant from the RDC for parking lot renovations in exchange for an easement to get to the South lot. The alleyway is not owned by the Town. This would be good to get on the town's INDOT roadway inventory. Councilman John Alessia inquired if we could use the funds returned to the town from the fire department; Mr. Hendrix stated those funds could be used for the sign at Evergreen Park. Community relations funds could be used for the Legion and he requested a commitment of a not to exceed \$1,500 for the Legion. This is an agenda item for consideration.

Water Proceeds Investment Status - Mr. Hendrix reported that there will be three interviews tomorrow with American Community, Centier and Wells Fargo. Two are scheduled for next week Tuesday with TCU (Teachers Credit Union) and Peoples Bank. Demotte and Tech Credit Union can not participate and Chase (JP Morgan) noted they can not as they are not financial advisors. The Committee hopes to wrap up next week and bring a recommendation for the next meeting.

Sanitary Rate Update - A handout was previously provided by Krohn on why a rate increase is needed and how it works. Mr. Hendrix noted that Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters has put the public hearing information on the utility bills as well as publishing it in the newspaper. Mr. Hendrix would like to publish the handout on the Town's website. The public hearing will be at the next meeting. Councilman Todd Angerman stated that Hobart's rate is at \$54.35 and their increase will be \$60.47 and in two years \$66.58. We are at \$39.90 in Phase 1 to \$51.40 in Phase 3. He noted that their waste is sent to Gary. Cedar Lake's rate is a flat rate of \$48 which has been in effect since 1999. Mr. Hendrix noted the needs at the plant. The liner at the EQ basin, which we were fined for, as well as expansion that is necessary. The biological demand is close. The basin will be more stormwater. An expansion from 4 to 6 is possible.

Other topics - Councilman Mike Gruszka referenced emails/letters from Todd Rokita explaining what the Town might receive in the Opioid settlement. Mr. Hendrix noted that he has finalized the amendment and schedule to the long term control plan and will email a copy to Councilman Todd Angerman. A hard copy will need to be signed. There will be a one-year reporting requirement. Mr. Hendrix stated that the operations plan is from the agreed order.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

  
Todd Angerman, President

Attest:  
  
Jill Murr, Deputy Clerk