LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2023

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. by President Todd Angerman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Todd Angerman, Michael Gruszka, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Also present were Police Chief James Woestman, GIS Director Greg White, Fire Chief Chris Gamblin, and Town Attorney David Westland Also present were one member of the press, and five interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Gruszka made a motion to approve the regular meeting and work session minutes from February 13th, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Angerman stated he had reviewed the following vouchers: White Vouchers #10174 - #10222, White- Police - #1023-#1034, Water #2002-#2003, Waste Water #4126- #4162, and Stormwater Utility #6016 - #6025. Councilman Yelkich made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance #2023-01 - Concerning the Investment of Proceeds Received from the Sale of a Capital Asset - Water Utility - Councilman Gruszka moved to hold Ordinance #2023-01 for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Gruszka moved to suspend the rules and hold second reading immediately, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes. The second reading of Ordinance #2023-01, Concerning the Investment of Proceeds Received from the Sale of a Capital Asset from the Water Utility, was adopted on motion by Councilman Gruszka, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with five ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Alessia moved to put the rules back in order, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WWTP Improvements - Approve Pay Request #6 to Bowen Engineering - \$110,652.00 less retainage and approve WW Voucher #4159 to Bowen Engineering - \$105,119.40 - Councilman Alessia moved to approve Pay Request #6 and WW Voucher #4159 to Bowen Engineering, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve agreement with Donald Woodard - WWTP Consulting - A two year agreement for \$95,000 annually with Donald Woodard, an independent contractor as Director of Wastewater Treatment Plant, was approved on motion by Councilman Gruszka, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes.

Approve agreement with SEH - Stormwater consulting - An agreement for \$3800 for stormwater MS4 calculation fees with SEH Engineering, was approved on motion by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Approve agreement with DLZ - Union Street Improvements - An agreement with DLZ in the amount of \$93,200 for Union Street Roadway Improvements was approved on motion by Councilman Gruszka, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Notice of Nondiscrimination Statement - Clerk-Treasurer Judy Walters reported that per Town Manager Craig Hendrix the Town has complied with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination annually be publishing a notice and reaffirming its commitment of nondiscrimination. Councilman Yelkich moved to approve the annual statement, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Angerman announced the next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chuck Abraham, Lowell Tribune, asked for a copy of the Ordinance for Capital Investment Policy.

Ryan Denton, 8208 171st Avenue, asked the Council if they would reconsider the Ordinance that prohibits golf carts in town. Mr. Denton had ordinances from other communities that does allow them on public streets. He asked to look at their ideas and come up with an ordinance for Lowell.

Councilman Alessia said he would be concerned about the safety of the kids and use on Route 2. Councilman Yelkich said he has a business in Hobart and is amazed there hasn't been a serious accident because of the way they drive golf carts. He also was concerned about the burden it would place on the Police Department to enforce. Attorney Westland stated the issue came up in 2016 and then again in 2020 when the ordinance was enacted for only public safety use. Councilman Gruszka stated he had always been in favor of, but had changed his view when he sees how 14-15 year olds are driving and what could happen. Councilman Alessia asked Chief Woestman to reach out to Cedar Lake and Hebron and see how difficult it is to enforce. President Angerman said in Crown Point, golf carts are only allowed if in a subdivision where there is a golf course. Discussion followed about allowing only on streets 25 mph or less, only licensed drivers and they have to be insurance and registered. Council agreed they could discuss further at an upcoming work session.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business, Councilman Gruszka made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 P.M., seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with five ayes.

Todd Angerman, President

Attest:

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer