

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. by President Todd Angerman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Deputy Clerk Jill Murr called the roll. Members present were Todd Angerman, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Also present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestman, and GIS Director Greg White. Also present was one member of the press and three interested citizens. Town Attorney David Westland was present via Zoom. Member Michael Gruszka was absent.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 2023**

Councilman Alessia made a motion to motion to retain Todd Angerman as President in 2023, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Tucker made a motion to retain Councilman Gruszka as Vice-President in 2023, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - December 2022**

Councilman Alessia made a motion to approve the December 2022 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Tucker made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 27, 2022, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Angerman stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #10000 - #10027 and #11458 -11471, White-Police #1000 - #1004, Water #2324 – 2326, Waste Water #4000-4040 and #4947-4981, and Stormwater Utility #6000 and #6171-6172. Councilman Yelkich made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Tucker, and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

WWTP Improvements – Motion by Councilman Alessia to approve Pay Request #4 – Bowen Engineering for \$318,558.00 less 5% retainage and approve Waste Water Voucher #4039 to Bowen Engineering for \$302,630.10, seconded by Councilman

Tucker, and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Tabled from previous meeting -

11/28/22-Resolution #2022-15 Investment Policy Statement

12/12/22-Act on recommendation from BZA – Variance of Use – 106 E. Main St.  
Councilman Tucker moved to have the items remain tabled, seconded by Councilman Yelkich, and carried with four ayes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Appointment of Legal Counsel for 2023- Councilman Alessia made a motion to retain Westland & Bennett, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

The following board/commission appointments and representatives were retained on a motion by Councilman Alessia, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes:

Board Representatives:

Board of Finance - Todd Angerman and Judy Walters; Lake County Solid Waste District - John Yelkich; Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission - John Yelkich; Freedom Park Committee - John Alessia and Dorothy Eich; Fire Department Liaison - Mike Gruszka; JMOB - Mike Gruszka and John Yelkich; Shared Ethics Committee - John Yelkich; Ambulance Board - Todd Angerman.

Emergency Management Director - Mr. Hendrix stated that this alternates each year. This year will be the fire department. Councilman Tucker moved to appoint Fire Chief as Director, seconded by Councilman Yelkich, and carried with four ayes.

The following appointments were retained the same for 2023 on motion by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Gruszka and carried with five ayes on roll call vote:

Plan Commission - Town Council appointments - John Alessia, Shane Tucker, Greg White; Citizen appointment – John Gruszka (four-year term); BZA appointment – Ben Clemens (four-year term), Police Commission – Sharon Patterson (3-year term); EDC - remains vacant; Historic Preservation Board – Susan Riley (3-year term); Redevelopment Commission - Shane Tucker, Todd Angerman, John Yelkich, Michael Gruszka, and John Alessia. Mr. Hendrix stated that they will come back on the Stormwater Board.

Permission to invest excess funds during 2023 - Councilman Tucker made a motion to approve the request to allow Clerk-Treasurer to invest excess funds, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on voice vote.

Set Lowell Tribune/Hoosier Media - publication requirement - Councilman Yelkich made a motion to approve Lowell Tribune/Hoosier Media, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on voice vote.

Appoint committee to disburse 2022 hotel/motel tax funds and set deadline for requests - Councilman Tucker made a motion to set the deadline as March 31, 2023, and retain the same committee of Clerk Treasurer Judy Walters, Councilman Mike Gruszka, and Councilman John Yelkich, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes on voice vote.

Approve 2022 Encumbrances into 2023 Budget - Councilman Yelkich made a motion to table this item, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on voice vote.

Enter into 2023 firefighting agreement with Lowell Volunteer Fire Department - Councilman Tucker made a motion to enter into agreement, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Request donation - Three Creek Historical Association - President Angerman stated the donation is used to pay the water bill at Halsted House. Councilman Alessia made a motion to approve the same donation requested in 2022, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Angerman announced the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

### **MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**


Chuck Abraham, Lowell Tribune, requested a copy of the appointments for 2023.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

No further business, Councilman Alessia made a motion to adjourn at 7:17 P.M., seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes.

Attest:

  
Jill Murr, Deputy Clerk

  
Todd Angerman, President