

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, September 27, 2021 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, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Councilman Gruszka was absent. Also present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestman, Town Attorney David Westland Via Zoom, Financial Consultant Corby Thompson from Krohn & Associates, one member of the press and nine interested citizen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Angerman stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #11060 - #11112, White-Police #6143 - #6144, Water #2715 - #2745, Waste Water #4610- #4632, and Stormwater Utility #7107 - #7109. Councilman Tucker moved to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

2nd reading - Ordinance #2021-24 - Additional Appropriation - PO Grant - \$9,120.34 - Councilman Alessia moved to adopt Ordinance #2021-24 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

2nd reading - Ordinance #2021-25 - create GO Bond Construction Fund - The fund was being created to move the funds from the Bond & Interest Fund to a Construction Fund as recommended by Department of Local Government Finance. The funds are for the Liberty Park project and have not been spent and this will ensure a levy for our Debt Fund. Councilman Yelkich moved to adopt Ordinance #2021-25 by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

1st reading - Ordinance #2021-27 - 2022 Budget & Tax Rate - A budget of all funds was advertised at \$8,101,972; with a maximum estimated funds to be raised with tax levies of \$4,163,213; and including a levy appeal for three growth factor of \$37,468.

Corby Thompson of Krohn & Associates, gave a presentation of the revenues to be anticipated, and the appropriations included in the budget. A 3% cost of living

adjustment was included for all Town Staff, an additional police officer and other lines items in salaries were adjusted for the re-allocation due to the potential sale of the water utility. He reviewed the M.V.H., CEDIT, and LOIT Funds, and stated that CCD budget was increased by appropriating cash available for capital projects if needed. It was noted other appropriations are substantially the same as budgeted in 2021. The Park budget was lowered due to the elimination of the Superintendent position for 2022, and the Debt Fund was appropriated per the amortization schedules. Mr. Thompson stated the Town qualified for a three year growth appeal to make up for the gap in loss levy and stated it is a permanent increase of \$37,458 to the maximum levy. The current tax rate for the town should remain the same. President Angerman opened the Public Hearing. One question was asked about the budget for public to review and they were told it was available on town website. No further comments, the public hearing was closed. Councilman Tucker moved to hold Ordinance #2021-27 aside for a second reading at the adoption hearing of October 11th, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tabled from previous meetings:

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

04/26 - Propose a Community Garden

09/13 - Appointment to B.Z.A. - Councilman Alessia moved to untable the appointment to BZA, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes.

Councilman Tucker moved to appoint Ben Clemens, to a term to expire December 31, 2022, to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize President to enter into donation agreement with INDOT - SR2 Paving Project
Town Manager Hendrix stated there are two small parcels owned by the Town that INDOT needs to acquire to do the State Road Resurfacing Project in 2022 to refigure ADA ramps. He stated it is good practice to donate the property since the improvement is benefitting the town. Councilman Alessia moved to authorize President Angerman to sign the agreement when received, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Appoint Committee to review Investment Options from Sale of Water Utility -
Councilman Alessia moved to appoint Councilman John Yelkich, Councilman Mike Gruszka, and Clerk-Treasurer Judy Walters. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS

Presentation of Labor Day Parade Winners - Labor Day Parade Chairwoman Susan Peterson presented trophies to the following winners of the 102nd annual Labor Day

Parade - 3rd Place - Anytime Fitness - 2nd Place - Carpenters Local 599 - and 1st place Winner - Mi-Ranchito/My Little Ranch . She thanked Councilman Gruszka and Councilman Yelkich for judging, and Councilman Alessia for announcing the parade this year. Councilman Alessia thanked her for all her work on the parade.

President Angerman presented a plaque that had been received from the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department for the town council support of their Fall Flannel Fest.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Angerman announced the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 11th at 7:00 P.M.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

No further business, Councilman Alessia made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 P.M., seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes.



Todd Angerman, President

Attest:



Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer