

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:02 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 John Alessia, Todd Angerman, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Councilman Michael Gruszka was absent. Also present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief James Woestman, GIS Director Greg White, Fire Chief Chris Gamblin, and Town Attorney David Westland. Also present were five interested citizens present, and two via Zoom., and Corby Thompson of Krohn & Associates via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Tucker made a motion to approve the regular meeting and work session minutes from September 11th, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Angerman stated he had reviewed the vouchers and asked approval of the following: White Vouchers #11064 - #11121- \$ 455,056.53, Police - #1125-#1126 - \$ 362.80, Waste Water #4749- #4774- \$ 100,027.38, and Stormwater Utility #6143 - #6147 - \$ 9,730.89. Councilman Alessia made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

1st reading - Ordinance #2023-15 - 2024 Budget & Tax Rate - Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters had presented a budget for a total of all tax levy funds of \$7,820,751., after reviewing with Town Manager Hendrix and Council President Angerman and Councilman Yelkich. The proposed budget includes line items increased due to usages per insurance, utilities, etc., and includes a full-time clerical position at the Police department, and a full time Street Department employee and administrative assistant, and part-time clerical position in building department. The park fund was increased to begin phasing in positions needed in the Park Department by 2025. All other non-taxing funds were budgeted based on cash on hand or proposed funds for 2024. Corby Thompson, Krohn & Associates, reviewed operating balance of funds and stated most revenues are allocation control by the state. He reviewed the three year growth appeal and proposed debt service levy to reestablish the levy required for town services and capital needs. Since the Town assessed value increased by 28%, the Town was entitled to a growth appeal of \$380,000 that will mainly be used for personnel needs for staff and wages and increase in health insurance costs. Mr. Thompson explained the current debt that is falling off this year is being replaced with a \$4,000,000 debt that will be used for the park project. He explained the tax rate that dropped approximately 25 cents from 2018 to 2023 is being reestablished to the tax rate of .75-.82 cents, lower than the 2018 tax rate of .89. He reviewed the historical net assessed valuation and tax rates for the Town from 2018 to proposed 2024. President Angerman asked if the budget would be approved as is, and Mr. Thompson said that he has

already ran the numbers and didn't see anything the Department of Local Government Finance wouldn't approve. President Angerman opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments the hearing was closed. Councilman Yelkich moved to hold Ordinance #2023-15, 2024 Budget & Tax Rate, for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

1st & 2nd reading - Ordinance #2023-16-additional appropriation - PO Grant - \$20,242.05. Councilman Alessia moved to hold over Ordinance #2023-16, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Alessia moved to set the rules aside and hold 2nd reading, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes. Councilman Tucker moved to adopt Ordinance #2023-16, additional appropriation-PO Grant, by name and title only, seconded by Councilman Yelkich, and carried with four ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Alessia moved to put the rules back in order, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes.

1st reading - Ordinance #2023-17 - General Obligation Bond Ordinance - An Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds to provide funds to be applied to the costs of design, construction, renovation, improvement and/or equipping of certain capital projects (Nassau Park) within the Town of Lowell - Set Public Hearing for October 9th meeting - Councilman Yelkich moved to hold Ordinance #2023-17 for a second reading and set the Public Hearing for October 9th, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

1st reading - Ordinance #2023-18 - GO Bond Additional Apprprriation - \$4,000,000 - Town Manager Hendrix stated this is to appropriate the funds from the bond sale for the Nassau Park construction. He stated the original intent was to use funds from the sale of the water utility for the park renovation but the project was flipped and the water sale proceeds will now be used for the community crossing grant matching funds over the next few years. Councilman Yelkich said this will allow the town to earn more on their water sale investment funds and build more capital. Councilman Yelkich moved to hold Ordinance #2023-18 aside for a second reading, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Resolution #2023-07 - Transfer of Funds withing the Park Fund and Stormwater Fund - Councilman Yelkich moved to approve Resolution #2023-07, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WWTP Improvement Project - Generator - Approve Pay Request #8 to Sweney Electric - \$12,492.00 less retainage and approve Sewer Voucher #4772 - \$11,242.80 - Councilman Alessia moved to approve Pay Request #8 to Sweney Electric and approve Sewer Voucher #4772 - \$11,242.80, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

CCMG 2022-2 Approve Change Order #1 - Milestone Contractors - \$26,091.91 deduct due to adjust quantities - Town Manager Hendrix explained the change order adjusts the planned quantities to match the installed quantities. Councilman Tucker moved to approve Change Order #1 to Milestone, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Tabled from previous meeting -
8/14 - Appointment to Police Commission - Councilman Yelkich moved to untable the item, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes. Councilman Tucker moved to appoint Lori Sanfratello to the Police Commission for a term that expires on December 31st, seconded by Councilman Yelkich. The motion carried with three ayes, one abstention. Councilman Alessia abstaining.

Added to agenda -
Approve Change Order #04 - Bowen Engineering - \$1,597.00 - The change order was reviewed during the work session, which includes reduced costs for elimination of work that included replacement of 8" EQ basin drain pipe outside the existing meter vault at the headworks due to the high cost of dewatering required, but included controls and other electrical items to control pumps for a difference of \$1,597. Councilman Alessia moved to approve Change Order #4 to Bowen Engineering, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Enter into professional agreement - Stifel Public Finance for GO Bonds - \$20,000 - Councilman Yelkich moved to enter into agreement with Stifel Public Finance, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

Enter into agreement with DLZ -
Task Order No. 6 - Washington Street Reconstruction/Liberty Street Reconstruction/ Demolition of 108 N. Clark Street/Parking Lot 248 Liberty Street - \$295,700 and Task Order No. 7 - Cedar Creek Sewer Crossing Replacement - \$37,800.00 - The task orders were reviewed during the work session. Councilman Alessia moved to approve Task Order #6 and #7 with DLZ Engineering, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Angerman announced the next regular meeting will be held Monday, October 9, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stacy Brown, 511 Timber Lake Drive, asked if there was any additional information on the Freedom Trail Project. Town Manger Hendrix responded the comments on the environmental hearing are being put together by the consultant and they have 30 days from the comment period of September 6th to get to INDOT. He stated when they receive a response from INDOT it will be placed on the town website.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business, Councilman Yelkich made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 P.M., seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with four ayes.



Todd Angerman, President

Attest:



Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer