

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. by President Todd Angerman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Jill Murr called the roll. Members present were Todd Angerman, John Alessia, Michael Gruszka, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Staff present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestman, GIS Director Greg White, Building Administrator Tim Henke and Town Attorney Nicole Bennett. Also, present was one member of the press and six interested citizens.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 2024

Councilman Gruszka made a motion to motion to retain Todd Angerman as President in 2024, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes on roll call vote. Councilman Tucker made a motion to retain Councilman Gruszka as Vice-President in 2024, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT - December 2023

Councilman Yelkich made a motion to approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Alessia made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 27, 2023, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with five ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Angerman stated he had reviewed White Vouchers #11533 - #11576, White-Police #1166 - #1171, Waste Water #5015- #5060, and Stormwater Utility #6188 - #6190. Councilman Gruska made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Yelkich, and carried with four ayes on roll call vote.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 2024-01 - Rezone – Motion by Councilman Yelkich to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-01, seconded by Councilman Tucker, and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Legal Counsel for 2024- Councilman Gruszka made a motion to retain Westland & Bennett, seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five 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 five ayes:

Board Representatives:

Board of Finance - Todd Angerman and Jill Murr; Lake County Solid Waste District - John Yelkich; Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission - John Yelkich; Freedom Park Committee - John Alessia, Dorothy Eich, Heidi Goetz-Laub and Alice Dahl; Fire Department Liaison - Mike Gruszka; JMOB - Mike Gruszka and John Yelkich; Shared Ethics Committee - John Yelkich; Ambulance Board - Todd Angerman.

Emergency Management Director - This year will be the fire department. Councilman Alessia moved to appoint Fire Chief as Director, seconded by Councilman Tucker, and carried with five ayes.

The following appointments were retained the same for 2024 on motion by Councilman Gruszka, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes on roll call vote:

Plan Commission - Town Council appointments - John Alessia, Shane Tucker, Greg White; Citizen appointment – Shane Lawrence (four-year term).

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Gruszka to appoint Paige Cripe to the Board of Zoning Appeals as the Town Council BZA appointment; motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Motion by Councilman Tucker and seconded by Councilman Gruszka to appoint Lori Sanfratello and LeAnn Angerman to the Police Commission (three-year terms); motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Yelkich to table the Economic Development appointments; motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Motion by Councilman Yelkich and seconded by Councilman Gruszka to table the Storm Drainage Board appointments; motion carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Motion by Councilman Alessia and seconded by Councilman Yelkich to table the Historic Preservation Board appointments and carried with five ayes on voice vote.

Motion by Councilman Tucker and seconded by Councilman Yelkich to appoint the Town Council Members to the Redevelopment Commission and carried by five ayes on voice vote.

Enter into 2024 firefighting agreement with Lowell Volunteer Fire Department - Councilman Gruszka made a motion to enter into agreement, seconded by Councilman Yelkich and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Republic Services Contract Extension. Councilman Gruszka made a motion to approve the Republic Services Contract Extension as provided, seconded by Councilman Tucker and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

Barktoberfest Waiver of Fees – Motion by Councilman Yelkich and seconded by Councilman Gruszka to waive the fees for the October 5, 2024, Barktoberfest and allow dogs to be walked in the park that day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS


President Angerman announced the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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 Gruszka made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 P.M., seconded by Councilman Alessia and carried with five ayes.



Todd Angerman, President

Attest:



Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer