

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey

Mayor Sandy Railey (remote conference participation) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those attending in-person were Councilmember Phil Bonham, Councilmember Ken Ervin, Councilmember Candy Funderburk, Councilmember Thomas Gillespie, Councilmember Shane Robinson, City Manager Scott Attaway, City Attorney John Russell, Finance Officer Jared Pyles, Planning Director Alex Blackburn, Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury, and City Clerk Beverly Harris. The meeting was teleconferenced to the public and the agenda and meeting materials were made available prior on the city's website due to COVID-19 restrictions.

II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Gillespie gave the invocation and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

Mayor Railey stated the agenda needed to be amended to add under Section VII. Unfinished Business, Item B to consider selection of legal services for the CDBG-NR grant.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adopt the amended agenda for the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hannah: Expressed concern of lack of staff notifications when her water service was cut off due to non-payment in January.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from Council Meeting Held January 12, 2021

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Proclamation in Recognition of the Month of February as Black History Month

Councilmember Gillespie read the Proclamation aloud. Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing February as black history month, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NCDEQ MS4 Permit-Stormwater Notice of Violation and subsequent Stormwater Management Plan Submittal Status/Public Notice Period

Mr. Scott Attaway gave Council and update on the draft Stormwater Management Plan submitted to NC DEQ. Mr. Attaway stated the city received a notice of violations in a NC DEQ audit and review in 2020 and the City started developing the required Stormwater Management Plan. Mr. Attaway stated the plan is approved by NC DEQ and we are now going through the required public comment period. The draft plan has been placed on the city's website, and advertising has been put in place urging the public to familiarize themselves with the plan.

B. CDBG-NR Legal Services

Mr. Scott Attaway stated with the CDBG grant procurement policies, the City of Lowell solicited proposals for legal services to complete title searches and other related legal services for the CDBG-NR grant. Mr. Attaway stated staff received three proposals from local attorneys: Mullen Holland & Cooper, David W. Smith, and Hance & Hance. Mr. Attaway presented the proposals and the rating scale which included title search fees, hourly rates for related services, years of service, and familiarity with the CDBG program. Staff's recommendation was to select John Russell with Mullen Holland & Cooper for legal services on the CDBG-NR grant.

Councilmember Robinson made motion to select John Russell with Mullen Holland & Cooper for legal services on the CDBG-NR grant, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proclamation in Memory of Dan D. Blair

Mayor Railey read the Proclamation aloud. Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the Proclamation in memory of Dan D. Blair, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

B. Proclamation in Memory of Billie Taylor

Mayor Railey read the Proclamation aloud. Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the Proclamation in memory of Billie Taylor, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

C. Gaston 2040 Vision Project Presentation – David Williams, Gaston Together/Gaston County Strategic Planning

Members of Gaston Together/Gaston County Strategic Planning gave a presentation to Council for the Gaston 2040 Vision Project.

D. Schedule public hearing for Proposed Amendment to Lowell City Council Rules of Procedure

Mr. Scott Attaway proposed to change the Council monthly regular meeting starting hour in the Lowell City Council Rules of Procedure from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to schedule a public hearing March 9, 2021 for the proposed amendment to the Lowell City Council Rules of Procedure, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

E. Presentation and Possible Adoption of the FY21-22 Budget Calendar

Mr. Scott Attaway presented the FY21-22 budget calendar for possible adoption.

Councilmember Bonham made a motion to adopt the FY21-22 budget calendar as presented (attached), followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

F. Set Special Meetings for February 18, 2021 and March 5, 2021 for Council Planning Workshops

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to set special meetings for February 18, 2021 (1:00-5:00pm) and March 5, 2021 (9:00-12:00pm) located at the Gaston County Police – Randy Pendleton Community Room for Council FY 2021-2022 budget and city planning workshops, followed by a second from Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimous.

G. Resolution to Authorize the Sale/Disposition of Surplus Personal Property

Mr. Scott Attaway stated staff proposes to sell/dispose of personal surplus property described as: 2012 Dodge Charger VIN#2C3CDXAT1CH147919 with mileage of 71,940. Mr. Attaway presented the Resolution for the proposed sell/disposition by private sale to Council for consideration.

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the sale/disposition by private sale of the 2012 Dodge Charger, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Scott Attaway gave updates on the following:

Planning Department: All articles of the new Lowell Development Ordinance (LDO) have been reviewed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board will make their recommendations on the LDO and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan to Council in March or April.

Public Works: The new pumps for the River Falls and Preston Place have been installed. The Streets and Sanitation departments have been busy with projects around town. Four water main leaks were fixed in January. The new bulk pick-up policy and schedule have been pushed out to citizens via social media and the newsletter.

Police Department: The January police report was reviewed. The department received and are wearing their new outer carriers. The officers are very pleased with the carriers. The department has applied for a \$21K grant with a zero match for electronics for new patrol vehicles. They are also continuing to work towards the Governor's Highway Safety program grants.

Finance: The budget to actual report was reviewed.

Parks & Recreation: The spring sports program are being scheduled. Upcoming February and March senior events were discussed. The Lowell Community Committee will be meeting February 28 at the cemetery to begin their study of ways to manage it and create a policy for the city.

X. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney John Russell had nothing new to report.

XI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Scott Attaway gave updates on the following items:

- Utility Billing Policy
- Two Rivers Utilities in Gastonia will have a 5% water increase next year.
- Staff sent letter to all Lowell businesses signed by Mayor letting them know about loans available during COVID-19 through governmental and county agencies.
- The FY2020-2021 audit was submitted on-time and approved by the LGC.
- MPO updates: I-85 widening back on schedule and replacement of Hwy 74 bridge.
- Silverline meetings coming soon. Council urged to attend.

XII. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Ervin, Councilmember Funderburk, Councilmember Gillespie and Mayor Railey thanked staff.

Councilmember Funderburk asked for an update on cross walk projects in town and expressed how much she liked the latest newsletter.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made at 8:52 pm by Councilmember Funderburk to go into Closed Session in accordance with provisions of NCGS 143-318.11, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

The Council reconvened from Closed Session at 9:19 pm.

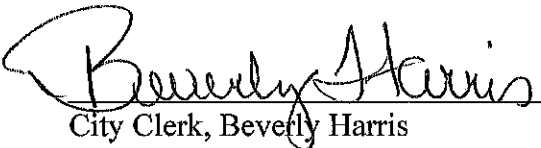
XIV. ADJOURN

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

ATTEST:



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris

Budget Calendar FY21-22

January

- Manager and Department Heads meet to formulate goals by department to accomplish for the upcoming fiscal year
- Department Heads to present Capital Budget Requests to City Manager

February

- Prepare Revenue Projections and Baseline Budget
- **February 15** – Department Budget Requests Due to Manager
- **February 18** – Council Budget Retreat Part #1

March

- **March 5** – Council Budget Retreat Part #2
- **March 24** – Council Work Session - Stormwater Utility Rate

April

- **April 20** – Optional Council Work Session

May

- **May 11** – Manager to present balanced budget to City Council and make available for public inspection

June

- **June 8** – Public Hearing for 21-22 Budget (Possible Adoption)
- **June 22** – Possible Special Meeting to adopt budget if not adopted at the June 8th regular meeting





PROCLAMATION

Black History Month

WHEREAS, February has been designated as “Black History Month” in which we pause to reflect on the contributions of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, “Black History Month” gives the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the significant roles African Americans have played in the history of economic, cultural, spiritual and political development while working tirelessly to maintain and promote their culture and history; and

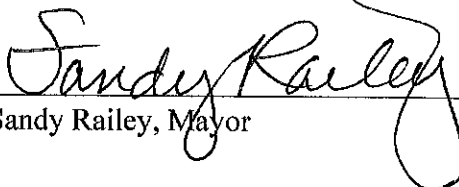
WHEREAS, In 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience, and serves to promote cultural enrichment, ethnic pride, and self-esteem by celebrating the lives and achievements of great African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to remember the stories and teachings of those who helped build our nation, took a stance against prejudice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, advanced the cause of civil rights and strengthened families and communities; and

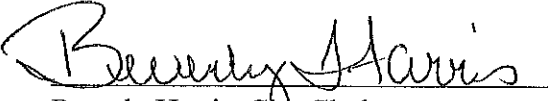
WHEREAS, During Black History Month all Americans are encouraged to reflect on past successes and challenges of African Americans and look to the future to continue to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Lowell City Council, hereby proclaim that February is honored as “Black History Month” and urges all citizens to join in paying tribute to the noble struggle of African Americans and encourage appropriate programs and activities that honor the significant contributions African Americans have made to our Town, State and nation.

This, the 9th day of February, 2021.


Sandy Railey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beverly Harris, City Clerk



**PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
DAN D. BLAIR**

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell Council is presenting this Proclamation in memory of Dan Blair;

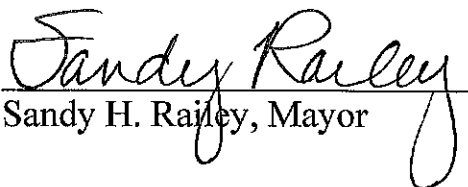
WHEREAS, he was a pillar of the Lowell community serving in the governmental affairs of the town; and

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated public servant who worked to enhance the lives of Lowell residents during his six-year term as Mayor from December 1971 to December 1977;

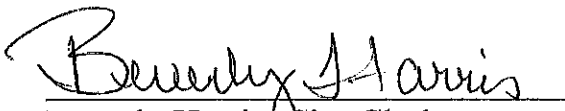
WHEREAS, he offered himself unselfishly and willingly in the pursuit of a better community for all citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SANDY H. RAILEY, Mayor of the City of Lowell, on behalf of the City of Lowell Council, do hereby proclaim that the City extend its sincere appreciation to Dan Blair for his contributions to the community on behalf of the grateful residents of Lowell.

This the 9th day of February, 2021.


Sandy H. Railey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beverly Harris, City Clerk



**PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
BILLIE TAYLOR**

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell Council is presenting this Proclamation in memory of Billie Taylor;

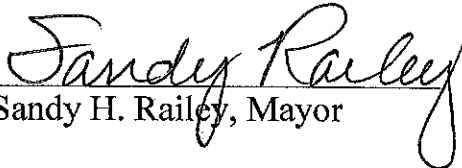
WHEREAS, she was a pillar of the Lowell community serving in the governmental affairs of the town; and

WHEREAS, she was a dedicated public servant who worked to enhance the lives of Lowell residents during her two-year term as a City Council member from December 1981 to December 1983;

WHEREAS, she offered herself unselfishly and willingly in the pursuit of a better community for all citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SANDY H. RAILEY, Mayor of the City of Lowell, on behalf of the City of Lowell Council, do hereby proclaim that the City extend its sincere appreciation to Billie Taylor for her contributions to the community on behalf of the grateful residents of Lowell.

This the 9th day of February, 2021.


Sandy H. Railey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beverly Harris, City Clerk



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

WORTH LESS THAN \$30,000 (G.S. 160A-266; 267)

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell owns certain items of personal property that have become surplus to its current needs; and;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes G.S. 160A-266 and 267 permit the City to sell such property by private sale, upon authorization by the City Council at a regular meeting and after notice to the public;


Now therefore be it Resolved by the Lowell City Council that:

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to sell by auction or private sale the following items of surplus personal property:

* One 2012 Dodge Charger, VIN #2C3CDXAT1CH147919, with 71,940 miles.

2. The City Clerk shall publish a notice summarizing this resolution, and no sale may be executed pursuant to this resolution until at least 10 days after the day the notice is published.

Adopted this 9th day of February, 2021.



Mayor Sandy Railey



City Clerk Beverly Harris