

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey

Mayor Sandy Railey 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 Kevin Krouse, City Attorney Jim Windham, and City Clerk Beverly Harris. Due to the COVID-19 10-people minimum guidelines, the following staff members were not present in the Council Chamber, but were called individually to present to Council their budget requests: Police Chief Scott Bates, Development Services Administrator Scott Attaway, Parks and Recreation Director Cristy Cummings, Finance Officer Kevin Haney and two individuals from the Volunteer Fire Department. There were no members of the public present in the Council Chambers due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. The meeting was teleconferenced to the public and the agenda and meeting materials were made available prior on the city's website.

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

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adopt the agenda, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Comments received prior via email or telephone were presented by the City Clerk.

- a. Cathy Lydic, 1219 Catawba Run. Concerned about bulk trash in community, speeding, and parking in cul-de-sacs. (*Noted to Council as already turned over to pertinent department heads.*)
- b. Pam Van Pelt represented her father who was a former Mayor for the City of Lowell. Mr. Van Pelt has created a bird from copper and wants approval to mount this bird on a pole in the Edgewood Cemetery near the graves of his parents.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from Council Meeting Held March 10, 2020

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 Council meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. Councilmember Robinson

removed himself from voting because he was absent from the March 10 meeting. The vote was four in favor of the approval of the minutes.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation & Discussion of Departmental Capital Requests for FY2020-21

Kevin Krouse brought individual department heads into the Council Chambers to discuss their FY2020-2021 budget requests.

Robbie Cunningham and JT presented their requests on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Department. They requested a second paid person for the daytime shift and a pay increase for both people on the daytime shift.

Chief Scott Bates presented on behalf of the Lowell Police Department. Biggest item was the new uniforms, and outer carrier vests for each officer. Another large item requested was a generator for the police department.

Kevin Krouse discussed the Administrative budget requests. He stated Professional Services will increase because of audit changes going forward. Also, Contracted Services will increase because of the required UDO updates. Mr. Krouse also stated required fire inspections will change this number too.

Cristy Cummings presented the Parks & Recreation budget requests. She stated some items requested were a concrete pad at the park, new park signage, playground repairs, and field resurfacing.

Thomas Shrewsbury presented Public Works budget requests. He discussed the following items requested: leaf machine, trash truck, dump truck, backhoe, utility line camera system, and jet sewer vacuum.

B. Set Public Hearing for June 9, 2020 for FY2020-21 Municipal Budget

Kevin Krouse asked Council to also consider a budget workshop later in June prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to schedule a special meeting for a budget workshop at City Hall on Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 pm, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the proposed FY2020-21 municipal budget on June 9, 2020, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

C. Consideration of Proposals for Required Zoning Code Updates

Scott Attaway stated staff has received quotes for updating the Lowell Unified Department Ordinance as it relates to new statutory requirements regarding G.S. 160D, current court rulings, general updates that bring the UDO current with development practices, and improve the reader's ability to understand the ordinance.

The quotes received were as follows: Centralina Council of Government for \$16,600; N-Focus for \$18,685. Mr. Attaway stated staff recommends N-Focus to lead the UDO re-write and 160D compliance updates.

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to choose N-Focus and their proposed quote not to exceed the quoted price of \$18,685, followed by a second from Councilmember Robinson. The vote was unanimous.

D. Budget Amendment for Township Grant

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the budget amendment #5 for the Main and First Street crosswalks, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

E. Ratification of Decision to Suspend Utility Cutoffs and Late Fees April and May

Councilmember Gillespie made a motion to approve the decision to suspend utility cutoffs and late fees for the months of April and May, 2020, followed by a second from Councilmember Ervin. The vote was unanimous.

F. Resolution in Support of Build Grant Application

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to approve the Resolution in support of the Build Grant application, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The City Clerk presented a proposed letter to Council. She stated this letter would be mailed to all utility customers offering a 6-month payment plan on any balances owed for water bills dated April 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020.

IX. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney had nothing new to report.

X. CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager had nothing additional to report.

XI. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilmember Gillespie requested the City Manager to inquire about the ribbon cutting at the new Hillbilly's BBQ.

Councilmember Funderburk thanked public works for their hard work during the pandemic and also stated Council needs to do something about bulk trash in Lowell.

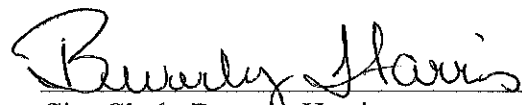
Mayor Railey thanked the citizens who had dialed in to listen to the meeting.

XII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 10:00 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris

City Of Lowell
Budget Amendment #5
Budget Ordinance FY 19-20

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Lowell, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020:

Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the estimated revenues are to be changed as follows:

General Fund:		
Revenues:		
	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
10-3300-0000 Township Grant		\$70,733

This will result in an increase of \$70,733 in the General Fund fund balance, bringing the General Fund revenues budgeted for FY 19-20 from \$2,528,018 to 2,598,751.

Section 2: To amend the General Fund, the appropriations are to be changed as follows:

General Fund:		
Administration:		
	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
10-4100-3304 Beautification		\$ 7,514
Public Works:		
10-5600-4500 Contracted Services		\$53,219
10-5600-7300 Capital Outlay-Other Improvements		\$10,000

This amendment will result in an increase of \$7,514 in the Administration Department appropriations, bringing the appropriations for Administration in FY 19-20 from \$588,604 to 596,118. This amendment will also result in an increase of \$63,219 in the Public Works Department appropriations, bringing the appropriations in Public Works in FY 19-20 from \$298,922 to \$362,211.

This amendment is for the amount billed and received from Gaston County for Township Grant expenses.

Section 3: Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the City Council, and to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this 12 day of May, 2020.



Mayor

Attest:


City Clerk



**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2020 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE
DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) TRANSPORTATION DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program ("BUILD") provides funding for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and;

WHEREAS, the Lineberger Connector Project was identified as a regional project in the *Franklin Boulevard Corridor Access and Alternative Development Mobility Strategy*, completed in August 2016 by the City of Gastonia and the City of Lowell and;

WHEREAS, the cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with Gaston County, seek to apply for grant funding to construct the Lineberger Connector Project, which will extend Aberdeen Boulevard east to connect to the existing Lineberger Road with improvements north to NC 7, and provide direct access to approximately 400 acres of property that is ripe for local and regional development and;

WHEREAS, the cities of Gastonia and Lowell, in partnership with the property owner, are actively working with NorthPoint Development for the development of the Lineberger property and;

WHEREAS, the proposed development will include over 4,675,000 s.f. of warehouse and wholesale sales, distribution, and storage operations and;

WHEREAS, upon full buildout, NorthPoint Development is estimating a total of 2,571 new jobs and;

WHEREAS, the property currently has only one access point via Lineberger Road, which is a substandard two-lane facility with an at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor and;

WHEREAS, in order for freight trucks to avoid this access, it is imperative that Aberdeen Boulevard be extended through the site to allow for a connection to Cox Road to the west, with safe and direct access to I-85 and;

WHEREAS, this proposed project presents a unique opportunity to provide accessibility to an area that could produce significant economic development and job creation along Interstate 85 and;

WHEREAS, the area in which the Lineberger Connector Project is located completely within a federally designated Opportunity Zone, which could bring a much-needed infusion of investment dollars for economic development into the most distressed rural and urban areas of our state and;

WHEREAS, the project will exemplify a strong public-private partnership involving multiple partners in both the public and private sectors, including collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions to achieve both local and regional benefits, now;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Lowell City Council hereby declares support for the funding and construction of the Lineberger Connector Project.

Resolution adopted this the, 12th day of May, 2020 upon a motion of Councilmember Ervin and seconded by Councilmember Gillespie by a vote of 5 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes.

Sandy Railey
Sandy Railey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beverly Harris
Beverly Harris, City Clerk

