

MINUTES

Lowell City Council

Special Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey

Mayor Sandy Railey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those attending were Councilmember Ken Ervin, Councilmember Candy Funderburk, Councilmember Thomas Gillespie, City Manager Kevin Krouse, and City Clerk Beverly Harris. Councilmembers Phil Bonham and Shane Robinson were absent. A teleconference number was opened to allow the public to hear the discussions.

II. FY2020-2021 BUDGET WORK SESSION DISCUSSIONS

Kevin Krouse opened the meeting by reviewing the City of Lowell's goals. Mr. Krouse presented the proposed FY2020-2021 budget line items by department of to-date expenses and future budget needs for the FY2020-2021 budget. Essential and non-essential future capital projects were discussed.

The highlights of the proposed FY2020-2021 budget discussed were the following items:

- No Tax Rate increase. Maintain at \$0.43 cents
- \$10 Vehicle Tag Fee to Fund Fire Department needs
- \$3% increase to water rates and 1% increase to sewer rates which equates to \$1.07 for 4000 gallons

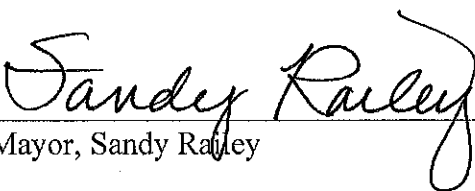
Mr. Krouse stated the City of Lowell's fiscal outlook is positive due to conservative fiscal management and adherence to the City Councils Strategic Master Plan. The goal is to become fiscally resilient allowing the City to withstand economic lows while still providing a high level of service. He further stated maintaining a healthy fund balance of 50% of the annual budget and managing debt with a Capital Improvement Plan provides resilience needed to ensure robust economic health.

Mr. Krouse stated the effects of COVID-19 are expected to reduce Sales Tax Revenue and the proposed budget reflects this possibility.

Key operational focus areas discussed were: Public safety; providing needed equipment to departments; Stormwater Phase 2 mandated upon Cities by the EPA; Asset Inventory and Management Plan Sewer Fund; maintenance of streets, roads, and public facilities; strengthening the local economy by retaining/attracting/and expanding local businesses; improving efficiency within the utility billing system with new meters; and land use planning.

III. ADJOURN

Councilmember Ervin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 7:45 pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris