

**LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 15, 2022 - 6:30PM**

INVOCATION: Pastor Brian Clark

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Chris Moore

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Lowell City Council was called to order at 6:31pm by **Mayor Chris Moore** at the Lowell Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Chris Moore asked the City Clerk for a verbal roll call. Council Members present were **Steve Whitehead, Eric Schein, Lisa DeGifford, Chasity Taylor, David Adams, Bill Adams, Kendell Stucki, Bethany Rosenbaum. Deputy Attorney Kieklak was present.** A roster of all others in attendance is on file with these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Lowell City Council Minutes Regular Meeting – February 15, 2022
Financial Statement – February 2022

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Kendell Stucki

Second: David Adams

Vote Aye: Taylor, DeGifford, D. Adams, Schein, Whitehead, B. Adams, Rosenbaum, Stucki

Vote Nay: None

Motion to approve Consent Agenda approved.

PRESENTATION: Fire Chief Melnicki presented a 20-year service award to Joe West. He then announced Joe West would be retiring from the City of Lowell Fire Department.

PUBLIC FORUM: Open: 6:37PM Close: 6:44PM

Kelsey Gilley – requested Pro-Life Resolution be added to agenda.

Joe Lightfoot, 213 Franklin Ave, supports Pro-Life.

Chris Cash, 1508 Ridgeline Ave., advocated for Pro-Life Resolution. He had two questions as to why it had not been voted on before: 1) Resolution is divisive; 2) It doesn't answer non-Pro-Life citizens.

Ben Rowse, Bentonville, President of Ozark Right-To-Life which covers Lowell, a supporter for Right-To-Life, asked for Pro-Life Resolution be added to agenda.

Aaron Richard, supporter of Right-To-Life.

Steve Johnson, Pastor of Origin Church (City of Lowell), represented a body of people who supported Right-To-Life.

Joe Rheingans, 405 S. Bloomington, thanked council for support of his food court.

Angela Cash, 1508 Ridgeline Ave., supporter of Right-To-Life.

PROCLAMATION: Tree City Celebrate Arbor Day 2022 Proclamation. Thanks to Karen Davis for all she does to make this project successful.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE RULE AND READ ALL ORDINANCES ONE TIME BY TITLE ONLY:

Motion to approve the Procedural Motion to dispense with the rule and read all Ordinances one time by title only.

Motion: Lisa DeGifford

Second: David Adams

Vote Aye: Schein, DeGifford, Stucki, B. Adams, Rosenbaum, D. Adams, Taylor, Whitehead

Vote Nay: None

Motion to approve Procedural Motion to dispense with the rule and read all Ordinances one time by title only approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING AN UPDATED POLICY REGARDING HOLIDAY PAY FOR THE CITY OF LOWELL, ARKANSAS.

City Council recognized a need to update the City of Lowell Personnel Policy Manual for the purpose of amending the holiday pay policy for city employees.

Motion to approve Resolution as presented.

Motion: Eric Schein

Second: Steve Whitehead

Vote Aye: Schein, DeGifford, D. Adams, Taylor, Whitehead, Stucki, B. Adams, Rosenbaum

Vote Nay: None

Motion to approve Resolution passed.

Resolution assigned No. 22-06.

2. RESOLUTION TO CREATE A PREMIUM PAY PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED IN THE HEIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC AND SETTING FORTH AMOUNTS AND PARAMETERS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH PAY AND AMENDING THE 2022 BUDGET TO FUND THE PREMIUM PAY AMOUNTS IN THE CITY OF LOWELL, ARKANSAS.

It is fitting and appropriate to augment the wages of the Lowell employees who worked through the height of the Covid-19 pandemic with premium pay and amend the 2022 Budget to appropriate funds for this purpose.

Motion to approve Resolution as presented.

Motion: Eric Schein

Second: Lisa DeGifford

Vote Aye: D. Adams, DeGifford, Taylor, Schein, Whitehead, Stucki, B. Adams, Rosenbaum

Vote Nay: None

Motion to approve Resolution approved.

Resolution assigned No. 22-07.

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR THE KATHLEEN JOHNSON MEMORIAL PARK (KJMP).

City of Lowell has been awarded a grant from parks and tourism by Arkansas Parks and Tourism for all-inclusive playground equipment in the amount of \$225,000.00 to be installed at the KJMP. It is believed to be in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Lowell to accept this grant and to purchase and install the playground equipment. The City Council approves the proposed agreement to make the purchase and perform the installation.

Motion to approve Resolution.

Motion: Bill Adams

Second: Bethany Rosenbaum

Vote Aye: Schein, Taylor, DeGifford, D. Adams, Whitehead, Rosenbaum, B. Adams, Stucki

Vote Nay: None

Motion to approve Resolution as presented approved.
Resolution assigned No. 22-08.

4. ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED AT KATHLEEN JOHNSON MEMORIAL PARK IN THE CITY OF LOWELL, ARKANSAS.

According to state law and applicable city ordinances, the City Council waives the requirements of competitive bidding for the purchase of playground equipment.

Motion to approve Ordinance.

Motion: David Adams

Second: Kendell Stucki

Vote Aye: Schein, Stucki, Taylor, D. Adams, Rosenbaum, DeGifford, B. Adams, Whitehead

Vote Nay: None

Motion to approve Ordinance approved.

City Clerk read Ordinance one time by title only.

Ordinance assigned No. 1094.

COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF LOWELL'S COMMITMENT TO THE DIGNITY OF ALL LIFE AND DESIGNATING THE CITY OF LOWELL, ARKANSAS AS A PRO-LIFE CITY.

Bethany Rosenbaum presented a strong and positive presentation to have City of Lowell become a Pro-Life City. She thanked everyone who spoke in favor of this resolution. Twenty-five municipalities have been designated as Pro-Life. Resolution is a statement with no power behind it.

Motion to add Resolution as stated above to the agenda.

Motion: Bethany Rosenbaum

Second: Kendell Stucki

Vote Aye: D. Adams, Stucki, Rosenbaum

Vote Nay: B. Adams, Whitehead, Schein, DeGifford, Taylor

Motion to add Resolution as stated above to the agenda failed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tree Give Away
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – April 16, 2022 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at Ward Nail Park
- Spring Bulk Cleanup – May 7, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Bill Adams and second by Kendell Stucki. There being no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

ATTEST:



City Clerk/Elizabeth Estes

APPROVED:



Mayor/Chris Moore