

**LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2013 - 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: The special Meeting of the Lowell City Council was called to order at 6:34PM by **Mayor Long** at the Lowell Council Chambers.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was offered by **Mayor Long**.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Mayor Long**.

ROLL CALL: **Mayor Long** asked for roll call. City Clerk made a verbal roll call. Council Members present were: **Thomas Evers, Janette Lasater, Eric Schein, Connor Jones, Keith Williams, Dean Bitner, Ronnie Breland**. There was quorum. **Deputy Attorney Kieklak** was also present. **Kendell Stucki** was absent. A roster of all others in attendance is on file with these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

PUBLIC FORUM: Open: 7:33PM Closed: 7:45PM

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM-ATTRIBUTABLE PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF DIXIELAND ROAD IN LOWELL, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Long explained that in light of additional information gained concerning the STP-A Grant funding for the project of the extension of Dixieland Road to Apple Blossom, that before we let the funding evaporate, it would be a good idea to be sure that this is what we want to do. Since it was a special session, councilmen were reminded to discuss only what pertained to the resolution of gaining engineering funds if we should be approved by the TAC committee meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Tim Conklin, AICP, Transportation Programs Planner, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, identified STP-A Funds and how they are decided and distributed. He summarized the selection and scoring process. The Dixieland extension was the highest scoring project based on it completed a connection from 264 to Apple Blossom. It provided alternatives in the north/south corridor for future growth, development, and traffic and reduced congestion.

Ms. Kris Sullivan, Planning Director, expressed the route is not the issue. The route can be decided at a later time by engineers who have been working on this for quite some time. She also felt it was important to remember that this committee, who ranked these projects, is our peers of engineers and planning directors of various cities who ranked this project as number one.

Mr. Joe Bishop, 919 Honeysuckle, Lowell, stated one of his opinions was concerning the grant money. Grant money doesn't come very often. It's hard to get grant money. Don't pass up a chance to get grant money. It's free money you don't have to work for. Please don't pass it up. If you don't apply for it, you don't get it; that is the promise of grant money. If you don't apply for it, you don't get it. If you apply for it, at least you have a chance. I'm asking you to consider applying for it.

I am going to address some issues I heard at the last meeting and, Mr. Mayor, I apologize to you. Some of this is, you asked us not to digress on this, but I'm going to talk about routes a little bit, real short.

Mayor Long agreed it was okay. Joe, are you currently a landowner in that area?

Joe: That's right. My property is at the end of Dixieland. So the first 660 feet of this project is across my property as it is laid out right now. If you look on one of your maps there, that has the yellow writing on it; my land has the north arrow on it and the scale. That's my spot right there. I know a little bit more

about this land than most anybody here. I farmed this land since 1976. When JB Hunt built the first building there, I don't know what year that was; but my dad and I were out there and we both realized that someday this would be cut across by a street. I've seen it since that day. It's not something that appeared overnight. I realized it was coming. It's something, it's not a surprise to me, I knew it was coming.

One of the discussions last week was a route connecting Dixieland to Sixth Street. This is a real short digression. I want to address that. To go from end of Dixieland diagonally across my property up to Sixth Street would effectively cut my land in triangles. It is hard to develop triangles. You can't farm it; you can't do anything with triangles. It is very divisive. If you want to go that route, I will fight you tooth and nail. I promise you. I will fight you tooth and nail. If you want to go north and south, we can talk. I have no problem with that. To go across and connect with Sixth Street, you are going across the widest and deepest part of the valley there. That will be the most expensive to build a road across there and it's going to be the longest route all together to get to Apple Blossom Street. If I was in the Hunt corporate business, I would not want you to put a street there because Hunt has a beautiful campus viewed from I-540. If I was Hunts, I would not want you to put a street there to block the view, or impair the view of my campus. Hunt people may disagree, I don't know. I may be speaking out of line.

To run basically north and south, I'm for this project and I'm against it. I'm double minded right here. As against it, it is dividing my property. I'm not real crazy about that. I'm not real crazy about having a street running through it and I'll explain why. To have a street running through your property, you get more yahoos running off the streets doing donuts in your field. The last time this happened was Thursday night or Friday morning. I know about these yahoos doing donuts. I'm sick and tired of them. I'm disgusted with them. To have a street running up through your property, I'm familiar with them dumping trash on your property. I'm familiar with them throwing their beer bottles across your property. A street with a nice big field is just a magnet for beer bottles. I collect lots of them. In that way, I'm not real crazy about getting a street across here.

This is going to be a short digression; hold onto me for just a second. My experience with people who don't own a property but who use the property next to you; I've got subdivisions next to me on a couple of farms and it's so wonderful for them to dump their tree limbs over the fence; clean out their refrigerator, throw that over the fence; throw their beer bottles over the fence; throw their lawn clippings over the fence; throw their kitty-litter over the fence; throw their used oil over the fence; I'm sick of people. In that way, I'm not real happy about this road. That digression is over.

One more thing, I've another rant I'm going to throw in here, another real rant. Subdivisions coming in will have their easement over here but for some reason the phone and TV cable people want to be on my side. They will run their phone lines and cable lines on top of the ground and it is so fun to wrap up 200' of phone line under a brush hog. It just takes that long; but, it takes an hour and a half to dig it out. So, I had better quit ranting.

The reason I'm for it: this is good for the community. It's good for Lowell; it's good for Northwest Arkansas. Try to move on Dixieland about rush hour. It backs up tremendously. It backs up because of people coming out of Hunts. This route would give them, some of them, access to Apple Blossom Street. They don't have that access right now and they're all coming out either on Hwy. 71 or on Dixieland. It's a bugger. This would also give us another access route all the way from the far side of Rogers all the way to Springdale. I use the new Dixieland Street. I like that shortcut. It gets me off the highway. I love it. There will be folks who will use this other shortcut, avoiding the traffic. They will use it. People have questioned about whether Apple Blossom can handle it. You know, maybe not right now. It may not. But it's not always going to be static and stay like it is. Roads grow around here.

Lastly of all, I'm prejudice about this because if this crosses my property, I'm going to sell it to you for every penny I can get just as every other person in this room would do, get every penny I can get out of it. I'm going to ask you don't forfeit this grant money and send it all to Fayetteville. If you don't do this, you're sending it all to Fayetteville and we're getting didley squat. So I am asking you to reconsider your vote at the last meeting. Please pass this resolution. Look to the future. Thank you.

Mayor Long: Joe, before you leave, did I ask you to attend tonight?

Joe: No, you did not. Matter of fact, you and I, our total discussion was about fifteen seconds before the last council meeting.

Mayor Long: In my discussion with you, I did not speak to you because you were a land owner.

Joe: That is exactly what you told me. We could not discuss it.

Councilman Schein: As a matter of fact, I invited him.

Councilwoman Lasater: I invited him.

Mayor Long: I just wanted everyone to know the Mayor did not invite him. I appreciated your comments, Joe.

Discussion between Councilman Schein and Jimmy Hendrix determined that it would be okay to take \$90,000 out of the Street Department Budget for the extension of Dixieland Road to Apple Blossom.

Motion was made to approve the Resolution as presented.

Motion: Dean Bitner

Second: Eric Schein

Vote Aye: Evers, Lasater, Schein, Williams, Bitner, Jones

Vote Nay: None

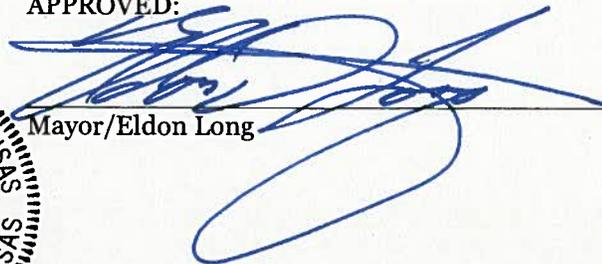
Abstained: Breland

Motion to approve the Resolution as presented was approved.

Resolution was assigned No. 13-25.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by **Councilman Bitner** and seconded by **Councilman Breland**. There being no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

APPROVED:



Mayor/Eldon Long

ATTEST:



City Clerk/Elizabeth Estes



City of Lowell

Minutes of Special Council Meeting

October 22, 2013