

**City of Lowell, Oregon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025**

The Lowell City Council held a regular meeting on February 4, 2025. The meeting location was at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District Fire Station 1 at 389 N. Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR 97452. Mayor Weathers called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

City Councilors present:

Mayor Maureen Weathers, Jimmy Murray, Don Bennett, Tim Stratis, Gail Harris,

City Councilors absent: NONE

Staff/others present:

Interim City Administrator Max Baker

Mayor Weathers presented to Councilor Bennett an appreciation in writing and a Plaque honoring 10years of dedication and service as the Mayor of the City of Lowell.

Approval of the agenda: No Changes

Consent agenda:

1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2025
2. Financial Report December 2025

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was seconded by Councilor Murray.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

Public comments:

Mayor Weathers took a moment to acknowledge the presence of Senator Cedric Hayden from district 6 and his son Westin. Hayden stated his son attends BCA and is in Civics attending meeting with him. He stated if the city needed anything to not hesitate to call his office.

Council comments: NONE

Public Hearing:

Regular meeting recessed at 7:08pm

Resolution 842, "A Resolution Establishing a Master Fee Schedule and Rescinding Resolution 550".

- a. The public hearing opened at 7:08pm
- b. Staff report – City Administrator

Interim CA presented the Resolution and Master Fee Schedule on the screen. Gave a brief history of the process and stated the last update was April 19, 2011. CA stated why the need for the update was necessary.

- c. Public comment: None
- d. The public hearing closed at 7:13pm

Staff reports:

City Administrator Report.

CA presented updates on E-permitting, Sale of old City Hall, Damages at Wastewater Facility from windstorm, budget progress update, dot.gov transition, development activities, update on wage salary benefit study, and probationary review of Eric Harris. CA provided update on Interim CA activities and progress. Stated he was

getting into a groove and feels comfortable, has had time to leave city hall and work with PW Staff. Current struggles are understanding public meeting laws and preparing 25-26 budget and budget process.

Presentations: NONE

Old business:

1. Sale of old City Hall

Interim CA updated the Council on RFP for sale of old City Hall. he reached out to LCOG and provided RFP that was on webpage as reference. LCOG stated it is very difficult to do an RFP for commercial real estate as they all charge the same. CA requested next steps moving forward. Stated talked to Suzanne, and she offered help.

2. Rezoning Old City Hall - Discussion

CA provided memo from LCOG regarding rezoning of old city hall. He stated any property can have the zoning change. Stated rezoning was not necessary as the current zoning allows many options, but if there was a specific buyer that wanted it changed they could.

New business:

1. Resolution 842, "A Resolution Establishing a Master Fee Schedule and Rescinding Resolution 550".

Councilor Bennett's motion to approve Resolution 842, "A Resolution Establishing a Master Fee Schedule and Rescinding Resolution 550", was seconded by Councilor Murray.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

2. Resolution 843 Planning Commission appointments

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve Resolution 843, "A resolution making appointments to fill expired terms on the Planning Commission." was seconded by Councilor Murray.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

3. Resolution 844 BBJ Committee appointments

Councilor Harris' motion to approve resolution 844, "A resolution making appointments to fill expired terms on the BBJ Committee.", was seconded by Councilor Murray.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

4. Resolution 845 Budget Committee appointments

Councilor Murray's motion to approve Resolution 845, "A resolution making appointments to fill expired terms on the Budget Committee.", was seconded by Councilor Stratis.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

5. Fence quotes replace swing gate with slide gate

CA discussed the quote to replace swing gate to slide gate and stated the safety concerns and why it needed to be replaced. Discussion was had regarding the difference in quote amounts and CA explained that all three were asked to quote the same exact project.

Councilor Stratis' motion to select Oregon Fence Company in an amount not to exceed \$5343.00 and authorize the City Administrator to sign, was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

6. Scope of services for Utility Rate Study

CA gave updates on utility rate study and explained this has been budgeted for several years but was not a priority.

7. Resolution 846 Library Committee appointments

Councilor Murray's motion to approve Resolution 846, "A resolution making appointments to fill expired terms on the Library Committee." was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Stratis: YES; Harris: YES; Bennett: YES.

Approved: 5-0

Other business:

a. Lowell Covered Bridge Inspection and Findings – Discussion

CA presented bridge inspection report and narrative to support findings. Explained the three deficiencies identified. Handrail cable, which lane county staff has repaired. Two small leaks in the roof. The county stated they would call someone to look at it. Roof needs cleaned and bridge needs to get cleaned inside and out. CA stated he agreed to have a company look at the gate. Stated county would like to renew IGA asap.

Councilor Harris asked about the gate and why it wasn't on the report. CA informed her the inspection was a structural inspection specifically for the bridge and the gate would be inspected by overhead door or another garage/gate company.

CA briefly explained how the maintenance and repairs have worked over the years. Stated it is a shared process between county and city. Explained that an expired IGA will not prevent opening and closing of the bridge to the public.

b. City Council Annual Goal Setting - Discussion

Planned annual city council goal setting for March 4, 2025 and begin at 6pm. CA ask all councilors to come prepared with minimum of 4 of their top goals and send to him before the meeting.

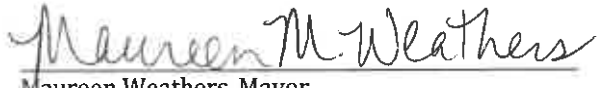
Mayor Weathers ask about the proposed budget schedule. CA stated that first meeting anticipated second week in May.

Council agreed for work session goal setting March 4, 2025 at 6pm.

Councilor Stratis ask about goals and recommendations from the constituents. CA said any recommendations or ideas from the community are always brought to council.

Adjourned at 8:02 pm.

APPROVED:


Maureen Weathers, Mayor

ATTEST:


Max Baker, City Recorder