

LOWRY CITY BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:00 pm
Draft Minutes

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

On Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Mayor Patricia Landes called the regular session of the Lowry City Board of Aldermen meeting to order at 6 p.m. in the council room at city hall. Board members attending included West Ward Aldermen Sean Langston and Shirley Edmunds and East Ward Aldermen Charles Cone and Jackie Cutler. City employees attending the meeting included Water and Wastewater Superintendent Josh Muller, Police Chief Charles Hodges and City Clerk John Farrell. Several people from the community also attended. Notice of the meeting was given pursuant to RSMo. 610.020.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Landes.

Approval of Minutes:

The board reviewed the regular session minutes from February 25, 2025. Cone moved and Langston seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Bills:

A list of bills was presented for approval. A bill for the worker's compensation renewal was included. It was noted the renewal was a 30% increase from last year. After review, Langston moved and Edmunds seconded the motion to approve the bills presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports:

Financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2025 were presented and reviewed. Cone moved and Cutler seconded to accept the financial reports. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Old or Unfinished business:

All bills presented for approval were made available to those attending the meeting.

- A. Bill 2025-02 Purchasing policy:** The board discussed purchasing policies presented for review. Changes were made to the bill. On a motion from Langston and a second by Cutler the board unanimously agreed to the changes made to Bill 2025-02.

Langston moved to have the first reading of the bill by title only. Edmunds seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Landes read the bill by title only. Langston moved to accept the first reading by title only. Cutler seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Cone moved to have the second reading of the bill by title only. Langston seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Landes read the bill by title only. Cone moved to accept to second reading by title only. Cutler seconded and the vote was unanimous. Langston moved to adopt the bill as Ordinance 2025-02 by roll call vote. Cutler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Budget Amendment-Bill 2025-03: Langston explained the need to amend the budget due to \$15,492 in expenses related to outfitting the new police car. He noted in years past, the city had funds budgeted for the police department that were not used. He said the board is going to amend the budget to make those funds available to use to outfit the new car.

Langston moved to have the first reading of the bill by title only. Cutler seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Landes read the bill by title only. Langston moved to accept the first reading by title only. Edmunds seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Cone moved to have the second reading of the bill by title only. Langston seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Landes read the bill by title only. Cone moved to accept to second reading by title only. Cutler seconded and the vote was unanimous. Langston moved to adopt the bill as Ordinance 2025-03 by roll call vote. Cutler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

B. Advertise for summer help: The board discussed advertising for summer help for mowing. After discussion it was mutually agreed to place an ad on the city's website and on the city's Facebook page giving applicants until April 15 to apply.

New Business: No new business

Lowry City Community Betterment (LCCB) update: No representatives attended but Farrell updated the board and noted the city-wide garage sale is slated for April 5 and the city wide clean-up is the following Saturday, April 12.

Citizen input:

Lowry City Resident Larry Sites expressed his as well as others' gratitude to the board for the new police officers in the city. Several members of the board noted it was nice to hear the comments and thanked Sites.

He asked for assistance in finding someone to till his garden area. A few suggestions were made. Sites said he had a question for the police chief. He noted he has several contacts in other places that have said there was some kind of notification given to rural police agencies concerning alien encounters. He asked the police chief if anything like this has transpired. Hodges responded that in his full-time job he is the Chief Deputy at St. Clair County Sheriff's Office and he has heard nothing of the matter.

Department reports:

Police Department-Police Chief Charles Hodges reported there were 15 traffic stops made by officers from March 1-17. The stops resulted in 10 citations. He said the new patrol car is at the outfitter and work has started on getting the car ready. Hodges noted a minor accident with the older patrol car backing into the storage garage. He stated an officer scraped the side and it does not affect the door closing or opening. The chief said officers are working through a list of properties that were reported to have ordinance violations to determine if letters need to be sent. There was discussion regarding several properties with vehicles on them. There was discussion regarding the ordinance that prohibits burning trash in the city limits.

Fire Department-Fire Chief Justin Norris reported volunteers have been extremely busy

responding to calls for service. He noted response to six motor vehicle accidents, one with a fatality. Norris reported mechanical issues with two trucks while responding to calls. A tow was required and emergency repairs had to be made. He noted the repairs were completed in house to keep expenses at a minimum.

Norris said he received a quote for pump certification for the fire trucks that is going to be conducted at the same time as the oil changes on the cascade air system. On a motion from Langston and a second from Edmunds the board unanimously agreed to spend up to \$2,200 on the service. Norris said the department is also due for an annual self-contained breathing apparatus testing. He noted he will get a quote and bring to the board for approval.

The chief mentioned the possibilities of creating a tax-based fire district for the Lowry City area. Norris requested initial approval to look into the matter to get it on an upcoming ballot. The board mutually agreed to allow Norris to move forward looking into the matter.

Sites mentioned his gratitude to Norris and the department for what they do.

Public Works: Muller reported he and Walker have been picking up brush, filling in roads going out to the lagoons and backfilling graves at the cemetery. He noted they will be sowing some grass seed at the cemetery as well. Muller said City Maintenance Worker Kenny Walker has been busy getting the mowers and weed eaters ready for the season.

Cone asked how the search for parts to rebuild a pump motor to use as a backup at the lift station was going., Muller responded he is waiting on prices. After discussion, Langston moved and Cutler seconded to spend up to \$5,500 on a new rotating assembly. It was noted the purchase will insure having a back-up pump for the lift station. The vote was unanimous.

Sites mentioned his gratitude to Muller and the maintenance crew for what they do.

Mayor's notes:

Landes stated she had nothing to add and asked the board for any additional comments.

Adjournment:

Langston moved and Edmunds seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned.

{Seal}

Patricia Landes, Mayor

Attest:

John Farrell, City Clerk