

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 5:30 PM CITY HALL

The regular meeting of the Lowden City Council was called to order by Mayor Barry Hoffmeier.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present on roll call: Galen Conrad, Rex McCreight, Dean Hamdorf, Josh Hamdorf, Al Helmold. Visitors: Pat Kroemer, Kirk Steinke, Dale Axline.

M/S Helmold, J.Hamdorf to approve the consent agenda including minutes, bills, and financial report. Ayes: All.

Steve Noack, MMS Consultants, joined the meeting by speaker phone. He explained options for finishing the work on McKinley Avenue relative to curb and gutter, storm sewer, and street surfacing. The City could be the General Contractor and have three subcontractors for the above projects. Council also wants to explore costs for alternate surfaces of asphalt, concrete, blacktop or chip and seal for McKinley Avenue.

M/S D.Hamdorf, McCreight for authorization to advertise for bids for the McKinley Avenue curb/gutter, storm sewer, and street project. Ayes: All. Bids are to be returned to City Hall by Jan. 30, 2014, 11:00 AM.

M/S McCreight, Helmold to set a public hearing for February 3, 2014, 5:30 PM, for plans, specifications and form of contract for the McKinley Avenue street improvement project. Ayes: All.

Steve Noack also gave information to the council about improvements to the pumping system at the wastewater plant. He feels the work could be done in phases whereby the lift station would be replaced first and possibly be partially funded with CDBG money if awarded. Then the City could apply again for CDBG funding for further work at the wastewater plant. Steve Noack suggested a meeting with the Sewer Committee and Kirk this week to further discuss how to proceed with the wastewater plant improvement project.

M/S Helmold, Conrad to have the City Attorney send letters to three residents who did not clean up their properties after receiving nuisance abatement notices in November. Ayes: All. The residents will be given until April 1 to clean up their properties.

Councilperson McCreight suggested a change in the customer deposit ordinance. Currently the deposit is \$100 and is refunded after 2 years if all bills are timely paid. Rex suggested holding rental property deposits until they move out and holding home owners' deposits for 5 years. Council decided to have the Water Committee (Rex McCreight and Dean Hamdorf), Kirk, and Peggy meet to discuss changes to the ordinance. The issue will be added to the February meeting agenda. Council will also discuss placing a time frame on building permits.

A bridge inspection report from Calhoun-Burns & Associates was received for the 5th Street bridge. Due to continuing deterioration of the pilings for that bridge, the IDOT could recommend closure of the bridge in 2015. Mayor said the City should start budgeting for bridge replacement .

Mayor Hoffmeier made the following 2014 Committee appointments: Mayor Pro Tem-Rex McCreight, Sergeant at Arms-Al Helmold, City Attorney-William J. Sueppel, Public Works-Kirk Steinke/Dale Axline, City Finances-Peggy Kedley/Kent Strackbein/ Al Helmold/Rex McCreight, Streets & Alleys-Galen Conrad/Dean Hamdorf,

P.2 JANUARY 6, 2014

Water/Sewer/Fire-Dean Hamdorf/Rex McCreight, Garbage-Galen Conrad/Josh Hamdorf, WGML-Galen Conrad/Josh Hamdorf/Peggy Kedley, Trees/Grounds/Beautification/Parks-Dean Hamdorf, Community Protection/Police-Barry Hoffmeier/Al Helmold/Josh Hamdorf, and 911/EMA-Derrick Lange.

Council will discuss employee salaries at the FY15 budget meeting set for Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 5:30 PM.

Dean Hamdorf questioned Kirk on why they do not use the grader to push snow off the streets for larger snowfalls. Dean says the grader gets down to the street surface better and can push the snow back further. Kirk said he felt using the big truck is quicker and easier to operate. He said he will use the grader when there is a large amount of snow.

New councilmembers will be taking IS100 and IS 700 classes at West Branch on March 4.

Mayor told council, in February, some of information/paper copies in their council packets will be sent electronically to reduce paper waste.

M/S McCreight, Conrad to adjourn at 6:43 PM. Ayes: All.

Next regular meeting is February 3, 2014, 5:30 PM.

FY15 budget meeting is February 4, 2014, 5:30 PM.

Barry Hoffmeier, Mayor

Peggy Kedley, City Clerk