

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 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: Conrad, McCreight, Dean Hamdorf, Josh Hamdorf, Al Helmold.

Visitors: Pat Kroemer, Kirk Steinke, Dale Axline, Bill Norton, Steve Noack.

M/S Helmold, McCreight to approve the consent agenda including minutes, bills, and financial reports. Ayes: All.

M/S Conrad, Josh Hamdorf to close the meeting and open the Public Hearing on the FY15 budget. Ayes: All.

No oral or written comments from the public were made on the budget.

M/S Helmold, McCreight to close the Public Hearing on the FY15 budget and open the council meeting. Ayes: All.

M/S Conrad, McCreight to adopt the FY15 budget. Ayes: All.

Steve Noack, MMS Consultants, was present to update the council on the McKinley Avenue storm sewer and street work projects. City will ask the property owner at 906 McKinley for acquisition of 10' of property along 10th street for an easement for storm sewer. This would clean up the 10' right of way along 10th Street from east to west. Also, the City will need an easement along the property at 700 5th St. in the alley area south of the elementary school for a storm sewer extension. Kirk will speak to the property owner in that location concerning this.

Council person Dean Hamdorf questioned Steve Noack about the progress on the wastewater plant project. He would like to see some plans on the proposed new wastewater plant and make sure the City is moving forward on the project. Steve Noack suggested a sewer committee meeting when Dean could attend and update him on the project. Steve will also put together a timeline for the wastewater plant project.

Council discussed excessive water usage from trickling faucets in the frigid temperatures. Several residents were directed to run their faucets to prevent frozen water lines. One bill was in excess of \$700 for one month.

After discussion, M/S Dean Hamdorf, Josh Hamdorf to bill five residents for their average water usage during the time when they had faucets running to prevent freezing pipes. Ayes: All.

M/S McCreight, Dean Hamdorf to approve Resolution #14-01 recognizing the Eastern IA Regional Housing Corporation Housing Trust Fund to address affordable housing needs within the community. Ayes: All.

City Council discussed the offer of funding from IDOT for 8th Street bridge replacement. It is possible the City could work with Cedar County on a replacement project. The total cost of a new bridge or culvert could be \$300,000 with the IDOT funding 80% of the cost. The remaining cost, \$60,000, would be the City's responsibility. Council said the 5th St. bridge should be of higher importance for replacement. Mayor said he told IDOT the City would like the 5th St. bridge on the list for consideration of funding for next year.

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M/S Conrad, McCreight to accept the funding offer from IDOT for the 8th Street bridge replacement. Ayes: All.

M/S Helmold, Dean Hamdorf to approve the only bid received for Park mowing from Kip Esbaum, \$4000, for the 2014 summer season, per Lowden Park Board's recommendation. Ayes: Josh Hamdorf, Helmold, Conrad, Dean Hamdorf. Abstain: Rex McCreight.

Visitor Bill Norton asked the council how the annexation is proceeding for the Fitzgerald Development. Mayor told Bill Lowden's City Attorney is working on the annexation.

M/S Dean Hamdorf, Helmold to approve a liquor license, pending dram shop liability insurance, for Good Times. Ayes: All.

Kirk Steinke presented information about a new alarm system for the water tower. An estimate from Northway Pump is \$18,000. Council told Kirk to get another quote from Jetco.

M/S Josh Hamdorf, Helmold to add a JJJ Enterprises partial bill for \$460 for digging and thawing a water line at West-Side Truck Center, to the monthly bills for approval. Ayes: All. West-Side Truck Center will be responsible for the balance of the bill from JJJ, \$614.31. Kirk said it appeared it was West-Side Truck Center's water line that was frozen but some of the frozen area may have been in the City's water line.

Mayor reported he has nominated Steve Gottschalk, local weather person, for the National Weather Service Jefferson Award.

Mayor told the council the Clarence Mayor approached him asking for Lowden to reimburse Clarence when the Clarence Police is dispatched to Lowden by the Cedar County Sheriff for assistance. Mayor told the Clarence Mayor that Lowden contracts with the Cedar County Sheriff so he would have to speak to them.

Kirk said the Lowden Fire Dept. would like to purchase a generator for the Fire Station and have one big enough for City Hall to be used during emergencies. Council thought that would be a good idea and suggested they apply for a grant from Alliant Utilities for a generator.

M/S McCreight, Dean Hamdorf to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Ayes: All.

Next regular meeting is April 7, 2014, 5:30 PM.

Barry Hoffmeier, Mayor

Peggy Kedley, City Clerk