

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014 5:30 PM CITY HALL

The regular meeting of the Lowden City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Rex McCreight. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present on roll call: Galen Conrad, Dean Hamdorf, Josh Hamdorf, Al Helmold.

Visitors: Pat Kroemer, Dale Axline, Kirk Steinke, Bill Norton, Dennis Sloan, Steve Noack, Don Meier, Jan Olsen.

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

Steve Noack, MMS Consultants, said bid specifications for finishing the street, storm sewer, and curb and gutter on McKinley Avenue will be out in the next week. Bids will be reviewed at the May 5, 2014 meeting. Steve told the council he had met with the sewer committee last week to discuss the proposed new wastewater plant. He said the council could consider going ahead with the lift station portion of the project which would cost in the mid \$200,000 range. Council will know more about proceeding with the project after CDBG funding is announced by the State the end of April.

Council discussed complaints about the drainage problem in the alley behind the 500 block of Hall Avenue. Kirk says they try to blade the alley so the water is diverted in a different direction. But, short of curb and gutter and new storm sewer on Jefferson Avenue and 7th St. and 8th St., the City does not plan any other work in the alley.

Jan Olsen and Don Meier, Lowden Commercial Club and LEDCO, said they will be refurbishing the two Welcome to Lowden signs and two black iron grid signs along Hwy. 30. They do not have an estimate for the painting yet but asked if the City would be willing to donate to the project using beautification funds. Council supported the idea and will specify an amount when costs are determined.

M/S Josh Hamdorf, Dean Hamdorf to pass Resolution #14-02 authorizing the City to acquire 10 feet of property located on 10th St. owned by Mark and Jackie Mensing, for \$1.00 for storm sewer installation access. Ayes: All.

M/S Josh Hamdorf, Dean Hamdorf to pass Resolution #14-03 authorizing the City to acquire a temporary and permanent storm sewer easement located in the 500 block of 5th St., Ed Werner property owner, for \$1.00. Ayes: All.

Steve Noack told the council an easement agreement with North Cedar Community School is also being prepared. This will allow access by the City along the south edge of the school's property for the storm sewer extension to the creek.

M/S Josh Hamdorf, Helmold to set May 5, 2014, 7:00 PM, as the Public Hearing date on the Fitzgerald Development LLC annexation. Ayes: All.

M/S Dean Hamdorf, Josh Hamdorf to approve adjusting five high water bills down to their average usage. Ayes: All. Water faucets had been left trickling to prevent freezing pipes during frigid temperatures.

M/S Conrad, Helmold to approve a bid of \$500 from Kip Esbaum for Park restroom cleaning for the 2014 summer season. Ayes: All.

M/S Helmold, Dean Hamdorf to have the first reading of ordinance #805 amending the sidewalk ordinance to state "all work shall be completed in 90 days" and the first reading of ordinance #806 stating all building permits "expire one year from the date of commencement of work". Ayes: All.

Council discussed nuisance abatement notices. Dennis Sloan was present and told the council he had contacted seven contractors to help with work on his property but has not been able to hire anyone yet. Council told him he needs to get the refuse out of his yard and clean up the property. Mayor told him if the City is awarded the housing rehabilitation grant, it is possible Sloan would qualify for assistance with his home improvements but he should continue to work on cleaning up his property.

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Mayor will speak to the property owner at 200 5th St. who also received a nuisance abatement notice but has not yet cleaned up their property.

City Council will ask the Zoning Board to schedule a meeting to consider a request to rezone 309 Washington Avenue from Commercial 1 to Residential 1.

M/S Conrad, Dean Hamdorf to have clerk send delinquent utility bills to the Cedar County Treasurer to be added to the property taxes. Ayes: All.

M/S Helmold, Josh Hamdorf to set May 5, 2014, 7:00 PM, for a Public Hearing on a FY14 budget amendment. Ayes: All.

M/S Helmold, Conrad to approve the liquor license for Cedar Country Store. Ayes: All.

M/S Helmold, Conrad to approve a fence permit for Mike and Pam Jensen. Ayes: All.

Kirk reported he does not have an additional bid for the water tower alarm. Also, he will be installing three storm sewer inlets at the corner of 3rd St./Washington Ave., Main St./Grant Ave., and Main St. and Harding Ave. The street committee will look at streets with Kirk with recommendations for summer street work. Kirk said the extra materials used on the McKinley Ave. sewer project on the tennis courts at the Park will be moved to the shed behind the library.

Mayor McCreight told the council the City will consider the 8th St. bridge replacement in FY15 and inform the IDOT of this.

M/S Dean Hamdorf, Helmold to adjourn at 6:43 PM. Ayes: All.

Next regular meeting is May 5, 2014, 7:00 PM.

Rex McCreight, Mayor Pro Tem

Peggy Kedley, City Clerk