

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

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, Helmold, Josh Hamdorf.

Visitors: Susan Hall, Dale Axline, Lana Axline, Austin Lange, Dennis Sloan

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

Mayor Hoffmeier said a loan obtained in 2007 for \$330,000 at 4.25% interest for 40 years for the Little Home Daycare requires attention. The city pays \$1462.00 per month on the loan currently. As of October, 2015 we currently owe \$305,000. Mayor Hoffmeier asked if we should pay an additional \$500 per month or more towards the principal payment to reduce the overall balance of the debt. A discussion occurred regarding what the city currently receives regarding supporting documentation such as Profit & Loss and bank statements. Councilman, Dean Hamdorf asked if the city should take over the books. Councilman, Conrad indicated that we don't want to be in the daycare business, and that if we didn't make a payment on the loan, the city would be unable to get future funding if needed. Mayor Hoffmeier asked if a member of council should be on the daycare board. The discussion continued on who handles the bank statements and if the city receives any money from the daycare. Mayor Hoffmeier added that the city has not received money towards the debt in some time. Visitor, Austin Lange asked if council could ask for an audit. Councilman, McCreight indicated we can could ask for an audit. Public Works, Steinke asked if we have approached the North Cedar Elementary School to see if they had an interest in taking over the loan. He said the school is short on space and has been using rooms at the school for band practice etc. A discussion then occurred on who owns the land the daycare is located on. Mayor Hoffmeier asked Councilman, Josh Hamdorf to call Aaron Horman, School Board to discuss any interest they might have in taking over the loan. Councilman, McCreight said if no bank statement received by the December council meeting an audit should be required. Councilman, Dean Hamdorf will call the USDA to find out about refinancing options. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting in December.

Mayor Hoffmeier read out loud to all present a letter from the Lowden Decorating Committee regarding Christmas Decorations for the town. The committee has replaced the large lighted wreaths with large lighted snowflakes at a cost of \$350 each. The letter asked if the council would help with the cost by purchasing one or more of the snowflakes. A discussion occurred regarding the request. M/S Dean Hamdorf, McCreight to purchase 3 snowflakes for the town at a cost of \$1050.00. Ayes: All

Mayor Hoffmeier read out a letter from the CBDG Housing Fund – the letter indicated that we can reapply for CBDG housing grant. Last time this grant was available, we did not get enough residents to participate in the program. It would require 6-10 resident applications to be considered. The city would contribute \$6000 and funds would be available up to \$247,500 for the grant to be used to help low

income/non rental homes with rehab costs within Lowden. A public hearing would be required in December. M/S Dean Hamdorf, Josh Hamdorf to set public hearing for Monday, December 7th @ 5:30pm for the CBDG Public Housing Grant. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hoffmeier discussed several nuisances within town that had been addressed recently. He said that we still had issues with dogs at 910 Washington Ave and that the resident had been visited by a member of council, sent letters multiple times and recently had been sent a letter from our attorney. Mayor Hoffmeier said that at 705 Jefferson Ave, the property had seen some improvements with clean up, but now new items had appeared. Mayor Hoffmeier indicated that a disabled vehicle was now on the property. Mr. Sloan who was present at the meeting said the vehicle works and he was obtaining tags from Cedar County. He will move the vehicle into his garage. Councilman, McCreight asked if the motor home runs. Mr. Sloan said it does, but he will move this as well. Councilman, McCreight also asked when he plans to finish siding on his home and that he had received reports of new building material's at the property. Mr. Sloan said he is working on residing his home but did not know how long it would take him. Mayor Hoffmeier said Mr. Sloan should keep moving forward with cleaning up his property. Austin Lange asked council what we doing about the property at 503 Hall Ave. He said the property smells very bad. Public Works, Steinke added no power or water at the property. Councilman, McCreight said it has been difficult to get information about the owner's whereabouts and relatives have not returned calls to him. No mortgage is attached to the property but back taxes have been incurred. Mayor Hoffmeier said the City Clerk will contact our attorney to see what we can do about this issue. Mayor Hoffmeier said that the property located at 907 Washington Avenue has an issue with miscellaneous construction materials. A letter had been sent in the past. Public Works, Steinke will communicate with the owner to see about moving the materials. Austin Lange asked about other possible nuisances in town and when those would be addressed. Mayor Hoffmeier said that public works will do an updated list of nuisances to be addressed.

Maintenance Report – Steinke said that Veteran's Day, November 11th would be a regular work day for them. They will take the holiday at a later date in November. City Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27 with council approval. Steinke also said due to wastewater training, the trash and recycle days have changed this month. Recycle day will be Friday, November 13th instead of Tuesday, November 17th. No trash pickup on Wednesday, November 18th. Trash will be picked up on Friday, November 20th. Thanksgiving week will be as normal. Mayor Hoffmeier will cover the water readings in public works absence. Councilman, McCreight asked about the recent DNR inspection. Steinke reported that they went well overall. He said the inspector liked the upgrades. Steinke also reported that he had costs for the guard rail at 5th Street Bridge from Block Inc. We can purchase used rails in 13ft sections at \$40.00 each and we would need 8 of them. He also said we can purchase 8 8x8 composite posts, so they won't rot at \$35.00 each. He would need lag bolts and washers. Approximate cost of entire project would be \$650-\$700. A discussion occurred with members of council on the options and then council informed public works to purchase the items. Steinke reported that leaf pickup is in progress through mid-November, and that we are sharing our resources with Mechanicsville.

Mayor Hoffmeier reported that the Howard Hansen plat is now finalized and will be recorded. Mayor Hoffmeier said that the town's Christmas decorations will start to go up the November 14th. If any residents would be interested in helping with putting up the decorations it would be appreciated. Hot food and refreshments will be made available to those who are helping.

City Clerk reported that City Hall will be closed on Monday, November 30th and Tuesday, December 1st for Utility billing software installation and training.

M/S McCreight, Dean Hamdorf, to adjourn meeting at 6:30pm. Ayes: All

Next regular meeting and Public Hearing will be Monday, December 1, 2015 at 5:30pm

Barry Hoffmeier, Mayor

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk