

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The Lowden City Council budget meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Hansen  
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present on roll call: Conrad, Stewart, Hamdorf, Dewell, and Jones.

Visitors: Vicki Mohr, Bonnie Kintzel and Derek Lange.

M/S to seat Galen Conrad @ 5:35pm, Hamdorf, Stewart Ayes: All.

Vicki Mohr – on behalf of Lowden Library presented information to council about the library needs for FY17. The library requested a budget increase of \$445.00 and asked that if city personnel receive wage increases, the librarian could be included in that. The new budget would be \$48,435.00 for the library.

City Council discussed budget issues for FY17 including the Fire Department, Rescue and Park. No changes in any of the 3 budgets were requested. Derek Lange did ask for use of a city vehicle for volunteers who are currently paying their own fuel expenses to attend a required course for firefighters. Council said that this would be acceptable.

USDA payment for Little Home Daycare – discussion occurred on where the extra payments to principal would come from. M/S Hamdorf, Conrad for clerk to pay extra principal payment from the General Fund. Ayes: All.

Public Works – Kirk Steinke, told council that a meeting is scheduled for WGML for Wednesday, January 20, at 7pm at the Wheatland City Hall. In attendance would be Conrad, Stewart, Ashley Hansen, City Clerk and himself. The discussion will be about purchasing a new garbage truck. Steinke also would like to do some road/sewer work and council said he should continue to get/receive quotes for this. He said he would also like council to consider replacing one of the city trucks. In addition the City had also received some FEMA funds, which can only be used for preventative work – Steinke said he would like to use some of the funds towards a new wing wall at 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Steinke added that he will also do the Snow removal for the Fire Station.

Discussion also occurred on the police department – council decided to leave the budget at \$36,000. No update on costs had been received at the time of the meeting.

Council discussed the Beautification fund for the town – After a discussion council said that purchases/work must come to the city council for approval. Councilman Hamdorf will discuss with the relevant people regarding this. Council said the budget will remain the same no increases.

Council discussed wages, Insurance for city personnel and for Treasurer. After a discussion the following was agreed.

Kirk Steinke, Dale Axline, Vickie Mohr and Sarah Carlson would receive an increase in health benefits from \$525.00 to \$550.00 per month and a 2 percent increase in pay.

Treasurer will receive a \$100.00 increase per year. New yearly salary would be \$1000.00.

M/S Dewell, Stewart to approve a 2% increase in salary and an increase in health insurance to \$550.00 per month for city personnel and to increase the Treasurer pay by \$100.00 per year. Ayes: All.

Council discussed cell phones payment increases for Public Works for Steinke and Axline from \$25.00 per month to \$30.00 per month. M/S Jones, Stewart to approve an increase in cell phone payments. Ayes: Dewell, Stewart, Jones. Nays: Hamdorf, Conrad. Motion passed.

Council discussed transferring funds to savings for the Fire Department, Rescue, City and Library and keeping it the same as the previous year. M/S Hamdorf, Jones, Ayes: All.

Clerk asked council to consider the following wish list items for the budget – replacement of city hall rugs, which are damaged and dirty for the main 2 entrances to the building. A small color printer – the city does not have one and some items require printing in color. Painting areas of the clerk office, meeting room, hall, and rest room areas within city hall. Clerk will obtain quotes for a regular meeting for council consideration.

A public hearing on the FY17 proposed budget will be held March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 5:30pm.

M/S Hamdorf, Jones, to adjourn meeting at 7:55pm. Ayes: All.

Next regular and public hearing meeting will be Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

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Ashley Hansen, Mayor

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Sarah Carlson, City Clerk