

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL –REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

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

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

Visitors: Dale Axline, Greg Cromer, Susan Hall, Rod Ness, Bill Norton.

Mayor Hansen asked before council approved the consent agenda that Rod Ness, CCEDCO would be able to address council regarding its annual membership/partnership renewal. Rod informed council of the existing relationship with CCEDCO and explained CCEDCO partnership with local communities such as Lowden and how they can assist in attracting businesses to the community. He also informed council of some of the other resources available to City of Lowden as a member.

M/S Conrad, Dewell to approve Consent agenda including minutes, bills and financial reports with one exception a receipt presented by Cedar County Store. Ayes: All.

City Clerk, Carlson shared with council a budget update with regards to the police department expenditure for FY17. The expenditure was adjusted with a 3% increase as no renewal contract was available at the time of the meeting. After council reviewed the budget documents and a discussion on how the two existing GO Bonds would be paid, council approved the clerk to move forward in the process. M/S Dewell, Conrad for clerk to complete the budget documents and process the public hearing documentation. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen asked council to set the public hearing date for the budget hearing. M/S Hamdorf, Stewart to set public hearing date for Monday, March 7th @ 5:30pm. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen discussed a letter she had received from the insurance company regarding cyber security for the town. Council discussed the needs of cyber coverage. M/S Hamdorf, Conrad to stay with current coverage with no change. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen then discussed a letter regarding the 5th & 8th Street bridge projects. The letter asked if the City of Lowden would be accepting or declining funding for FY17. Council discussed its ability to fund the project at this time. M/S Hamdorf, Dewell for Mayor to decline funding for FY17 with the option to review again in FY18. Ayes: All.

Visitor Greg, Cromer, aerial photographer showed council a 20 x 28 picture he had taken of the City of Lowden. After a discussion amongst council it was decided to purchase the picture. The picture is on now on display at City Hall. M/S Dewell, Hamdorf to purchase picture. Ayes: All.

Building permits: Council discussed 2 building permits. 401 Hall Avenue and 401 McKinley Avenue. After a lengthy discussion between council regarding the properties, the following occurred. The permit for 401 Hall Avenue was approved. The permit for 401 McKinley was denied. M/S Hamdorf, Stewart to approve building permit at 401 Hall Avenue with the following stipulation that the old garage must be removed from the property within six months of the work occurring on the new garage. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen asked visitors if they had any questions or comments. Bill Norton said he wanted to say something about the police department. He had a recent need to contact them when a burglar alarm had gone off. He said they did a great job in responding to the incident quickly and what a benefit to the community they are.

Council man Hamdorf spoke to council about the need for a 3 phase generator for the town and fire department. He said people in town do not have a place to go if power is out during extreme weather conditions or in an emergency situation. He suggested a generator would work well for this type of situation. It would also allow the siren to work during power outages. Councilman Hamdorf said he thought the cost would be approximately \$25,000. We may possibly also be able to get grants/rebates and to be able to use FEMA funding to assist with this purchase if we moved forward. Councilman Conrad said he would like to see 2-3 bids and asked if the generator would be natural gas. The discussion was tabled until March meeting.

Kirk Steinke, Public Works discussed nuisances with council. Steinke reported he will be taking photos for discussion at the March meeting. He also reported that WGML is taking bids for a new garbage truck for a future discussion with Wheatland and Grand Mound in February. Steinke also reported to council that a sewer line problem is occurring at Harding Ave and 5th Street and that he is investigating the issue. He also said that 2 manholes are bad in the area and need replacement. Council asked him to gather all the information for the next meeting in March.

Mayor Hansen reported that she had discussed the bridge inspections with Calhoun and Burns. Inspections for the 2 bridges would be approximately \$750.00 and that they will call the City Clerk with the dates of the inspection. Mayor Hansen also discussed a measurement concern with a curb and gutter payment. Council said the resident must pay everything but the disputed amount by February 8th and then they will discuss the remaining portion at the March meeting. M/S Hamdorf, Dewell for resident to pay everything but the disputed amount by February 8th. Ayes: All. Mayor Hansen will contact the resident with council's decision.

Mayor Hansen informed council that a letter had been received by the clerk from the Attorney General, regarding a sale of cigarettes to a minor from a business in town. The letter asked if the City of Lowden would like to pursue additional fines/costs. Council discussed the issue and decided not to pursue further action at this time. M/S Stewart, Dewell for Mayor Hansen to sign documents and not to pursue further action at this time. Ayes: All.

City Clerk, Carlson updated council on 503 Hall Avenue, the attorney had prepared documents for a court action but needed some additional information. Clerk will send out the additional information along with updated photos so that the attorney may continue his process. Councilman Hamdorf asked if the meter was still located at the property and whether we are able to retrieve it at this time with a police/sheriff present. Clerk will discuss with attorney.

Clerk also advised council of the mat replacement for the city hall area. The approximate cost for 3 mats would be \$231.00. Council informed clerk to purchase.

M/S Hamdorf, Stewart, to adjourn meeting at 7:10pm. Ayes: All.

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

Ashley Hansen, Mayor

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk