

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL –REGULAR
MONDAY, MAY 2, 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: Stewart, Dewell, Conrad, Jones, and absent Hamdorf

Visitors: Bill Norton, Jan Olsen, Barb McCreight, Amy Willey, Sue Hall, Aaron Horman

M/S Jones, Stewart to approve Consent agenda including minutes, bills and financial reports

Ayes: All.

Mayor Ashley Hansen opened the meeting and discussed current treasurer's appointment for another term. Kent Strackbein will remain as Treasurer for the City of Lowden. She asked if any comments from visitors or council – No comments were received. M/S Conrad, Stewart to approve Kent Strackbein as Treasurer for FY17. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen then read out loud to all present the 1st of 3 readings for **Ordinance # 810 – An ordinance to amend chapter 2.60 of the Lowden Municipal Code (Amendment to ordinance 118)**. This ordinance amendment is to change the Treasurer's salary from \$900.00 per year to \$1000.00 per year for FY17. A full copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

Barbara McCreight – Lowden Garden Club introduced herself to council and explained that the garden club takes care of the Memorial Park, located by City Hall. They are responsible for its upkeep as far as gardening and taking care of the city planters. She explained that many of the members of the garden club are now older members and find it hard to clean up or lift heavier items. She thanked the maintenance men for helping them to haul the debris away recently from the first clean-up. The garden club does major clean-up tasks in spring, summer and fall. She asked if the maintenance men could continue to load and haul away the debris after the clean-up's occur. Public Works Steinke said this would be fine and Barbara should just coordinate with him on when clean-up will occur. Barbara also discussed weeds in this area and they like to use preen to stop new weeds from growing but it's very expensive to purchase and that the garden club would need help to pay for supplies. Councilman Conrad asked what the ingredients of preen were, councilwomen Jones relayed ingredients information. Councilman Conrad said he had roundup in his vehicle approximately 2 gallons of undiluted weed killer that the garden club could have for free. Jan Olsen said we also have several new trees being planted by Shade Master and they will start planting on 5-3-2016. They will stake and mulch the trees and maintain them for 1 year. Donations had paid for the new trees. Barbara said on May 14th, a plant sale will occur at the old lumber yard and encouraged all to support them. Public Works Steinke said that he has a 25 gallon sprayer that can be used as well. Councilman Stewart, thanked the garden club for their commitment and hard work in keeping the town

looking nice. Councilwomen Jones asked Jan and Barbara if they knew that the high school students need volunteer hours, so perhaps they can also assist the garden club this year and in future years. Aaron Horman discussed the bleachers with council. He said approximately 1 year ago he started the discussion about the bleacher replacement but no progress was made and a new council is in place. EMC Insurance is now requesting an additional \$1500.00 be added to the insurance to cover the bleachers. Aaron asked if the city had received any notices regarding this, which they had not. He also explained the costs to council to demolish the bleachers at approximately \$9000 - \$10,000 dollars plus the cost of a concrete pad and the bleachers. The overall cost would be approximately \$22,000-\$23,000. The school is able to fund approximately \$10,000 - \$11,000 dollars towards the bleachers but needs the city to absorb the rest of the costs. A discussion occurred on the height of new bleachers and requirements. Councilman Conrad and Steinke discussed that they could demo the current bleachers and haul them away which would not cost \$9000-\$10,000. Councilman Dewell said he could assist with this demolition. A further discussion occurred on whether cement was needed, or if small pea sized stone would be appropriate and actual cost of the bleachers. Aaron's estimate was approximately one year old but he estimated the bleachers to range in price from \$1814.00 - \$2079.00 depending on size chosen. He estimated seating needed for softball at 144 people and baseball 192. Aaron also said if the school ever left the area they would take with them the bleachers that the school purchased. Councilman Conrad said he did not like this and Aaron explained that the school has no plans at this time to do that but he wanted to make sure council understood this. Mayor Hansen asked if the current bleachers could be modified rather than buying new, Aaron did not advise this, he said it would require a lot of annual maintenance. Purchasing new was the way to go. A further discussion occurred on dates to demolish current bleachers. Jan Olsen suggested after the last game in the season, Aaron said he would like to move things along and report to the school board and ask EMC to reduce the insurance based on council approval to demolish and purchase new bleachers. Councilman Dewell asked if anyone had checked in to used equipment that meet the requirements, Aaron commented, good question, no one had checked on this but Aaron will check what might be available and Kirk Steinke will check surplus resources to see if this is even an option. M/S Stewart, Dewell to begin demolition of bleachers approximately July 20, 2016 or after last game scheduled. Ayes: All. Aaron Horman will provide council with bleacher sizes and costs and Kirk Steinke will check on any possible surplus supplies so a decision can be made on what needs to be purchased.

Mayor Hansen asked council to review a document from the IOWA DOT regarding maintenance/inspections for the city bridges/roads. This is a five year maintenance contract. M/S Stewart, Jones to approve Mayor to sign the agreement from the IOWA DOT. Ayes: All.

Little Home Daycare - council discussed briefly who should pay for the parking lot repairs at Little Home Daycare. A discussion from the previous meeting had been tabled. Work is scheduled to begin soon. This discussion was tabled due to councilman Hamdorf not being available. Bill Norton said that the Little Home Daycare will start to pay \$147.00 per month

beginning May 1st to a reserve account. City Clerk Carlson will contact the USDA to see how this should be handled. Jan Olsen asked if the city could mow the property at the front of town near the railroad tracks. Public Works Steinke said this was not the city, the state is responsible for this area. Mayor Hansen said she will contact the state to see if we can get a regular mowing of this area.

City Clerk Carlson said she had received a cigarette permit renewal for JJ Grocery and that no problems have been noted. M/S Stewart, Jones to approve annual renewal of license for JJ Grocery. Ayes: All. City Clerk, Carlson also said that Alcohol renewal license requests had been received by the city for the American Legion and 3-30 club. M/S Dewell, Jones to approve the renewal licenses pending dram shops. Ayes: All. City Clerk Carlson also asked council to discuss the new model code for ordinances. This was a continuation of a conversation from the prior month. The cost to do a full update would be approximately \$5000 -\$8000. Councilman Dewell asked if we can break the payments up and begin working on this in FY17. City Clerk Carlson said she would check on specific information relating to these questions. Council said they would like to proceed with the update. M/S Jones, Stewart to move forward with the project and ask ECIA to spread the cost. Ayes: All. Mayor Hansen reminded council that a golf cart ordinance is in place within the city limits of Lowden. She said most people had complied with new or renewed permits, however a few had not. Councilman Dewell asked if any notices had been put up around town. City Clerk Carlson said a notice had gone on F&B and that flyers could be posted at the post office and that violators of the ordinance will receive a letter and possible fines. Clerk Carlson advised council on 503 Hall Avenue. This property has been worked on by the city attorney and city clerk over the last several months. City Clerk Carlson advised that the city is now waiting on the Judge's decision to move forward to the final phase. Mayor Hansen shared with council a letter from Dennis Sloan regarding his nuisance abatement notices at 705 Jefferson Avenue and 904 Hall Avenue. The letter requested an extension of time to clean up his properties and to reset an appeal date that he was unable to attend due to an accident. Council discussed his 60 day extension request, which was denied. Councilman Dewell said progress was made at 904 Hall Avenue, but still some more work to be completed. Council thought that he now has help to clean up the properties from a relative. Councilman Conrad said they should discuss his request again at the June meeting and that the City Clerk should send out communication to Mr. Sloan by letter on the decision. Discussion tabled until June 6th council meeting. Mayor Hansen said she had received a letter from 612 Main Street regarding a dog issue. This has been an ongoing issue. A fence permit had also been received for this property. The city attorney had been consulted and he said photographs will help this case and that the residents should contact the police and make reports. Councilman Stewart said that hopefully the fence will ease the issues between neighbors. City Clerk Carlson said permits requests had been received from 505 McKinley for a garage, 612 Main Street – Fence, 401 Hall Avenue – Fence and 112 Grant Avenue – Sidewalk. Council reviewed documentation and discussed each one. M/S Stewart, Jones to approve all submitted permit requests. Ayes: All. Public Works, Kirk Steinke will monitor these approval's to make sure they are in

compliance. Kirk Steinke, Public Works reported that street sweeping will begin within the next couple of weeks. He said that due to Memorial Day, the garbage pickup scheduled for June 1st will now be on June 2nd. He added that he had ordered the replacement lights from Musco lighting and the shipping date will be on or approximate May 9th. JJJ Enterprise will use a crane to install. Steinke said that they had water line breaks at the park in the girl's bathrooms. Also, that they had to jet the sewer lines at 504 Grant Avenue due to a back-up of sewer in the basement, which turned out not be a sewer issue. Roosevelt Avenue had roots in the sewer line and so they were using equipment to handle this issue. Public Works Steinke reported that members of water committee have had a meter tampering case recently and that the city attorney is working on this currently with Public Works. Public Works, Steinke will be doing another reading within a few days. Grand Mound asked if they could keep the garbage truck on Tuesday all day as they have been struggling to keep up with the amount of garbage for this area. Council discussed if this would work for Lowden to pick up the truck Wednesday am instead of Tuesday afternoon. Public Works Steinke said he did not see this as issue. Councilman Dewell and Jones said okay for council as long as the truck is ready each Wednesday @ 6:30am for public works to use. Steinke also reported a water main break at 202 Hall Avenue and that LL Pelling will need to patch the area once they come to Lowden for street repairs. Mayor Hansen said a bid had been received by JJJ Enterprise for a containment area for the gas pumps. Councilman Conrad said we don't need a containment area. No action at this time – discussion tabled. Mayor Hansen wanted to clarify a communication in the Sun Newspaper regarding Reuben Wenndt signing the Little Home Daycare Contract. Mr. Wenndt had approached the City Clerk and asked that we fix it. This was not an article the City of Lowden had written but to clarify Mr. Wenndt signed the Little Home Daycare contracts will full consent/approval of the city council at that time. Mayor Hansen also discussed a contract she had received from Friends of the Animals and its contents and asked council to approve her to sign the document on behalf of the city so that the city could use the services for animals. M/S Stewart, Dewell for Mayor to sign the Friends of the Animals contract. Ayes: All. Mayor Hansen also mentioned that the month of May has National Firefighter Day, Public Works week, and EMS week. So, if you see any of Firefighter, Public Works, or EMS personnel thank them for their service and dedication to our community.

M/S Dewell, Stewart, to adjourn meeting at 7.20 pm. Ayes: All.

Next regular meeting will be Monday, June 6, 2016 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Ashley Hansen, Mayor

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk