

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL –REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 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, Jones.

Visitors: Joe Amato, Marla Quinn, Dale Axline, Susan Hall, Rod Ness, Dennis Sloan, Jan Olsen, Aaron Horman, Brandy Kimrey, Barb Muhs, John Muhs

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

Mayor Hansen opened the meeting by asking Joe Amato to address council on his request for rural garbage service. Mr. Amato said he lives about 6 miles from town and has been having issues with garbage collection at his location, which is currently handled by an independent contractor and he would like council to consider his request to bring his trash to our refuse area. Kirk Steinke, Public Works explained the process and costs and that access is required by a key. Council discussed his request. M/S Hamdorf, Jones to approve new rural customer for garbage drop off. Ayes: All.

Marla Quinn, ECIA visited with council regarding updating Lowden's ordinances to a new model code. She informed council that the costs could be spread over 4 months. She asked the City Clerk to provide her with the current code including any new ordinances that passed from Jan-June 2016 and that they can begin work after July 1st. It will take some time to do but council and ECIA will work together to get the new code in place in work sessions. M/S Hamdorf, Jones to move forward with new ordinance model code and updating our existing ordinances. Ayes: All.

Aaron Horman – Park Board spoke with council about the need to replace the sign at Lowden Memorial Park entrance. He said the old sign is in disrepair, bricks and blocks are crumbling. He provided council with a flyer on the proposed new sign along with verbiage. He asked council if the city would demolish the old sign and stated that park donations/fundraising efforts will be used to pay for the new sign. The approximate cost is \$6975.00. A discussion by council occurred on the footings and whether they also needed to be replaced. When the sign comes down, this will be checked to see if this area needs attention. Councilman Stewart said he appreciated the Park Boards efforts to keep the park looking good and that the sign will also include a sentiment to veterans on it. M/S Hamdorf, Stewart to approve the demolition of the existing sign once the new one is ordered and is onsite and for the Park Board to move forward with ordering the replacement. Ayes: All.

A clarification was requested regarding the bleachers at the park. The school has approved its part of the bleacher purchase at the last school board meeting. Aaron Horman indicated that if the school softball/baseball contract ended the school will take the bleachers that they have purchased with them to a new location. Councilman Hamdorf said this will be fine.

Mayor Hansen introduced **Resolution #16-02 – Resolution setting salaries for appointed officers and Employees for the City of Lowden FY17**. The resolution was read out loud to all present and will be in effect from 7/1/2016. Highlights from the resolution are as follows, Kirk Steinke, Public Works - \$18.67 per hour with \$550.00 per month health insurance. Dale Axline, Public Works Maintenance - \$16.68 per hour with \$550.00 health insurance, Sarah Carlson, City Clerk - \$15.30 per hour, plus \$550.00 per month health insurance. Vicki Mohr, Librarian \$13.77 per hour plus \$550.00 health insurance. Librarian Assistant, \$7.25 per hour with no insurance. A full copy of the resolution is available at City Hall. M/S Stewart, Dewell to approve **salary resolution #16-02** for FY17. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen read out loud **Ordinance #810 – 2nd reading** increasing the Treasurer's salary to \$1000.00 per year from \$900.00 per year. A full copy of this ordinance is available at City Hall. Mayor Hansen requested that the 3rd reading to be waived and council to approve its adoption. M/S Hamdorf, Jones to waive the 3rd reading of **Ordinance #810** and to approve adoption of the Treasurer's salary increase. Ayes: All.

City Clerk, Carlson informed council that the city now owns the property at 503 Hall Avenue after working with the City Attorney over the last several months. Council must now decide on how to proceed with selling it. Council discussed a sealed bid process and John and Barb Muhs said they had checked the assessed value of the property at approximately \$10,800.00 which the Mayor will verify. Council discussed the needs of this property and that they will require that it be demolished within 180 days of its sale, new curb and gutter to be installed and a terminator to come in to remove animals/rodents at the property. No burning of the structure will be permitted as it's too close to other properties. The property will not be permitted for use as a residential property, its width is only approximately 50ft so any bids will need to include the purpose/use of the land although a garage/workshop could be placed here and the city has the right to refuse any and all bids. City Clerk, Carlson estimated the costs incurred to date were approximately \$3900.00 but this was not the final cost. Councilman Conrad asked if it needed to be surveyed by the city before its sale. Councilman Hamdorf said we may not need a survey as the person purchasing it may want to use it as green space or one may be on file at Cedar County. Mayor Hansen will check on this information with the courthouse. Councilman Conrad asked the City Clerk to check with the attorney on this question also. Councilman Hamdorf then directed the City Clerk to have the attorney put together a contract to present at the council meeting in July and to provide an itemized cost to the city for legal fees, court fees etc., this will allow council to put together the final details for the sealed bid process and relevant advertising of the property in late July-August, 2016.

Mayor Hansen said renewal requests for 2 alcohol licenses had been received, one from Schneider Station (Schneids) and the other JJ Grocery. She said a cigarette permit renewal from Good Times had also been received. M/S Hamdorf, Jones to approve renewal of 2 alcohol renewal licenses and 1 cigarette renewal permit. Ayes: All.

Nuisance Abatements – City Clerk, Carlson informed council that 5 new Nuisance Abatements had been issued mainly for junk cars, camper, and miscellaneous junk. One complaint for the park had also been received and 2 new notices for dogs barking were about to be issued. The locations for the 5 Nuisance Abatements were 614 Main Street, 401 Main Street, 303 1st Street, 207 1st Street and 807 McKinley Avenue. Councilman Stewart addressed the park complaint and council agreed that the park people are new this year and are learning all the areas that need to be addressed. Councilman Stewart asked Jan Olsen and Aaron Horman who was responsible for the trees along the walking path, Jan said this is handled by volunteers. Jan also added that 3 trees will be coming down soon as they have died. Brandy Kimrey addressed council on her nuisance abatement notice and informed council that all the junk has now been removed and that she is in the process of getting the camper licensed. She asked council for a 1 month extension, which was granted. Brandy also asked council to tell her what the Farm to Market route is. Kirk Steinke, Public Works addressed this question and explained it allows large trucks and has no weight limit to travel within Lowden. She asked will the bridge near her be affected by heavy trucks. Kirk Steinke, Public Works said it would not it's a culvert. Brandy said 2 planks of wood keep coming through the surface/road area. Public Works did not know what had caused this but they have seen it before and addressed the issue one time prior. They will look in to it.

Mayor Hansen said council needed to set the date and time for Dennis Sloan's Nuisance Abatement hearing. Mr. Sloan had been in an accident and was unable to attend the last hearing date set for him. Councilman Hamdorf asked if June 21st at 6:30pm would work for council and for the City Attorney who will need to be present at this hearing. Dennis thought they could handle his nuisance abatement at this meeting without the presence of the city attorney but this request was denied. Councilman Hamdorf explained the council's position to Dennis and instructed the clerk to send out communication to the City Attorney and to Dennis to confirm the date and time. Scott Fields asked Councilman Hamdorf why they are not going ahead tonight with the hearing. Councilman Hamdorf said Dennis was in an accident and unable to attend the last hearing, that a new date must be set, so the City Attorney can be present and that he had explained previously to Scott that this is not going to be a quick process.

Mayor Hansen asked if any visitors had questions/comments and Rod Ness, CCEDCO asked to speak to council on a new program called "Get Scrappy" this program is free to any business, Individual, organization or non-profit group and will be presented by Nick Westergaard who is a chief branding strategist at Brand Driven digital.

This free presentation will help with building brand recognition for all size businesses. The presentation is scheduled for June 18th @ 10:30am at the ISU Extension and Outreach, Cedar County, 107 Cedar Street, Tipton. RSVP: 563-886-3761.

Councilman Hamdorf asked council to discuss the containment area for the gas tanks, an item from a previous meeting. Councilman Conrad asked why we need it. A discussion occurred on the type of containment and raising the tanks off the ground. Councilman Conrad suggested 2 railway ties would be enough to raise it off the ground but he did not see the need for any additional containment as the tanks are doubled walled. Discussion tabled.

Kirk Steinke, Public Works said LL Pelling will be in town doing road repairs within the next couple of weeks and that trash pickup for July 4th Holiday will be pushed back by one day for Lowden.

Mayor Hansen said the city did not get the CBDG Grant – although this year we had enough applicants to qualify, Lowden was not successful this year. She also informed council that a grant that been submitted to Alliant Energy had also not been awarded to us. The city had hoped Alliant Energy could fund all or part of a generator for the town’s use in emergency situations. Mayor Hansen said she is requesting to move the July 4th council meeting to July 5th. M/S Hamdorf and Stewart to move the next council meeting to July 5th @ 5:30pm. Ayes: Stewart, Hamdorf, Jones, Dewell. Nay: Conrad. Motion Passed.

City Clerk, Carlson reported to council that she would like to accept credit cards for utilities and that a program called GovPay is available and used by other cities. This would be another option for residents to pay utility bills on-line. This program will involve no cost to the city other than a cable running from the modem to an in-house processing machine and would be primarily accessed by a link on the city website by most users of this new payment option. The consumer would pay a fee to GovPay and not the city for using this option. A discussion occurred between council and Brandy Kimrey added that she uses this service with Alliant Energy and it’s very useful to her and other people she knows who use it. M/S Hamdorf, Jones for City Clerk to contact GovPay to set up this service for the City of Lowden. Ayes: All.

M/S Hamdorf, Dewell, to adjourn meeting at 6:40pm. Ayes: All.

Next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Ashley Hansen,

Mayor _____

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk