

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL –REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting of the Lowden City Council was called to order by Mayor Ashley Hansen after a short delay. The meeting commenced at 5:45pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Visitors: Claire Hack, Darla Walling, Susan Hall, Elden Schneider, Geoff Blandin, Bill Clark, John & Barbara Muhs

City Clerk Carlson informed council that the council packs included information obtaining to the new garbage truck purchase. The new truck should be in use within the next week or so. The amount of the loan was for \$86,622.00 @ 3.25%. This loan would be over 3 years and the monthly payment was \$1566.26 with Lowden, Wheatland and Grand Mound sharing the costs of the purchase.

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

Mayor Hansen welcomed IIW Engineering Group to the council meeting and asked them to begin their presentation to council on services they could provide the City of Lowden. Geoff Blandin introduced himself and provided council with an overview of projects in Architecture, Engineering, Surveying, Construction Services, Bridges, Inspections and Sewer Plants. Elden Schneider, Engineer said that he had visited the Sewer plant and it has been taken care of very well but it is near the end of its life. Lowden's 5 year permit is up and the state has not issued a renewal. He said next year the state will look at a compliance schedule and how Lowden will meet new regulations for ammonia and disinfectant. He suggested to council that they should soon start preparing for upgrades or replacement of the plant. He indicated that the state offers low interest funding and that Lowden may be eligible for a CBDG grant up to \$300,000 but the rest would need to come from loans. If Lowden decides on a new plant, a new site within Lowden would need to be investigated. The city does have some land but it may not meet the new regulations. The plant should not be within 1000 feet of residence homes and would require waivers from homeowner and flooding issues would need to be reviewed. They suggested when we are ready to begin ECIA could write the grant application for the city for CBDG grant. Mayor Hansen thanked IIW for an informative presentation.

Claire Hack on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church asked if the city might repair approximately 150 ft. of road which is approximately 9ft from the sidewalk to the street area. He said that when funeral's occur it is a big issue with a sudden dropdown area for those carrying casket's in and out of the church. He said it also causes issues with people who are have disabilities. Public

Works, Kirk Steinke said it's in the right of way. Council discussed the issue and councilman Dewell and Councilman Conrad will take a look at the area of concern. Discussion tabled.

City Clerk Carlson said she had prepared a sales notice to bidders for the property located at 503 Hall Avenue. She asked council to set the last day/time bids will accepted and to confirm the starting bid. Council discussed the contents of the notice and that no house can be built on this property and demolishing the existing building will be the buyer's responsibility along with additional requirements. City Clerk Carlson added that the notice will be placed in the Sun News, City Hall, Post Office and a short version on F&B. Questions may be directed to the City Clerk. M/S Conrad, Jones to proceed with the proposed sale of the property and advertising of bid process/requirements for the sale of 503 Hall Avenue. Ayes: All.

City Clerk Carlson informed council that a budget amendment was required to authorize the clerk to pay the 2012 & 2014 bonds in FY17 and requested an expenditure increase from \$8,000 - \$10,000 dollars to assist with the cost of nuisance abatements. A public hearing will be required for this. City Clerk Carlson also asked council if they wanted at this point to add any other changes or do any other projects and that this was the time to do so. Council briefly discussed and no other changes were requested. M/S Dewell, Jones to set public hearing date for the budget amendment for August 1, 2016 @ 5:30pm at City Hall and to approve the requested change for an increase of \$2000 - Nuisance Abatements and to authorize the City Clerk to pay 2012 & 2014 bonds in FY17 Ayes: All.

A discussion from the previous month was reintroduced. City Hall and the Fire Department have a need for a generator to run the sirens for the town and provide power in emergency situations or extended power outages at City Hall and the Fire Station. Councilman Dewell said he will be handling this action item to see if we can obtain any other type of grant options. Councilman Dewell will also contact Tim Mallot, Emergency Management for assistance. Discussion tabled.

Sun News – Darla from the Sun News asked council to consider 2 newspaper machines to be placed near City Hall on the west side of the building. One machine will house the Sun News the other, the Tipton Conservative. The location was discussed along with how securing the machines will occur by council and public works. Mayor Hansen said the Sun News will be responsible for the newspaper machines along with any associated costs. Public Works will work with the Sun News on exact location. M/S Dewell, Jones to have 2 newspaper machines located near City Hall. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen asked for visitor questions/comments. John Muhs asked council if another bid will be accepted once the initial bids are placed and opened for the proposed sale of the property at 503 Hall Avenue. Can anyone increase their bid after the initial bids are opened and reviewed by council? Councilman Conrad said interested parties should make their best and final offer in the initial bid, no further bidding option will be provided. A brief discussion by

council occurred on the terms of the sale. M/S Conrad, Jones to have interested parties submit their best and final offer by August 1, 2016 @ 12 noon. Ayes: All.

Bill Clark informed council that when he is not in Lowden he would like his water to remain shutoff in his house but not curb side if this was possible. He does not mind paying any reconnection charges but recently returned after a trip around midnight to discover his water was off at the curb, which caused him some difficulties due to the lateness of the day. He said he had this arrangement before and no problems occurred. Council discussed the request and public works said they would not shut him off curb side going forward as long as no problems occurred.

A fence permit was received for review by council for 88 Main Street. Council reviewed the permit application and discussed the request. M/S Conrad, Dewell to allow the fence constructions and for Kirk Steinke, Public Works to work with homeowner. Ayes: All.

Mayor Hansen said that the City Clerk had received 4 complaints recently and one was a repeat offender who had received municipal infractions for dog barking. She asked council what they could do about these issues. Council discussed and said these types of reports need to be made to the police department. No further discussion occurred.

Kirk Steinke, Public Works reported that on July 11th Maguire Iron will be in town cleaning the water tower. Residents may notice water pressure drops during this time. He said a request from the City of Mechanicsville had been made to use our sickle mower, council said this would be okay, but if they damage anything they will be responsible for repairs. Cottage Square apartments wanted to know if the city would fix their parking lot and Cottage Square would reimburse the city. Councilman Conrad said, we will not fix the parking lot but could possibly sell them materials to do this themselves. A discussion on what the city had available and costs were discussed. Kirk Steinke will work with Jeff Decker on this. Kirk Steinke also informed council of pending Fire Hydrant flushing which will occur during the week of July 18th, resident's water might be a little yellow and pressure might be reduced while working in each area.

Mayor Hansen discussed Nuisance Abatements. A letter to 705 Jefferson Avenue had gone out with a cleanup date of July 30th. If at this point no action had occurred. Council will discuss the next step at the August 1st meeting and will review with the City Attorney.

City Clerk Carlson asked council to discuss a battery back-up for the main security camera. The cost to do this was \$69.99 for 15 minutes or \$99.99 for 62 minutes runtime in a power outage. Currently only the clerk's computer has this capability and the camera runs on a separate system. A discussion between visitors and council occurred on this option, during power surges this would bridge the gap to keep the camera's running. Currently any type of power surge is knocking out the power to the cameras and no alarm/notification will occur. A discussion on whether a generator might be the better solution long term was briefly discussed. Discussion tabled.

City Clerk Carlson informed council that she will need to be out of the office beginning August 12th for approximately 2 weeks. She asked council if Peggy Kedley could step in to cover some hours during her absence. Council said this would be acceptable.

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

Next regular and Public Hearing meeting will be Monday, August 1, 2016 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Ashley Hansen,

Mayor _____

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk