

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting of the Lowden City Council was called to order by Mayor Jill Cinkovich.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present on roll call: Kristof, Tjaden, Jones, G. Hamdorf and Lange.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Josh Hamdorf, Kevin Knoche, Warren Wethington, Aaron Horman, Ann Harms and Mark Dohmen.

Mayor Cinkovich addressed council. She spoke about following general rules for council meetings, quorums and replying to all in any electronic communication. How to do motions and voting. She also addressed overtalking by council members and general interruptions.

M/S Lange, Jones to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports and Utility Billing. Ayes: All. One bill was added for rescue in the amount of \$918.36 for Bound Tree.

Councilman Lange reported 4 fire calls and 3 rescue calls.

Chief Deputy Kevin Knoche apprised council of the monthly Sheriff Report for December. 4 Traffic, 5 warnings, 1 citation and 1 arrest. 2 Animal Calls, 1 Business Check, 2 Citizen Inquiry/Assists, 1 Paper Served, 1 Trespass, 1 Warrant Served, 46 additional patrols and 2 Extra Patrols for School Assignment on 12/17/21 to cover for threats. Chief Deputy Knoche then discussed the nuisance abatement at the corner café they had been unable to capture the 3 cats as the door was left open. Sheriff, Warren Wethington added that they are looking at doing something different with logging of town hours with a paper log in addition to computer records. They also provided council with the budget numbers for FY23 - \$58,329.96 for town support. Mayor added she is also part of the EMS Advisory Board. Council had no additional questions.

Library Director, Ann Harms discussed events and circulation numbers for the library. She provided circulation numbers to council. Total 446, Rural 152 and Year to Date: 4128. She also discussed completing the Library Accreditation and a Santa letter event.

Mayor Cinkovich welcomed new council members Callie Tjaden and Austin Kristof. Callie has lived in Lowden for eleven years and Austin for one year. Mayor discussed the MLA classes. Callie is already doing the classes and is finding them helpful. Mayor Cinkovich then advised that the Iowa League of Cities is an excellent resource for council and mayor to help with issue resolution and general advice. Mayor Cinkovich then said she oversees city employees and some situations have occurred where city staff feel harassed by council members. She asked council to tell her of any issues and let me work it out. City staff feel bullied and it's not acceptable. Mayor Cinkovich asked if anyone had questions. No response.

Mayor Cinkovich read Resolution # 22-02 - A Resolution Appointing Council Members, City Employees & Volunteers to Committees and Boards of the City of Lowden. Councilman Gene Hamdorf asked the mayor if he could be put back on water & sewer. The mayor then asked Public Works if they were okay with this and they said they were. New council members Callie Tjaden will join the Park Board and Eastern Iowa Housing Committee and Austin Kristof will take over the position of Sergeant at Arms and Eastern Iowa Housing Committee. Derrick Lange will join the WGML committee. M/S Jones, Tjaden to

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adopt **Resolution # 22-02 - A Resolution Appointing Council Members, City Employees & Volunteers to Committees and Boards of the City of Lowden. Ayes: All.**

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 22-01 - A Resolution for City Facilities, WIFI Policy for Elected Officers. M/S Tjaden, Kristof to adopt Resolution # 22-01 - A Resolution for City Facilities, WIFI Policy for Elected Officers. Ayes: All.**

Mayor Cinkovich welcomed Mark Dohmen and Aaron Horman, NC Schools to the meeting. She discussed the planned replacement of the bridge at the park and the need for an approximate 20ft. easement from the school. Both Mark and Aaron were in agreement that the city could be given the easement at no cost to complete the new bridge. Mark and Aaron plan on attending a meeting regarding the bridge design in the near future. The clerk will follow up with the Engineer to begin paperwork.

City Clerk Carlson and Mayor Cinkovich discussed next steps in the nuisance abatement for the Corner Café. The Clerk will ask the city attorney file a judgement in court. Councilman Gene Hamdorf will look and see what contractors do this type of abatement and then the city will prepare an RFB.

City Clerk Carlson discussed the Certificate of Final Loan Balance for the Sewer Plant. The city was able to keep costs below the projected cost of \$4312,000.00. The final loan balance is \$4207,448.86. A difference of \$104,551.14. The Clerk is waiting on a new payment schedule from the SRF.

Mayor Cinkovich reminded council that the budget workshop is planned for January 10th @ 5:30pm.

PWD Steinke discussed the City Maintenance building from the prior month. Councilman G. Hamdorf asked if everything was moved to the new building. PWD Steinke said no, but he had moved everything down that needed to be. The other items need to stay at the Main Street shop. PWD Steinke said how is moving the cardboard to the sewer plant helpful to the residents of Lowden? We don't have enough land at the sewer plant and to build an additional building for the compactor, cardboard sand, salt and rock plus it's in a flood plain. Councilman G. Hamdorf said it can go on the east side of the building. PWD Steinke said no it cannot, as we have a Missouri Crossing on that side and it's 7ft below level. We have a building already on Main Street. We keep costs to a minimum and both residents and commercial businesses use the cardboard drop off. We also have to keep the gates locked at the sewer plant per DNR regulations. This would mean residents and businesses would have to book an appointment to take items down to the plant. PWD Steinke asked what are your plans for the city building? Councilman G. Hamdorf said we would eventually sell it and then said we will discuss this again at another time. Other council members saw the need to keep this building and use as it was intended. Councilman Kristof said he was concerned about the running costs initially, but after looking at the information provided and hearing the needs, he felt comfortable with the building use. PWD Steinke said he keeps the heat and power use to a minimum.

Josh Hamdorf spoke with council about wanting a change to city ordinance for portable sheds. He has a rental property and either wants a case-by-case consideration or a change to the existing ordinance, so the shed doesn't have to be on a permanent foundation. He said his rental property doesn't have any storage and they need somewhere to put garbage cans etc. Council woman Jones suggested adding it to the agenda for February to look up information and review the ordinance. Councilwoman Tjaden would

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also like more information, maybe a modification is needed or ease of restrictions. Would a survey still be required? Sheriff Wethington offered some input to council. He asked if they want to attract young people into the community. A portable small utility shed should perhaps be considered allowable. Council will discuss at the next meeting in February.

City Clerk Carlson discussed the Park and Cemetery Mowing ad's with council for 2022 and 2023. The ad's will go out to the newspapers for 2 weeks, social media and city website. Deadline to apply was set for 2/4/2022.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the proposed pipeline which they want to run close to Lowden. She asked council is they agreed with her filing a formal objection on behalf of the City with the Iowa Utilities Board. Council agreed she should do this. She also wondered how fire and rescue services could handle the hazards from any type of accident with the pipeline and it would be very close to the school.

Mayor Cinkovich asked council to set the date for the Max Levy hearing. M/S G. Hamdorf, Jones to set the Max Levy Public Hearing for February 7th.

Nuisances: 303 McKinley Avenue - Burning Trash Nuisance. A letter was issued to the owner via mail and door delivery to cease burning of trash in yard. Nuisance at 701 Jefferson Avenue - has complied with the clean-up abatement. City Clerk Carlson added that Don Brockmeyer took advantage of the Sidewalk Replacement program and was reimbursed for \$704.00.

PWD Steinke said he wanted to discuss an issue reported at 505 Jefferson Avenue via comments on Facebook. He confirmed with council that the city men do not plow this right-of-way area and council agreed. PWD Steinke said the clutch has gone bad on the salt and sand machine. HD Equipment will be repairing. Estimated cost is \$300-\$400. PWD Steinke said he also had a dead meter - his first one. The city will need to plan for replacement of both the software and meters, which is currently around \$160,000 he thought. The City has begun to put funds aside for this project and will discuss at the budget meeting.

City Clerk Carlson and PWD Steinke discussed a question of a possible zoning adjustment to a property. The clerk will work with the Zoning Board.

M/S Lange, Jones to adjourn meeting at 7:10p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Monday, February 7, 2022 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk