

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The 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, Hamdorf, Lange, Tjaden. Absent: Jones

Visitors: Sue Hall, Warren Wethington, Brandon Cloughly, David Dewine, Nick Lange, Kevin Bailey, Aaron Horman, McKenzie Machart, Matt Wildman, Bill Sueppel and Ann Harms.

M/S Tjaden, Lange to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports, Utility Billing and to add one bill for \$500.00 for the Fire Department Weather Spotter Training and to use \$6,000 from the Alberta Martin fund to repair/replace fire department equipment. Ayes: All.

Councilman Lange reported 4 fire calls and the mayor reported 9 calls for rescue.

Sheriff Wethington updated council on ambulance updates and Councilman Hamdorf and Councilwoman Tjaden discussed speeding and stop signs in town and addressed an issue up by the school.

M/S Lange, Tjaden to close regular meeting and open the public hearing for FY24 City Budget and Plans and Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Replacement for 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> St. - Harding Avenue. Ayes: All.

HR Green, Matt Wildman discussed Plans and Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Replacement for 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> St.- Harding Avenue. Council discussed the 30-day notice for easements and bidding. No written or visitor comments were received.

City Clerk reviewed the budget report for FY24. No Comments written or verbal were received.

M/S Lange, Tjaden to close the public hearing for the FY24 City Budget and Plans and Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Replacement for 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> St- Harding Avenue. Ayes: All.

M/S Lange, Hamdorf to accept Plans and Specifications for the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project for 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> St.- Harding Avenue. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read Resolution # 23-13 Adoption of the FY24 city budget. M/S Tjaden, Kristof to adopt FY24 City Budget. Ayes: All.

Matt Wildman, HR Green addressed council on the sewer line project and covered his projections and easement needs that the city will be addressing in due course.

Ann Harms, Library Director discussed the monthly activity for the library. Hills Bank donated 75 tee-shirts.

Aaron Horman, F&B Communications discussed city property that its equipment building is housed on. F&B would like to purchase the land. A twenty-five-year lease is about to expire. City Attorney, Bill Sueppel advised council on the necessary steps. He recommended the city update the abstract to this property. It would require a public hearing if the city decides to sell the property. Council said they were open to the sale of the property, but want time to consider all options.

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

Dewine Rentals - David Dewine spoke to council about the recent purchase of the 5L LLC rental property. He wanted to find out how garbage will work for them. Council gave him an option of a 4-yard dumpster or leave as the current set-up. No decision was made.

Mayor Cinkovich read Resolution #23-10 - A Resolution Authorizing The FY24 Debt Payment for the Lowden's Wastewater Plant To Include Transfer Of Funds in the total amount of \$266,040.00. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to adopt Resolution # 23-10 - A Resolution Authorizing The FY24 Debt Payment for the Lowden's Wastewater Plant to Include Transfer of funds in the total amount of \$266,040.00. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read Resolution # 23-11 - A Resolution Authorizing the Annual Debt Payment and Transfer of funds for GO Bond 2014 in the total amount of \$33,525.00 for FY24. M/S Tjaden, Lange to adopt Resolution # 23-11 - A Resolution Authorizing the Annual Debt Payment and Transfer of funds for GO Bond 2014 in the total amount of \$33,525.00 for FY24. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed Resolution # 23-12 - A Resolution appointing two people to the Eastern Iowa Housing Committee. She asked council to hold off on this resolution until May. She had not heard back before the meeting from the two individual's who she wants to appoint. Council had no objection.

Kevin Bailey, MSA Engineer updated council on the project now in progress for the bridge replacement at the park. Ninety loads of dirt/clay had been removed from the area so far. He discussed the pay application that was approved by council and will come on-site to work with the clerk on the pay application for IDOT. He also discussed two change orders that will be covered 100% by the IDOT. Council thanked him for his time.

Mayor Cinkovich and City Clerk discussed the Bridge Inspection Program by Calhoun Burns for FY23/FY24. M/S Hamdorf, Lange for the Mayor and Clerk to sign documents for the city. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich and city staff updated council on the lead lines inventory and replacement needs. A newly learned lead line was added to the inventory list. Councilman Hamdorf said he called the DNR and they don't know anything about the lead rule. The city received official communication from the DNR with the EPA ruling, which established the lead and copper rule to protect public health and reduce exposure to lead and copper in the drinking water. Lead pipes are a leading source of the concern statewide and the city is attempting to take action to identify and begin removing the lead service lines. Some businesses and homeowners were identified and notified that they will need to update their service lines. Councilman Hamdorf doesn't want the city to have businesses remove the lines currently. No further action will be taken until clarification is obtained. All public water supply systems are required to submit their lead service line inventory by October 16, 2024.

PWD Steinke proposed to council the estimate for road striping by the 3-30 country club on the new blacktop. The cost is \$6,382.55. Council told him to proceed.

City Clerk discussed the need to replace the city computer equipment with council. M/S Tjaden, Kristof to approve the purchase of new city computer equipment per the project proposal from F&B Communications. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich addressed Brandon Cloughly's building permit with council. Visitor McKenzie Machart said she was upset that council doesn't follow its own city ordinances. She said the contractor for the garage project for Cloughly were on her property and causing damage when they were working on the concrete pad. PWD Steinke

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

said, no one call was placed either. A heated debate continued for several minutes. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to approve the garage permit. Ayes: Lange Hamdorf, Kristof. Nay: Tjaden. Mayor Cinkovich said, going forward you must do a permit in the correct way and obtain approval before any work starts. Kristof added that the city needs to address the city ordinance for building permits, so this doesn't happen again. He said garages should spell out that a pad or foundation is part of the building permit and needs prior approval for set-backs etc.

Permits: Trinity Church - Sidewalk. M/S Lange, Kristof. Ayes: All. 1000 Hall Avenue - Enclosed Porch. M/S Hamdorf, Lange. Ayes: All.

PWD Steinke - Street Sweeping will occur 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of April. He had ordered cold patch for street repairs and has some he can use as weather allows. He said the property at 404 Washington, where the house fire occurred now has insulation blowing from it and the fence is coming down. He will contact the homeowner and insurance company. The flag pole needs another repair, estimated cost is \$200-\$400. Council told him to proceed and he said the new signs are in. He also will order some reflective strips, which council approved.

City Clerk discussed the sewer rate increase of 5% for this year per the Municipal Advisor's direction, followed by 3% for the next two years. The first reading of the city ordinance will be at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

M/S Hamdorf, Tjaden to close the regular meeting and to move into closed session @ 7:30pm. All visitors were asked to leave.

M/S Tjaden, Lange to close the closed session and return to the regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich was asked to follow up on some discussed items with guidance from the City Attorney.

Councilman Hamdorf asked the city attorney for an update on the corner café. The attorney will need to check with his colleague who is handling the case. He did believe this property was going to a tax sale. Councilman Hamdorf said he will check into this. Mayor Cinkovich asked about the Lou Licht property nuisance. A court trial date is set for April 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Cinkovich asked Fire Chief and Councilman Lange what he had agreed to as far as burning of the brush and trees. Councilman Lange said no agreement was given, just he would ask what council wanted to do. Council discussed and they will not burn the brush and trees at the property. The court case will go ahead as scheduled. Council then discussed the Ziegler property nuisance. A pre-trial date is set for this.

M/S Lange, Tjaden to adjourn meeting at 7:55p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Monday, May 1, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

---

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

---

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk