

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, August 7, 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, Jones, D Lange and N Lange.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Aaron Horman, Nick Lange, Randy & Lori Millam, Jeremy & Tiffany Wink, Lou Licht, Warren Wethington, Ann Harms.

M/S Jones, Hamdorf to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports, Utility Billing. Ayes: All.

Councilman Lange reported 1 fire call and 1 training and the mayor reported 8 calls for rescue in Lowden and 4 for Clarence.

Sheriff Wethington discussed MCM concerns and services and events he had been dealing with at the sheriff's department.

M/S Jones, Kristof to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing for the open seat on council. Council received a total of four written request - Jayne Hintz, Nick Lange, Cody Poppe and Randy Millam. Randy Millam spoke to the council about his experience. Mayor Cinkovich asked Nick Lange if he would like to discuss his application for the position. He declined. Mayor read the letters from the other two candidates who were not present. The City Clerk confirmed no other comments written or verbal were received. M/S Hamdorf, Jones to close the public hearing and return to regular session. Ayes: All. Council members debated the four candidates. Councilman Hamdorf said we need younger people in. Jones wanted to look at overall experience and thought Jayne Hintz would be a good selection and had a lot to offer. Councilman Austin Kristof thought NLange was the best selection. Councilman Dlange said he wasn't voting. Councilwoman Jones said she was concerned over social media posts directed at the mayor and staff. They are not professional, and people have spoken with her about this and how they think council is joke. Councilman Kristof said this is separate from this meeting and should be addressed outside of the meeting.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-20 to all present - A Resolution Making An Appointment To Fill A City Council Vacancy.** M/S Kristof, Hamdorf to select Nick Lange to replace outgoing councilwoman Callie Tjaden. Ayes: Hamdorf, Kristof, Nays - Jones. Abstained - Dlange. Mayor Cinkovich administered the Oath Of Office to Nick Lange.

Library Director, Ann Harms discussed various library events and that they had received their accreditation. The council thanked her for her work at the library.

M/S Dlange, Hamdorf to close the regular session and move to the public hearing for the sale of city owned land at 312 McKinley Avenue. Aaron Horman was present and representing F&B Communications. He said the space will remain green space for the foreseeable future. The purchase price is \$12,000 and F&B agreed to cost share on the abstract cost. M/S Jones, Hamdorf to close the public hearing and return to regular session. Ayes: All. M/S Jones, Hamdorf to approve the sale of 312 McKinley Avenue to F&B Communications for \$12,000 and half share of the abstract cost at \$750.00. Ayes: Dlange, NLange, Jones, Hamdorf. Nays - Kristof.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-19 - A Resolution Authorizing The Sale And Conveyance of Property Located at 312 McKinley Avenue And Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute All Necessary**

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**Documents To Complete The Transfer. M/S Hamdorf, N Lange, Jones, Dlange. Nays - Kristof.** Aaron Horman thanked the council and reminded them that they will also be providing internet services for the sewer plant at no charge to the city at an approximate value of \$1700 annually.

Lou Licht spoke to council about his nuisance abatement. He is due in court on August 17<sup>th</sup>. He had removed one building, but the east building is still standing. He wanted additional time to finish clean-up. Councilman Hamdorf and Councilman D Lange wanted to extend his timeline until November 1, 2023. Lou Licht asked Councilman Dlange if the fire department would burn the building as part of fire training. Councilman Dlange said that's up to council. Lou said he had lots of people interested in the materials of the building such as Bobby Kaufman for the metal and Jason Conrad. He also wanted the mayor to do the next inspection along with some select council members. The City Clerk will speak to legal counsel to see if an extension can be granted. Council members agreed to October 2<sup>nd</sup> for next inspection of the property.

The Clerk discussed budget amendment # 1 for FY23/FY24. A change in revenues for the sale of city property along with expenses for the new rescue truck, through donations and sale of salvage. Balance of new meter heads for the city and final expenses related to the bridge project. M/S Dlange, Hamdorf to approve the budget amendment and set the public hearing date for September 5<sup>th</sup>. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk discussed the Outstanding Obligation Report for the City - \$3,752,000 - Sewer Plant. \$206,734.41 remains on the 40-year loan for the daycare and \$90,000 remains on the Go Bond 2014 for the McKinley Avenue Road replacement project. M/S Jones, Hamdorf to approve the Outstanding Obligation Report. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk discussed the new agreement for the city website with Catalis. Year 1 - \$2500. Year 2 - \$2650, Year 3 - \$2809 and Year 4 - \$3156.19. As part of the agreement, the city website will have nightly backups, Automatic Feature updates, Accessibility Development, Design Refresh, 300 pages of content transfer to the new platform. Remote Training for the Clerk and other subscription services. M/S Kristof, Dlange to approve the Catalis agreement as written. Ayes: All.

Tiffany Wink asked council to have their Customer Utility Deposit of \$200 waived, for a property they are purchasing in town. The deposit requirements are written in the city ordinance. Councilman Hamdorf said, just waive that fee and Councilman Kristof, said he's a volunteer on the fire department. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to waive the Customer Utility Deposit. Ayes: All.

Councilman D Lange asked that all of council have telephone numbers added to the city website. Councilman D Lange said he wants all of council to drive around properties the day before the meeting and bring the nuisances to council each month. It shouldn't always be on Kirk to handle, he added.

Mayor Cinkovich said the city had received four permits. 301 Hall Avenue - Sidewalk Permit, 114 Grant Avenue - Sidewalk Permit, 801 McKinley Avenue - Shed and Solar panels, 100 Grant Avenue - Fence. M/S Lange, Jones to accept the permits as submitted. Ayes: Dlange, N Lange, Hamdorf and Jones. Abstained: Kristof.

Councilman Hamdorf asked that Roxanne Alger, 605 Jefferson Avenue be sent a certified nuisance letter for mowing and weeds. Councilman Hamdorf had other properties he wanted addressed. 507 Main Street, 303 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 608 Hall Avenue - Temporary fence must come down. He wanted a nuisance form to address several other properties. PWD Steinke will provide him with the form. Councilwoman Jones said the fence and building is leaning at 505 Jefferson Avenue and the trees needs attention. City council will be signing the nuisances and

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delivering them to property owners. The City Clerk added that the city did win the nuisance abatement against 110 Jefferson Avenue earlier in the month and he pled guilty.

PWD Steinke said on the 15<sup>th</sup> of last month - 4 street signs were damaged due to vandalism. The sheriff department had captured the culprits. He reported damage at the park to the three port-a-pots that had occurred on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The owners removed and replaced the port-a pots with new ones. Damage reported was the hand sanitizers pulled from each of the walls of the units and toilet rolls thrown down the toilet. PWD Steinke also said the balance of the meter tops finally arrived. City Staff and HR Green met with Tripple B for the Harding Avenue Sewer Project. The council said to use hot mix to fix the area for a change order that is needed. The three generators will be having maintenance completed at the pump house and sewer plant soon.

The City Clerk said election paperwork is available at city hall and she is working on various legals for the daycare and to complete the sale of property to F&B.

Councilman Hamdorf asked PWD Steinke for the MOR reports to be in the next council pack.

M/S Jones, Dlange to adjourn meeting at 7:40p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, September 5, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

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Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

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Sarah Carlson, City Clerk