

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 - 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: Jones, G. Hamdorf, Lange, Tjaden. Absent Kristof.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Ann Harms, Kevin Knoche.

M/S Tjaden, Hamdorf to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports, Utility Billing and to add one late submitted bill for \$14.79 for Bound Tree. Ayes: All.

M/S Jones, Lange to close the regular meeting and open **the public hearing for Budget Amendment # 1 for FY22/FY23**. Ayes: All.

City Clerk discussed the changes to the operating budget. Donations to fire and rescue, increase in fuel and operating costs and internal transfer of funds for future projects. No comments verbal or written received. M/S Jones, Lange to close public hearing and return to regular session. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 22-19 - Budget Amendment # 1 for FY22/FY23**. M/S Lange, Tjaden to adopt **Resolution # 22-19 - Budget Amendment # 1 for FY22/FY23**. Ayes: All.

Deputy Chief Knoche discussed the police report for October with council. No questions. Knoche reported an uptake in vehicles, trailers and equipment thefts and to report any suspicious activity.

Councilman Lange reported 1 fire call. David Hintz reported by email 8 rescue calls.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed a prior agenda item for 201 Washington Avenue. The attorney indicated an individual official survey is required for this lot and pointed out that this is a commercial area not industrial. Zoning code has restriction to how much of the land can be covered as this is a very small area. Councilman Hamdorf said the business needs a restroom on site. No action taken will be taken until an official survey is received by the city. The mayor will discuss with the owner.

Mayor Cinkovich said a zoning application has been received by the city. The City Clerk has submitted to the Zoning Board for input. No additional action at this time.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the frontage fee and the \$5000 Surety fee requirement from the City Ordinance. Councilman Hamdorf requested the ordinance is removed from code in the codification process. Mayor Cinkovich discussed signing an agreement or contract with individuals to make sure the road is returned to original condition for up to 1 year after a water or sewer hook-up has occurred. M/S Lange, Jones to remove the ordinance during the codification process. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed fire and rescue stipend payments. \$1400 to Fire Chief Lange for the fire department and \$1000 to Whitney LaMaack for Rescue. M/S Jones, Tjaden to approve the stipend payments to fire and rescue. Ayes: Hamdorf, Tjaden and Jones. Councilman Lange: Abstained.

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Mayor Cinkovich discussed the need to address township fire and rescue rates and the 28E Agreement. The city will begin the process to evaluate the current rates and to begin discussions with each township in due course. Massillon is currently the lowest rate in the county.

Ann Harms, Library Director discussed the book club, xmas shop, which was a huge hit. They sold out within one hour. She will be doing a sock exchange program soon. She said the lightfest was very successful with 200 people in attendance for the supper over the duration of the event.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed codification of the model code. No additional changes were requested. The code has been updated to reflect updated state laws and to include all city ordinance that were adopted within the last 5 years. A public hearing will be scheduled for January 2023.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the park bathroom bid to remove the sewer lines ready for the new bridge replacement in Spring. Daehn Farms was the only bid received in the amount of \$2500.00. Councilman Hamdorf disagreed that the work needed to be done now. Public Works Director Steinke said the IDOT contract for us is being bid this month with work beginning in the spring. He expressed his concern that we are not following our contract agreement. No decision could be reached. The clerk will reach out to the city engineer on the project. M/S Jones, Tjaden to approve Daehn Farms bid to remove the sewer line. Nay: Hamdorf, Nay Lange. Motioned failed. Councilman Hamdorf asked where we are with the money for the new park bathroom. No plans have been submitted. The mayor said she has spoken to a grant writer to do a bathroom and park equipment, grant and she wanted to discuss with the school to see if they will help with the cost. The city has about ½ the funds it will need for this project.

PWD Steinke said the pump house needs some updates to fiber optic. Pump # 3 will be lost at the park if we don't have a dedicated line for internet. He was requesting a controller and lines, 40 hours of installation at a cost of \$24,055.79. The monthly fee will be approximately \$130.00 for 2 units. This work would need to occur in the spring. Council had some questions about loss of power and how that would work. PWD Steinke will check into this before the final decision is made.

City Clerk discussed the daycare appraisal with council and a possible sale of the building and contents. Council asked the clerk and mayor to coordinate with the school to see if they want to proceed.

Councilwoman Tjaden discussed some security camera options for city hall. She had looked into Reolink, but they do not have technical support and everything is done through a phone app. The package cost from \$551- \$829 and doesn't include installation. She also spoke to the City of Wyoming and they moved back to a local provider as they tried a similar system, but spent a lot of time having to find solutions to issues and online support. Council tabled for the January meeting.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed council meeting changes for 2023. Tuesday, January 3rd and Tuesday, September 5th. Council had no objections.

Nuisances: City Clerk reported on the court date for the corner café. An administrative warrant has been granted to the city and will be executed within 10 days. Councilman Hamdorf asked about updates for

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110 Jefferson. Councilwoman Tjaden asked about 604 Washington Avenue. They have 4 boats in the yard and regularly have lots of vehicles. PWD Steinke said he will look in to this.

Maintenance Report - Public Works Steinke reported on pump # 2 not shutting off correctly. Johnson H2O are coming onsite to fix. He also reported that seal-coat work went up \$0.30 per cubic foot.

City Clerk reported that she is working on the state exam with the auditor and will have limited availability 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21st of December during the onsite portion of the exam and year-end tax processing preparation is occurring now.

M/S Lange, Jones to adjourn meeting at 7:20pm. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 3 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk