

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The meeting of the Lowden City Council was called to order by Mayor Derrick Lange.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present on roll call: Kristof, NLange, Poppe, ALange. Absent: Jones.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Jan Olsen, Danita Washburn, Tanya Stewart, Mark Dohmen, Matt Wildman, Ann Harms and Warren Wethington.

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

Mayor DLange reported 2 fire calls and 7 rescue calls.

Mark Dohmen, North Cedar Schools discussed plans for the park concession stand, bathrooms, cold storage, and crow's nest with council. Discussion on adding timed locks and security cameras to deter vandalism. ALange wanted to know how far from the road the building setback will be. Mark Dohmen said they plan to follow the city rules for setbacks. He will also discuss with EMC any building height recommendations to be off the ground. Mark shared plans on solar panels he wants to add to all four buildings. Approximately \$20,000 a year will come from the school's general fund. He said the solar panel's normally face south and he wants to add a privacy chain link fence. Council discussed easements and asked Mark to get pricing and information for adding four sides of fencing, and then just adding fencing to southside. Mark said the school will spray weeds two times per year and add rock to the solar area.

M/S ALange, Kristof to approve North Cedar School to add solar panels to the park and approve the building permit submitted by the solar company. Ayes: All.

Sheriff Wethington provided updates to council regarding radio equipment. He said his staff have over three-hundred-man hours invested within Lowden recently due to a person selling illegal guns and meth. The person was sentenced to federal prison. Sheriff Wethington discussed the 28E agreement. Lowden's cost for FY25 will be \$80,068.00 based on per capita. He said if they provide cover for a town not in the 28E agreement, that non 28E city would be charged a minimum of \$86.00 per hour. M/S NLange, Poppe to approve the agreement for Lowden for \$80,068.00 for FY25. Ayes: All.

Ann Harms, Library Director discussed Library events and the summer reading program. She added that circulation continues to increase.

Library Board Members, Jan Olsen, Danita Washburn, and Tanya Stewart discussed a building extension proposal with council. The current building has a storage area that they would like to convert to a program and meeting space. They would need financial assistance from the city and maybe donors and grants. No dollar cost at this time was available, the board just wanted to apprise council of the request and seek approval and then go out for estimates. Poppe said he would like to see at least two estimates. Council will re-visit at the March meeting.

Matt Wildman, HR Green discussed the continuation of the sewer rehab project - Phase 2 & 3. Estimated cost is \$1,000,000 but the city can apply for a CDBG grant for up to \$500,000. The city already has the plans prepared but will need to make a few modifications. The city will work with its COG to understand more about costs.

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

ALange and NLange said the sewer and roads won't improve unless we do this work. M/S NLange, ALange to approve City Engineer, Matt Wildman to proceed with plan changes and applying for the CDBG grant. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk discussed Budget Amendment # 3 with council. No additional changes required and no changes to property tax. M/S Kristof, NLange to set the public hearing date of Wednesday, March 6th @ 5:30pm. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk discussed the FY25 Proposed Tax Levy - no additional changes needed. M/S Kristof, NLange to set the public hearing date of Monday, March 25th @ 5:30pm. Ayes: All.

Mayor DLange discussed a water line break at 705 Hall Avenue. Council discussed and approved a reduction to a minimum bill based on her regular bill over the last year. M/S ALange, Poppe to approve reduction to a minimum bill to \$95.17 for 705 Hall Avenue. Ayes: All.

Mayor DLange discussed two proposals received from City Attorney firms and the current attorney rates. Lynch Dallas - \$250.00 per hour, Kyle Maurer - \$200.00 per hour and the second attorney in his firm \$200.00 per hour. Our current attorney – Meardon, Sueppel and Downer is at \$190.00 per hour and the second attorney \$175.00 per hour. Council did not decide at this meeting and will revisit at the March meeting.

Mayor DLange asked if the city would like to again partner the Cedar County Fair Association to support local 4H groups at the county fair. The city will partnership at the yellow ribbon level of \$50.00. M/S ALange, Kristof for the city to participate in the Cedar County Fair Association. Ayes: All.

ALange asked if timecard's can be added to the council pack's each month. The clerk will add them.

City Hall Temporary Coverage - clerk discussed coverage for her absence with council.

NLange said he wants to terminate the park mowing agreement from the current person Sebastian Cinkovich to save money for the city. PWD Steinke said it takes 10-12 hours mowing for one person. Jan Olsen said trimming is non-existent, the mowing is done, but limbs are not picked up. The city is adding a splashpad and more visitors will come, and the park has not looked good for the past few years. Council discussed. M/S Kristof, NLange to terminate the current mowing agreement and for the city men to mow and trim the area. Ayes: All.

Good Times Liquor License Renewal - M/S NLange, Poppe to approve Good Times Liquor License pending dramshop. Ayes: All.

Mayor DLange discussed the Public Works occasional assistance for garbage and other assigned duties. M/S ALange, Poppe to set the rate at \$20.00 per hour. Ayes All. The City Clerk will add it to a Resolution in due course.

Nuisances - None reported.

PWD Steinke said he would like to order a full pallet of road patch; the estimated cost was \$850.00. Council told him to get what he needed and that he could re-order without council approval.

PWD Steinke discussed the new radio read installations. He has concerns about a second bad box of endpoints. He spoke to the supplier and council told him if there were any more issues, invite vendor to a council meeting to discuss.

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

PWD Steinke discussed 500 Jefferson Avenue who had a sewer back-up. Property owner has three pin oaks in the right-of-way. The owner said that Roto Rooter cleared out the roots to the sewer line, but they highly recommended removing one of the trees. The owner is willing to pay for the removal. Council discussed. M/S ALange, NLange to approve the homeowner to remove the offending tree at his own expense. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk provided a flyer she had prepared to give out to homeowners/business owners for when the new radio heads are installed at their property. The **Badger EyeOnWater** application can be used to monitor your own water use and to help with detecting leaks. The clerk said she had received a request from the Cedar County Auditor to move our council meeting dates for the special election on March 5th and the General Election in November. Council agreed to a temporary change only to March 6th and November 6th.

City Clerk Carlson discussed an email from Jodi Freet, Cedar County EMA regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan is required to be updated every 5 years. The clerk provided documents for council to review at home and then to come to the next meeting with updates for the county.

M/S ALange, Poppe to adjourn meeting at 7:30p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Derrick Lange

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk