

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR & PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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, Jones, G. Hamdorf, Lange, Tjaden.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Denny Mostaert, Nick Lange, Austin Lange, Dan Sinclair, Matt Wildman & Warren Wethington.

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

Councilman Lange reported 3 fire call. David Hintz reported by letter 6 rescue calls.

Sheriff Wethington discussed the monthly Sheriff report and an unregistered mini motorbike problem in town. He is also provided updates from recent meetings he has attended.

M/S Jones, Tjaden to close regular meeting and open the public hearings for the Lowden Model Code and Max Levy Hearings. Ayes: All.

City Clerk discussed the Iowa Code of Ordinance with all present. No verbal or written responses received.

City Clerk Carlson discussed the Max Levy for FY24 with all present. No verbal or written responses received.

M/S Jones, Tjaden to close public hearings for the Iowa Code of Ordinances and Max Levy. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution 23-01 - Max Levy. Total levy for affected property tax levies - \$269,239.00 for FY24.** The property tax error by the state may mean the city may receive less than expected in taxes.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Ordinance # 832 Iowa Code of Ordinances** to all present. M/S Tjaden, Jones to adopt the model code as presented and waive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings. Ayes: All.

M/S Tjaden, Hamdorf to set budget hearing for March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm. If the governor issues a change order for the property tax bill, this hearing will be changed to a budget workshop as needed.

Dan Sinclair from Badger meters discussed the need to update the city software to a cloud-based system and for the city to change out the meter heads. The estimate is \$131,150.00 for up to 450 meters. The system will have some additional costs for cell phone tower use. The system will allow the clerk to see hourly reads and therefore detect leaks faster. Homeowners and businesses will also have the ability to look at their own water use. Costs and details to be discussed at a later date. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to approve 430 meter heads and for the payments to be divided into two separate payments due to supply chain issues and budget restraints. The city has budgeted and prepared for this purchase in advance. Ayes: All.

Ann Harms, Library Director discussed her monthly report with council. The library has applied for a grant towards large print books and January had been a quieter month.

Matt Wildman, HR Green discussed the Professional Services Agreement for the Harding Avenue sewer replacement project. The city will use ARPA money towards this project along with Lost funds for the first phase of this project. No loans will be needed. Council discussed the CDGB grant option and combining the next two phases of the project. Councilman Hamdorf doesn't think the city should start looking at the next stage of the project until at least 2025. The CDBG grant would provide the city will \$500,000 towards the one-million-dollar

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project. Matt encouraged the city to at least apply for the grant now in preparation for the future project, especially as the sewer in this area is in poor condition and needs to be prioritized as an urgent project. Councilman Hamdorf said “no” we need to wait till 2025 or beyond. M/S Tjaden, Jones to accept the entire project/plans and footwork to be completed now along with phase 1 of the project and the mayor to sign the Professional Services Agreement. Ayes: All.

Matt Wildman, HR Green also discussed Larre Petersen’s land donation to the city. After checking on various records, surveyor and county records, it was determined that the city already owns this land, so Mr. Petersen will not have any liability concerns. Access was provided to him in this area but not an easement.

5L LLC - Austin Lange spoke about the letter he received requesting a building inspection of the property on McKinley Avenue. Denny Mostaert from Zoning was present and discussed his recommendations. 5L LLC did not follow the procedures for completing the permit request before they began work on the property. Councilwoman Tjaden explained the city’s position and council’s understanding. The final decision by council was to accept the responses of 5L LLC.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Ord # 833 An Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance # 625 Amending The Official Zoning Map. Lot Nine (9) Block Five (5) in the Original Town of Lowden, Cedar County, Iowa. M/S Hamdorf, Tjaden to adopt Ordinance # 833 and waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings. Ayes, Hamdorf, Tjaden, Jones & Kristof. Abstained: Lange.**

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-05 - Approving a Plat of Lowden Development’s Second Addition containing 4 lots. M/S Lange, Jones to approve Resolution # 23-05 - Approving a Plat of Lowden Development’s Second Addition containing 4 lots. Ayes: All.**

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-06 - A Resolution Authorizing A CD Purchase for Future Use towards A Heavy-duty Truck & Equipment purchase in the amount of \$30,000. M/S Jones, Tjaden to approve Resolution # 23-06 Authorizing A CD Purchase for Future Use towards A Heavy-duty Truck & Equipment purchase in the amount of \$30,000 for a 24-month renewable term. Ayes: All.**

City Clerk discussed a request from Lowden Dental to add a disability spot/sign at the dental office. A letter was requested, but had not been received at the time of the meeting. PWD Steinke will check on this request and council will revisit at the March meeting.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the latest on the park bathroom. She is working on a grant application with AARP and will also apply for the Community Foundation Grant. Mayor Cinkovich also discussed the bridge pre-construction meeting. Construction should begin on the new bridge at the park within the next two weeks and is expected to be a 5-6-week project depending on weather.

Mayor Cinkovich and Councilwoman Tjaden discussed the solar light memorial project at the park. Councilwoman Tjaden will create the program details soon. An offering of a solar path light and memorial or donation plaque will be available for purchase. The first three lights are available to purchase now and a plaque can be added. Prices may change for future offering based on availability of lights. M/S Jones, Lange to set the price for \$750.00 for the first three lights with a memorial or donation plaque. Ayes, Jones, Tjaden, Lange, Nays Kristof and Hamdorf.

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Denny Mostaert said he is requiring two people to join the Board of Adjustments for the city. Interested persons may inquire at City Hall.

PWD Steinke said the DNR will be doing its inspection of the sewer plant this month. The sewer line for the north bathroom will be capped ready for the new bridge project and he asked if 404 Washington Avenue should add a snow fence or similar around the property until the property it is removed or repaired.

City Clerk will have a meeting with the City Insurance provider this month to discuss the renewal of the city Insurance policy and updated costs.

Mayor Cinkovich said Public Works, Nick Wichtoski passed his Wastewater Grade 1 test. Council approved a 50-cent increase per hour effective immediately.

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

Next council meeting will be Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

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Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

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Sarah Carlson, City Clerk