

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, JULY 1, 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, Jones and ALange.

Visitors: Joann Kay, Sue Hall, Gene Hamdorf, Jayne & David Hintz, James Hamilton, Jan Olsen, Chase Kraklio, Jeremy Wink, Brent Hinders, James Theobald.

M/S Jones, ALange to approve the Consent Agenda, Minutes, Bills, Financials, UB Reports. Ayes: All.

M/S Jones, ALange to seat Kristof at 5.40pm. Ayes: All.

Mayor DLange reported 3 fire calls and 10 rescue calls. David Hintz reported that the new EMS truck had arrived.

A moment of silence was observed for former council member Galen Conrad's recent passing.

Brent Hinders and James Theobald, Hopkins & Huebner, P.C. Attorneys at Law introduced themselves to council.

Mayor DLange read **Resolution # 24-15 - A Resolution Designating A City Attorney for the City of Lowden. M/S NLange, Poppe to approve Resolution # 24-15 - A Resolution Designating A City Attorney for the City of Lowden.** Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange said North Cedar Schools are not coming to the meeting as they are waiting for two more bids for the park improvements.

Jan Olsen, Library Board said they had selected Jason Conrad to do the work on the new room for the library. He also looked at the leak and it was not a big issue to fix. Council discussed that the door and threshold needed work. Council told PWD Steinke to get a couple of bids. Jan Olsen said they chose Jason as his bid was cheaper and that they are eliminating some of the initial things they requested. Library donations are being used to fund this project.

502 Jefferson Avenue, James Hamilton discussed his tree problem with council. NLange said it would be worth getting an arborist. A suggestion was made that the ISU extension office or State Forester might handle this type of request. PWD Steinke said he would research.

500 Jefferson Avenue, Chase Kraklio discussed his ongoing tree issue with council. He said the trees are growing into the sewer line and probably cracks in tiles. ALange said he wants an arborist to look at these trees as well. Jan Olsen asked why we don't ask Dan Hamdorf, JJJ Enterprise to look at the foundation of this property. Kraklio said the tree roots are under the house, but he's okay to have an arborist come and look at the trees.

ALange said we need to begin talks about law enforcement replacement. Mayor Lange said Clarence is interviewing currently. ALange wondered if Clinton County would work with the city on a 28E or if it would be just mutual aid when cedar county calls them. Mayor Lange is going to check into this.

City Clerk discussed water, sewer and garbage rates. The clerk asked council to consider FY25 and FY26 small rate increases rather than having large increases implemented all at once later. M/S Kristof, NLange to leave rates as they are. Poppe - Aye, ALange - Nay, Jones - Nay.

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Resident Gene Hamdorf asked PWD Steinke if meters were all installed. N Lange said PW Wichtoski can mow and PWD Steinke can install meters. Council approved overtime for meter installations for nights and weekends. Gene also asked for copies of the water reports and had questions on why the tree stumps were not removed. He also discussed splashpad concerns, north park shelter wall and sewer baskets. PWD Steinke said the city needs a key to the control box for the splashpad. A Lange said we need to finish up getting the last trees down and then PWD Steinke will rent the equipment to take care of the stumps. Jan Olsen suggested a hula hoop tree for the Ash tree at the park.

The clerk updated council on the splashpad camera access for the mayor. When she initially logged on multiple users showed up on the camera system, but then lost access. Once access was restored to the city, it showed Jayne Hintz and Gene Hamdorf were now the only ones on the system with manager level access and everyone else had been removed. Council discussed the situation along with attorney input on limiting access and state code. Kristof informed Jayne Hintz that we appreciate the splashpad donation, but council had already voted on who was to have access, which was the mayor and clerk. He then said he heard she had visited the splashpad and addressed various concerns with people. Jayne said that she had observed dogs on the splashpad, someone smoking, someone going through the garbage cans and minors using the pad without adult supervision. She said bikes were just left at the opening of the pad and that the Lions are going to donate a bike rack to solve that issue. She said kids were climbing on the various water features and she was concerned about liability. Jones questioned if the rules were posted, and she responded that they are, and she had also posted them on a social media site. Jones added how can we be responsible if the child/parent are not following the rules. Mayor Lange said he had heard from a couple of residents about issues with Jayne addressing people directly over usage of the pad. Jayne said she sees nothing wrong with educating users of the splashpad and she did not kick anyone off. The clerk will work with F&B to remove access for Jayne and Gene and add the mayor.

Mayor Lange and council also discussed adding a credit/debit card and policy for staff use, so that employees don't have to use their own credit cards and claim reimbursement. Mayor Lange said American Trust can do a debit card for the city. The clerk said she didn't want a debit card, only a credit card as a debit card carries liability for the city and she had been informed when doing the state exams that she couldn't do this when she had inquired. Mayor Lange said it's a debit/credit card and he said he would order it and it takes about 14 days to receive.

A Lange addressed his agenda request for duties and assignments of public works. He said his questions were answered about the meter installation.

Mayor Lange discussed individual curb and gutter replacement and cost sharing 50/50. Council discussed where the funding would come from.

City Clerk discussed **Resolution # 24-14 - A Resolution Updating Authorized End of Year Transfer of Funds from Emergency to General in the amount of \$6323.97. M/S Kristof, Jones to approve Resolution # 24-14 - A Resolution Updating Authorized End of Year Transfer of Funds from Emergency to General in the amount of \$6323.97.** Ayes: All.

Mayor and council discussed the Advantage propane contract. If the city pre-pays as in previous years, the rate is cheaper. Option 1 with pre-pay - \$1.53 or Option 2 - \$1.56 with a downpayment. M/S Jones, Kristof to approve the mayor and clerk to sign and to send the payment and documents to the vendor. Ayes: All.

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PWD Steinke said they have located a flag repair kit. He will work with Jason Conrad to rent out his lift truck for the installation. He said the grand opening of the RC park was June 9 and well received and attended. He asked council for approval to order replacement flag posts. With the number of windstorms this year and general use that he has no replacement poles. He wanted to know if Amvets funds could be used. He said they used to supply the flags and poles to the city, but they can no longer do that as they permanently closed this location. PWD Steinke asked if council will be putting up additional cameras on the east side of the park to cover the ballpark. Kids have also been destroying the RC park.

Clerk said she had received \$14,075.00 in additional funds for the splashpad expenses, so that she can now pay the remaining vendors for services they have provided.

Permits - Joann Kay 100 5th St. for a portable shed. 405 Washington Avenue to move a fence. 702 5th St. for a fence, 403 for sidewalk permits and 702 Jefferson for a fence. M/S Poppe, Kristof to approve all permits. Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange asked public works if they could move their office to the sewer plant and order a printer.

M/S Jones, NLange to adjourn meeting at 7.35p.m. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Derrick Lange

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk