

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, JULY 3, 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, Lange, Tjaden and Jones.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Cole Moeller, Kevin Bailey, Jeff Goettsch, Tom & Tonya Blessing, Nick Lange, Warren Wethington, Robin Housley, Alan Carlson, Charity Stoffer.

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

Mayor reported for EMS - Lowden 8 calls, 3 for Clarence and Councilman Lange reported 2 fire calls.

Sheriff Wethington updated council and visitors on new city handheld radios. New handhelds will provide 99% coverage. August anticipated to have them up and running.

MSA Kevin Bailey apprised council on the semi-final Pay Application # 4. Retainage is held back. IDOT will do an audit and then reimbursement of retainage fees will occur to the city and contractor. The city council asked about the dirt that remains onsite. About 90 loads remain to be removed. They are waiting for the DNR response.

Cole Moeller discussed the proposed splashpad for the park along with size, budget, utilities, and general timelines for installation. Estimated cost is \$200,000. This will come from a donation to the city park. Estimated size 1500sq. ft. Shape to be decided. Cole lives here in town, so can assist with winterizing the pad, which will require the lines to be blown out and the use of an antifreeze is recommended. Mayor Cinkovich will discuss a date to invite the public to a presentation. Mayor Cinkovich and Councilwoman Tjaden said tables, chairs and some sort of awing would be nice to add.

Library Director Ann Harms discussed with council the library events for the month of June. The library has received several donations during the fiscal year. They gave away two bikes as prizes. She added that the library door locks need to be replaced. Public Works will replace them.

Tonya Blessing at 2326 Old Lincoln Hwy spoke to the council about the concerns she has with speeding past her property and speeding in general around town. She wanted council members to look at installing speed cameras that give out tickets. She said she is disappointed that no-one is held accountable for their actions or various traffic violations. Council discussed and Sheriff Wethington said Durant has a system, but he will not enforce it in the County. He sees the priority for speeding tickets as low unless it's a repeat offender. He would prefer to use his resources for bigger issues such as sex crimes. Councilwoman Tjaden said it's a civil matter for speeding tickets and that she felt strongly that Lowden does not need a speed camera system and council members agreed.

Mayor Pro-Tem, Jones read Ordinance # 834 to all present. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHAPTER 6, UTILITIES - BILLING CHARGES LOWDEN, IOWA CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO SEWER RATES.** This was the final read of this ordinance. No comments written or verbal were noted. M/S Jones Tjaden to **adopt Ordinance # 834. - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHAPTER 6, UTILITIES - BILLING CHARGES LOWDEN, IOWA**

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CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO SEWER RATES. Ayes: Hamdorf, Tjaden, Lange, Kristof, and Jones.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed two permit requests for Windstream to install fiber optic cable in town. This will mostly be in alleys. M/S Kristof, Jones to approve two permits for Windstream. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk discussed Councilwoman Callie Tjaden resignation from Lowden City Council. The clerk discussed a Notice to fill a Vacancy by Appointment. The requirements will be on the city website and will be published in the Sun Newspaper and Library. The deadline to apply for the open council position is August 3rd @ 12 noon.

Alan Carlson spoke to council about the building he recently purchased. He is having water and sewer added to the building which is commercially zoned. He asked the council to change his garbage rate to residential. Councilman Kristof didn't see an issue with doing this. M/S Kristof, Lange to change the garbage rate for Alan Carlson to residential. Ayes: All.

Permits: Robin Housley, 802 Hall Avenue, garage extension. The Zoning Board had looked at land present usage and okayed the request. M/S Tjaden, Jones to approve the permit for 802 Hall Avenue. Ayes: All.

Jeff Goettsch, 603 Washington requested council approve his permit for an extension to his pole building. M/S Hamdorf, Lange to approve the pole building extension. Ayes: All.

Nuisances: The City Clerk said a trial date was set for 7/19/23 for 110 Jefferson Avenue. An update to Lou Lichts property was discussed. He had not met the extended deadline of 7/3/23. Councilman Hamdorf added we should wait on the deadline for buildings to come down and see what he cleans up.

Councilwoman Tjaden asked about 701 Hall Avenue property to PWD Steinke. No progress was noted. PWD Steinke said one third of a tree came down on McKinley Avenue, so the tree was removed. We had a water main break on Main Street, which JJJ Enterprise fixed. At the park we have a small maple that needs to be removed. Public Works will remove this tree. PWD Steinke said we are getting ready to install 6-8 test meters within town and run test files, before we do citywide installation. Councilman Hamdorf asked about the snow fence that is installed at 608 Hall Avenue. It's time for it to come down, construction is complete at the neighboring property. Public Works will discuss with the property owner. Councilman Hamdorf asked about weeds on Main Street. Public Works will be spraying. Councilman Lange asked about the flagpole at City Hall. The top of the pole is stuck, and they have been unable to free it, it needs heat to get to the insides. The pullies keep breaking. They are looking at solutions for this issue. The pole is from the 80's.

Mayor Cinkovich updated the city council on the city's fireworks ordinance, which is June 30 - July 6 and ends at 11pm. Fireworks are to be on your own property only.

The city Clerk informed council that the sale of city property at 312 McKinley Avenue can move forward. A public hearing notice will be placed in the Sun News. The public hearing date is scheduled for August 7th @ 5:30pm.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed a thank you note to the city for assistance with the citywide garage sales and for a generous donation from the Amvets Ladies Auxiliary in the amount of \$1364.75 to the park.

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The City Clerk updated council on request to the City Development Board by the County Engineer to correct an annexation, which was completed several years ago for the right of way to be transferred on county road Yankee Avenue.

Mayor Cinkovich thanked Councilwoman Tjaden for her service to City Council.

M/S Lange, Tjaden to adjourn the meeting at 7:10p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Monday, August 7, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk