

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 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, Warren Wethington, Peyton Clark, James Hamilton, Galen Conrad, Laurie Millam, Jan Olsen, Barbara McCreight, Eugene Harms, Ann Harms, C Kraklio, D Washburn, David & Jayne Hintz, Gene Hamdorf.

M/S Kristof Poppe to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports, Utility Billing and to add two additional bills for payment. JJJ Enterprise - \$86,772.57 and Commercial Rec. Specialist for \$7,771.43 Ayes: All. Jayne Hintz discussed the broken lock and updates on the splashpad and a planned ribbon ceremony to officially open it.

Mayor DLange reported 4 fire calls and David Hintz from EMS 6 calls. David also said the new EMS truck is estimated to arrive around June 15<sup>th</sup>. The current truck has been sold to the City of Walford. He asked council to approve the final estimated payment of \$57,584.65 to Kahl Emergency Vehicles. M/S NLange, Kristof to approve the final estimated payment in the amount of \$57,584.65. Ayes: All.

Sheriff Warren Wethington discussed the 28E Termination of contract for Lowden. He said he is short staffed in addition to being involved with several sex crimes to children around the county. NLange asked what the emergency coverage will provide for Lowden. It will cover serious injury, death etc. He is also thinking about changing Bennett and Stanwood over to the \$86 contract rate. The city should try and hire an officer within 3-4 months, but Warren said it could take longer and he would not leave Lowden without emergency coverage.

Jan Olsen updated council on the review of 500 Jefferson Avenue row tree problem. Six Committee members looked at the three trees. She said the foliage and bark were good. The trees are healthy was the opinion of the committee. ALange said his sidewalks are damaged and lifting and he had visited the basement of the homeowner. The basement wall is caving in, and tree roots are coming through the walls and floor. Discussion occurred. Visitor Galen Conrad asked council who changed the ordinance to allow row planting. He said that prior councils had changed it to prevent these types of issues. He said let the city decide if the trees come down, not the tree committee. PWD Steinke said he had obtained one bid, but the other person he had asked to bid on the project did not respond. M/S Lange, Kristof for the city to take the three trees down, but they wanted to get a couple of extra bids. Ayes: All. James Hamilton - 502 Jefferson said he also has a problem with the tree in the row at his property. The tree dropped two very large 12-24ft limbs in his yard, just missing his roof. ALange said he will stop by to look at the tree.

Gene Hamdorf asked PWD Steinke why an area at the park was not mowed and why the stumps were not removed yet. PWD Steinke said they are still waiting for a couple more trees to be removed first and a couple of residents had asked public works for the plants from the area. Once they come get them, his plan is to mow the area down. NLange said Technology Solutions will be donating wi-fi to part of the park. Security Cameras can be installed by them for \$810.00 labor and just over \$2,000 for five cameras. He said the mayor will need access to all city cameras. Jayne Hintz also requested access to the cameras at the park. The city will have the initial cost of the camera purchase and then no additional cost NLange said. M/S NLange, Kristof to order the cameras and for the mayor to have access to the entire camera system. Ayes: All. Gene Hamdorf asked about the wastewater baskets at the sewer plant. Do we have baskets that have fine screens and when do we clean them and what

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about weeds. PWD Steinke said two times a year usually for cleaning and our baskets are deeper and are usually about half full when they pull them. He added that he had just sprayed the weeds around the plant. Gene Hamdorf told him to pull the weeds, not spray. Gene Hamdorf then asked if the water filters are done. Kirk said Dan had not called him back. Gene said the chlorine seems high. NLange recommended trying to shock them.

701 Jefferson Avenue - Outstanding water bill. Council discussed the two letters received. NLange and ALange said she is trying to settle the entire bill for \$150.00, which is what they read in the last letter and the city should not accept this payment. The resident must pay the entire outstanding bill in full and will not accept a settlement offer. Council said a notice to the second owner listed with the county for this property and give 30 days to settle the bill or a lien will be placed.

Mayor Lange discussed two attorney interest letters with council. Hopkins & Huebner, P.C submitted the lowest bid of \$190.00 for a Shareholder Attorney, \$180.00 for Associate Attorney, Paralegal - \$160.00. Travel is \$100 plus the approved IRS mileage rate. Additional fees will apply for court work. Lynch Dallas also applied for the opening, but the rate was \$250.00 per hour for Shareholder Attorney. M/S ALange, NLange to tentatively approve Hopkins & Huebner for the position of City Attorney.

Mayor D Lange and City Clerk discussed the rescue truck purchase by the City of Walford and **Resolution # 04-24-03** was adopted by the City of Walford. The City of Walford approved a payment to the City of Lowden of \$30,000. M/S Kristof, NLange to approve **Resolution # 24-13 - A resolution approving the sale of the 2011 Chevy Suburban rescue truck to the City of Walford in the amount of \$30,000.** M/S Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange asked council if they wanted to support the Highway 30 coalition by paying dues. M/S Poppe, Kristof to deny the request for dues. Ayes: All.

Ann Harms, Library Director covered various library updates and events including the summer reading program. She said they had three bids for adding a room to the back of the library, but wanted to know what was happening with the roof repair. Jason Conrad will look at the roof. The library board asked if they have the final say on the bids for the library work. ALange said they can select, but council wants to be involved and to bring their decision to the July meeting.

Mayor Lange read **Resolution # 24-11 - A Resolution Authorizing Park Shelter Rental Rate Increase.** M/S NLange, Kristof to adopt **Resolution # 24-11 - Park Shelter Rental Rate Increases. Fees will change to \$50.00 per rental and the park rental application was approved.** Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange read **Resolution # 24-12 - A Resolution Authorizing the End of Fiscal Year Transfer from Emergency to General in the amount of \$6,263.97.** M/S ALange, NLange to approve the **End of Year Transfer from Emergency to General in the amount of \$6,263.97** Ayes: All.

M/S Kristof, Poppe to approve and pay Emergency Management Commission Invoice in the amount of \$4,035.00 for FY25. Ayes: All.

Mayor D Lange said the city received a liquor license renewal permit from the American Legion and C&R Pitstop. M/S ALange, Kristof to approve both liquor license renewal requests pending dramshop. Ayes: All.

Mayor D Lange did not revisit the Boards and Committee assignments with council or the curb box agenda items.

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Mayor Lange asked council for updates on the sewer line replacement project income survey - council divided roads up and will visit homeowners.

Peyton Clark informed council that he just graduated from high school but is interested in a law enforcement job with Lowden. Council thanked him for his interest. ALange said we must work things out on how we want to proceed at this time.

PWD Steinke said the stop sign was knocked down and the city will send out an invoice to the responsible person. The flagpole at city hall doesn't seem to be repairable according to Nesper Signs. The cost to purchase a commercial 25ft pole is \$6,396.00 and a 30ft version is \$8,049.00. Council asked if a different type of repair might work on the existing one. Steinke will investigate. PWD asked the open hours for the splashpad. Hours are to be determined and June 9<sup>th</sup> is the RC open house at the park.

The City Clerk reported that she completed the audit for EMC, and everything went well with no problems noted by the auditor. Council, Mayor, Treasurer pay will be on the last payroll in June and the end of the fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup>, so is preparing for year-end. The clerk is working on a final report for Homeland Security for the derecho to complete the FEMA claim.

Permits: 405 Washington Avenue - Fence  
703 5<sup>th</sup> Street - Fence  
104 5<sup>th</sup> Street PI - Shed.

M/S ALange, Kristof to approve the two fence permits. M/Lange, Poppe for the mayor to contact the homeowner and discuss her shed size request. If she changes to 12x12x12 it will be approved.

Council discussed parking at the city splashpad and will investigate options. ALange asked for updates on the concession/bathroom for the park. North Cedar are making plan changes and will come to the July meeting to discuss.

M/S ALange, Kristof to adjourn meeting at 7.35p.m. Ayes: All.

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Mayor, Derrick Lange

Attest:

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Sarah Carlson, City Clerk