

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The regular 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, Jan Olsen, Barbara McCreight, Nick Lange, Warren Wethington, Ann Harms, Nick Wichtoski.

M/S Lange, Jones to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports and Utility Billing. Two bills were added for the fire department to be paid on July 1st for a Polaris Ranger for \$33,580.84 and for a slide out for \$11,668.50. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich informed council that the city had received a certificate of origin for the Polaris and it states the vehicle cannot be registered for on road use, so it cannot be used in parades or driven on roads. Mayor Cinkovich then asked if fire had converted one of the trucks, Councilman Lange said he just took the box off the older truck and plans on converting it. They put all the equipment in the pumper.

Sheriff Wethington said the monthly report is not available yet, but he discussed some of his concerns and highlights with council. He is working with the Board of Supervisors regarding school shootings. He added everyone wants to blame someone else, but he's doing research at the local level and is wants to work with Lowden and Bennett school system to provide training for schools. If we wait for the state or federal government nothing is going to happen. He currently has six reserve officers, but wants to have up to twenty available and he would like them in or around schools for any potential gun violence. He then discussed out of town dogs and what the city can do as council had questions.

Councilman Lange reported 1 fire call and said that six people will be training in Wheatland on an interior fire attack class. EMS report by David Hintz - 10 rescue calls.

Library Director, Ann Harms provided a library report to council and covered program highlights and attendance numbers. Ann said she has passed her library certification.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed 5L LLC permit application for 306 McKinley Avenue for a deck and stairs. Mayor Cinkovich asked if the stairs are over the city water shutoff? Nick Lange said they were, so the mayor asked what happens if we need to dig that up? Nick said you have to call one call, so its two hours before you can dig. One of them is always around. M/S Austin, Kim. Ayes: All to approve the permit, but, PWD Steinke said he's concerned if Bonnie's line freezes again and breaks and it causes another flood at Good Times, then the council realizes it's possibly responsible for that access and any damages. Bonnie's place has a crawl space and this is his concern. PWD Steinke then added that he will not sign off on this permit, council will need to do that. PW Wichtoski said what happens down the road in twenty years and the Langes don't own this property any longer, so the city will destroy or damage another person's property to get to the city access for the shutoff? Nick Lange said he will drill a hole in the staircase so that the city can have access to the shutoff.

The Tree Committee, Barbara McCreight spoke with council about preparing the site for the new pergola and they have someone to take out the bushes and till the area. They then looked at Memorial Park, where the Hosta beds are and they want it to go back to grass. There are several trees that are

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dead or have hanging branches over the walking path. PWD Steinke said he has 15 other trees that need to come down before the park ones, but he can cut out all the hanging branches along the path. He doesn't have any allocated funds available currently for any tree removal. Jan Olsen said these are old crab apple trees and are smaller. A discussion regarding mowing the area then occurred. Mayor Cinkovich said she also had a question for Jan regarding a letter that was signed by the Memorial Monument Board. What or who is the Memorial Monument Board? Jan said that it was her and Barbara McCreight pretty much. The City Clerk didn't recognize an account under Memorial Monument Board, but she does have an account that she is Treasurer of under the Lowden Memorial Tree Fund. It was determined that this is the same fund. Mayor Cinkovich asked about the Stan Boedeker bench being removed and Jan said this was all taken care of. Dan Hamdorf will be removing it to a new location. PWD Steinke said he was asked about this at the weekend and who was going to pay for any damages if the bench is moved and damaged. Jan said this is all taken care of.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the letter from the IDOT for the Federal Swap Program. The City Clerk explained the letter to council. M/S Tjaden, Jones for the Mayor and Clerk to sign the IDOT Swap Notice. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution #22-10 - A resolution authorizing the city clerk to transfer funds internally. Homeland Security to General to repay for Derecho & miscellaneous costs - \$16,517.90. Homeland Security to Road Fund for Derecho & miscellaneous costs - \$5,100.00. Homeland Security to Sewer Fund for Derecho & miscellaneous costs - \$9,502.75 & General to Road for a road project - \$24,000.00. Total transfer - \$55,120.65. M/S Lange, Kristoff to adopt Resolution # 22-10. Ayes. All.**

Mayor Cinkovich discussed a new Ball Park Agreement for North Cedar Schools. She discussed highlights from the contract and asked council if they had all read the agreement and if they had any questions. None noted by council, but PWD Steinke asked if council had thought about asking for a seasonal rental fee, which could be used towards other park improvements such as the city restroom replacement. Council didn't want to do that and said the city can use grants and other possible funding sources. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to send over the agreement to the school for review. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich said a dog attack occurred on another dog why the owner was walking his dog. The dog owner was located to 905 Hall Avenue had been reported to the Sheriff. The owner has a court summons pending for this dog attack. The city will determine if the dog needs to be removed from city limits once the case goes to court. To be reviewed at July 5th meeting. A separate dog attack was also reported to the city that bit Patrick Kedley while he was riding his bike. The dog belongs to Nikki Welch, who lives just outside of town. The owners will be sent a letter by the city. This was also reported to the Sheriff.

Mayor Cinkovich and Councilwoman Tjaden spoke to council about three commercial solar lights on decorative poles that had recently been purchased using donated funds to the park. The light and poles will be about 9-10ft. high when erected. Tjaden discussed possibly having a total of 15 light and posts at a cost of \$600 each and about insurance coverage. M/S Tjaden, Jones not to add any additional city insurance at this time. Ayes: All.

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Mayor Cinkovich discussed a new federal holiday - Juneteenth to see if the city should add it to the city holiday schedule. Councilman Lange said he spoke to American Trust and they are open as normal. M/S Jones but no second to add this holiday to the city schedule. Motion died.

American Legion liquor license - M/S Jones, Lange pending dramshop. Ayes: All.

Permits - 102 Roosevelt Avenue for a garage. M/S Kristof, Tjaden as long as the pins are located. Ayes: All. 703 Jefferson Avenue - Fence. M/S Jones, Lange. Ayes: All. 510 10th Street - Garage. M/S Lange, Kristof. Ayes: All.

Nuisances: Council discussed a list of nuisance updates. Councilman Hamdorf wanted the city staff to go on individual properties to clean up without any municipal infraction being issued. Councilman Lange agreed and said Stanwood does this all the time. He called the City Clerk from Stanwood during the meeting for verification. The City Clerk, Mayor and PW Director all disagreed with both council members and said a process has to be followed and it involves the city attorney and the courts for a municipal infraction. After speaking with the city clerk for Stanwood, it was determined that they use their attorney for all nuisances and don't just go on properties to clean-up without an order. Councilman Hamdorf still didn't agree with this and still wanted the city staff to go on properties without securing a court order.

PWD Steinke said Boomerang jetted and did camera work from Harding Avenue at Highway 30 to 5th Street. A possible catastrophic event could occur as the sewer lines have belly's in them. The sewer lines are from 1955 and the city is planning on replacement of these lines once it secures the Engineer's input and funding. Estimated cost up to 5th Street will be about ½ million dollars. Councilman G. Hamdorf wants the work to go up to the school. The city would have to find about one million plus dollars for the entire area. PWD Steinke will invite the Engineer to the next meeting to discuss this area.

Mayor Cinkovich asked when fire hydrant flushing would occur. PWD Steinke said he hoped to begin later this week or into next. Councilman Hamdorf said he wants the hydrants flushed two times per year. Mayor Cinkovich reminded council that Primary voting will be Tuesday, June 7th.

City Clerk Carlson updated council on a court date for Corner Café on June 29th to clean up the property. Water, sewer and garbage rates will have small scheduled increases in August and September per the pre-approved rate schedule and city ordinance. Garage sales are 10th & 11th June.

Councilman Hamdorf asked about the radar speed signs. They need to be put up in town. PWD Steinke said it's on his schedule to complete. He asked if the meters have been sent to Dewitt for testing yet, which they had not. He also asked if PWD Steinke had called Dan Helm, Water Solutions in to look at water. He had not. 506 Hall Avenue has a dead tree on city property. PWD Steinke said the city has it on a list for removal already. He asked about the guard rail at the bridge and he said he had complaints about cats in town, but didn't have any solution to address the issue. He said Matt Wildman didn't call him about pins at the wastewater plant. Councilman Hamdorf said he wanted copies of all the DNR reports in the council packs. PWD Steinke said all the reports are filed with the DNR on-line. He has to do

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this to be in compliance with the state. Mayor Cinkovich asked if he was able to get a hard copy and the City Clerk suggested a binder he could bring to the meeting if necessary.

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

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, July 5, 2022 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk