

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, MAY 6, 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, Jones. Absent: ALange, Poppe.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Warren Wethington, Jan Olsen, Barbara McCreight, Jim Ulrich, Chase Kraklio, Amanda Dupont.

M/S Kristof, Jones to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers Report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports, Utility Billing and to add two late submitted bills for C&R Pitstop - \$240.46 for Rescue and \$255.69 - Fire. Ayes: All.

Mayor DLange reported 7 rescue calls and 2 fire calls.

Sheriff Wethington reported on updates on hiring a new EMS Director and asked if fire/rescue had any issues with pagers. Mayor Lange said no issues that he is aware of. Warren also asked that Lowden have representation on the EMA committee.

Amanda Dupont, ECIA discussed the CDBG grant opportunity with council. To qualify for the grant, Lowden residents need to complete an income survey. The goal is to get a minimum of 235 surveys turned into the city. She recommended that council consider going door to door to get the best results. Mayor Lange said council will do the survey requirements and go door to door. July is the goal to be complete. Amanda also discussed the grant writing costs of \$2,000 and if Lowden is not awarded the grant, they will re-do the grant free of charge for a second attempt. They also do the environmental study as part of this grant cost. This grant is very competitive, she added.

Jan Olsen, tree committee said the committee had recently mailed out bulk flyers to households in Lowden regarding tree purchasing at a subsidized cost. She asked council to contribute \$2,200.00 to the project to offset purchasing and planting costs. They would like to see sidewalk and street trees replaced as Lowden lost over one hundred trees in the derecho. Chase Kraklio spoke about his recent experience with his street trees. He said oaks should not be considered. He said the roots have dug up his sidewalk, going under his house, his sewer has backed up. He said he has reviewed the city ordinance, and he believes the trees in front of his property, three oaks, are not healthy and wants them taken down. Council discussed. Mr. Kraklio also disagreed that giving public funds for the purpose of the tree committee project is not good use of public funds. M/S NLange, Kristof to approve the tree committee's request for \$2,200.00 from the city. Ayes: All.

PWD Steinke discussed stump removal at the park. Council approved him to rent equipment. He added that in addition to thirty-three stumps to be removed that we still had a couple of trees to come down. M/S Jones, Kristof for the clerk to set-up an account with the vendor and to approve public works to rent out the equipment to remove the stumps. Ayes: All.

Ann Harms, Library Director said circulation is steady, they are planning on an expansion to the library by adding a meeting room. PWD Steinke said before they begin the expansion, he would like to have the roof checked where rain recently came in during a wind driven event. He suspected the flashing might need attention.

Jim Ulrich spoke to council about a vomit smell coming into his bathroom. He believes the problem is coming from the sewer line. He had roto rooter out two times and various friends and family to see what the problem might be. Council discussed and asked if he had his roof vent looked at. Mayor Lange said Kristof and NLange will

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

come take a look at his property as they suspected the roof vent could possibly be blocked. They did not think the issue was with the sewer line as multiple households would be affected.

Mayor Lange said he understood that the prospective city attorney would be present for the council meeting. The city is not clear if a misunderstanding had occurred for the date, however council discussed the appointment of Kyle R Maurer, Attorney at Law, PLC, Clarence, Iowa at a rate of \$200.00 per hour.

Mayor Lange Read **Resolution # 24-10 - A Resolution Designating A City Attorney for the City of Lowden. M/S Kristof, NLange to appoint Kyle Maurer, Attorney At Law, PLC as the City Attorney at a rate of \$200.00 per hour. Ayes: All.**

Mayor Lange asked council if they had come to a decision regarding allowing residents who live outside of the town to serve on boards. NLange said he had no objection. If people want to volunteer, we should allow it. Mayor Lange said he's had interest from someone out of town for the Park Board. He also wanted to add Gene Hamdorf and Doug Deerberg. The city will revisit at the June meeting.

Mayor Lange discussed Calhoun-Burns' request to sign a new agreement for the two bridges for annual inspections. M/S Kristof, Jones to approve Calhoun-Burns as the bridge inspection group, but to check on the new park bridge as it's now a culvert to see if the city is still required to have an annual inspection. Ayes: All.

Cigarette Permits - M/S NLange, Kristof to approve Good Times and C&R Pitstop permit renewal requests. Ayes: All.

**Resolution 24-09 - A Resolution Setting Salaries For Appointed Officers and Employees for the City of Lowden for Fiscal Year FY25.** An update to the general verbiage was included for weekend, holiday, and overtime rules. M/S Kristof, Jones to approve the verbiage update to **Resolution 24-09 - A Resolution Setting Salaries For Appointed Officers and Employees for the City of Lowden for Fiscal Year FY25. Ayes: All.**

Mayor Lange said council should revisit the curb box language for the June meeting.

Mayor Lange discussed the park bathroom and concession stand project for the school and known updates. Council asked the clerk to check with the school to see if they can come to the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Lange discussed increasing park rental shelter fees from \$35.00 to \$50.00. M/S Kristof, Jones to prepare a resolution with the new \$50.00 fee included. Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange asked for input on the IDOT Speed sign program. M/S Kristof, Lange to not pursue the IDOT Speed sign program. Ayes: All.

City Clerk and mayor addressed a change in the council meeting date from Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> - to Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm due to the primary elections. The change was approved by council.

Building Permits - Library to add a meeting space and 403 Washington Avenue for a shed. M/S Kristof, NLange to approve both permits. Ayes: All.

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

NLange asked that Chase Kraklio be added to the June agenda for his tree issue and asked PWD Steinke to get a couple of bids for tree removal.

PWD Steinke report - Sewer float had to be reset, alarms checked. LL Pelling will be doing street work during May and June.

Mayor Lange said the splashpad is about 90 percent complete and the clerk said she will be completing the reports due to the trust as required by the grant administrators.

M/S NLange, Kristof to adjourn meeting at 7:20p.m. Ayes: All.

---

Mayor, Derrick Lange

Attest:

---

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk