

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 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: Jones, G. Hamdorf, Lange, Tjaden. Absent: Kristof.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Warren Wethington, Ed Matheny, Charity Stoffer.

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

Councilman Lange reported 0 fire call. David Hintz reported by letter 5 rescue calls.

Sheriff Wethington discussed the monthly Sheriff report with council and the latest updates on radio equipment. Councilman Hamdorf said people are speeding in town and not stopping at the 4 way stop by City Hall. He wants citations to be issued not warnings.

Matt Wildman, HR Green discussed setting a public hearing date with council to approve plans and specifications for 5th St. & 8th St. North of Harding Avenue, sewer project. M/S Tjaden, Lange to set the public hearing date for April 3rd @ 5:30pm. Ayes: All.

HR Green reviewed the DNR Construction Permit Application with council for the Sanitary Sewer Replacement. M/S Hamdorf, Lange to approve the DNR Construction Permit Application and for the mayor and clerk to prepare the \$100 permit fee and sign the permit. Ayes: All.

HR Green discussed Amendment # 1 - which is to obtain permanent and temporary easements on Harding Avenue for the sewer replacement project. Total cost \$9,000 for phase 1 & 2 of the sewer project. M/S Hamdorf, Tjaden to approve Amendment # 1 to obtain permanent and temporary easements on Harding Avenue for phase 1 and phase 2 Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the selection of Tom Blessing by the Board of Adjustments for one of the two open positions. M/S Lange, Hamdorf to approve Tom Blessing to the Board of Adjustments. Tom has prior experience for the City of Davenport. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich said the city had received four bids for the park mowing this year and one unsolicited bid for the cemetery mowing, which was removed. The highest bid was for \$21,000 each year from Grasshopper Lawn Care followed by a bid for \$6,000. The next lowest bid was from Ed Matheny at \$5250.00 each year and the lowest bid was from Sebastian Cinkovich - \$4,500.00 each year. Council discussed. M/S Hamdorf, to accept the bid from Ed Matheny for \$5250.00. No second on this motion. M/S Lange, Jones to accept the park mowing bid from Sebastian Cinkovich at \$4,500.00 for each year. Ayes, Lange, Jones, Tjaden. Nay: Hamdorf.

Ann Harms, Library Director gave her library report update to council. The library has ordered some new furniture, added a Lego platform and completed a cupcake wars program and the book club is going very well. Council thanked her and the mayor added she thought she is doing a great job and is building the library up with the various programs she has introduced since taking on this role. Council agreed.

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Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-04 - Resolution Setting salaries for Appointed Officers & Employees.** M/S Lange, Jones to **adopt Resolution 23-04 - Resolution Setting Salaries for Appointed Officers & Employees.** Ayes: Lange, Tjaden, Jones. Nay: Hamdorf.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-07 - Internal Transfer of funds to CD account in the amount of \$30,000.** M/S Tjaden, Lange to **adopt Resolution # 23-07 - Internal Transfer of funds to CD account in the amount of \$30,000.** Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-08 - ARPA Committing funds to a sewer project on Harding Avenue in the amount of \$115, 581.23.** M/S Lange, Hamdorf to adopt **Resolution # 23-08 ARPA Committing funds to a sewer project on Harding Avenue in the amount of \$115,581.23.** Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-09 Harassment & Sexual Harassment Policy.** M/S Tjaden, Jones to adopt **Resolution # 23-09 Harassment & Sexual Harassment Policy.** Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed a written request from Lowden dental office for disability signage in front of the dental building. Council and public works discussed. Council approved a sign with time limits and restrictions on some days of the week. Council told him to order. The sign will go on the railings in front of the main door.

City Clerk updated council on the new valuations that have just been distributed to the local cities. M/S Lange, Hamdorf to set the budget workshop date for March 14th @ 5:30pm and a public hearing date for April 3rd for the budget adoption. Ayes: All.

City Clerk and PWD Steinke discussed the middle door at City Hall, which is steadily deteriorating. PW Director Steinke discussed an estimate he had received in the amount of \$1036.27 and a plan to replace the door and frame. M/S Lange, Hamdorf to have Mitch Mess Construction do the door repairs. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed Good Times, Railyard and 3-30 Country Club liquor License Renewals pending dramshop. M/S Lange, Tjaden to approve Good Times, Railyard and 3-30 Country Club liquor License Renewals pending dramshop. Ayes: All.

PWD Steinke said an additional lead line had been reported for JJJ Grocery. Under the new EPA rules, these lines have to be removed and replaced. The clerk will send out notice in due course. 404 Washington Avenue will also need the lead lines to be replaced when the property owners rebuild. PW Director Steinke also reported on a dog nuisance at 110 Jefferson Avenue and a DNR inspection of the sewer plant. The phosphorus level was a little high and the city is looking at solutions for this problem. PWD Steinke also discussed a letter via rural water association and told him to sign up. PWD Steinke discussed the need to order some new street signs at a cost of \$500-\$600. He also provided an update on the Park Bridge replacement project. IDOT contractors have begun work on the bridge. Council discussed temporary restrooms for the park and the cheapest quote was from Outhouse at \$2130.00. M/S Lange, Jones to approve Outhouse for the temporary restrooms. Ayes: All. Council asked that PWD Steinke check that the units can be locked at night time.

City Clerk provided her monthly update to council. The State exam has concluded and the city is waiting on the final report. The city has begun work on replacing all the meter heads and upgrading the software to newer technology. The clerk will manage two read centers over the next few months until all the meter heads are changed out.

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Councilman Hamdorf asked about 402 Grant Avenue inquiry about a driveway at the back on the property and changing the direction of water on the gravel. Public Works are working with the owner. Councilwoman Tjaden asked that the City Clerk order 20 solar lights for the park memorial project. Councilman Hamdorf asked PW Director Steinke to call Dan Helm to look at the water system.

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

Next council meeting will be Monday, April 3, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk