

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, MAY 1, 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, Tjaden, Jones. Absent: Lange.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Kevin Knoche, Joan Scheer, Aaron Horman and August Harms.

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

Mayor reported 3 fire calls and 5 rescue calls. She added that Lowden Rescue is assisting Clarence currently due to shortages in staff.

Chief Deputy Knoche discussed the monthly sheriff report along with ongoing ambulance paid service updates.

Joan Scheer, Scheer Insurance discussed the FY24 city insurance package with council members. Increases in premiums are higher than forecasted. Cost increases are mainly due to storm damage across the state over the last couple of years and covid. The main cost increases were noted for building material and replacement costs for buildings.

Library Director, Ann Harms discussed library updates and events.

City Clerk discussed the bid process and award of the sewer replacement project for 5th- 8th St. Matt Wildman, HR Green, city staff and contractors were in attendance for the bid opening. Triple BBB - \$154,176.00. Neeham Excavating - \$238,945.00. Dave Schmitt - \$206,301.15 and Tschiggfire Excavating - \$207,994.50. HR Green thought the bid from Triple BBB is lower than the engineer's opinion of probable construction cost (OPCC) of \$184,000.00. The Engineer recommended that the city award the contract to Triple BBB Construction. Council discussed. M/S Hamdorf, Jones to accept the lowest bid from Triple BBB price of \$154,176.00. Ayes: All.

MSA Engineer Kevin Bailey was expected at the meeting but was detained. Council said to hold payments back from MSA, until Councilman Hamdorf can speak to the Engineer on a concern he had with the bridge.

Mayor Cinkovich read the **1st reading of Ordinance # 834. An Ordinance Amending Title VI Physical Environment, Chapter 6 Utilities - Billing Charges Lowden, Iowa Code of Ordinances By Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Rates.** The new rate for September 2023 will be \$13.66 per 0-1000 gallons. Minimum Monthly Charge \$27.02. Planned increases for 2024 - \$14.06 for 0-1000 gallons. Minimum \$28.12 and for 2025 - \$14.48 per 1000 gallons. Minimum Monthly Charge - \$28.96.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-14. A Resolution Authorizing the Temporary Interfund loan from the City of Lowden's Water Fund for the Park Bridge Replacement Project in the amount of \$217,886.01.** Due to a delay by the IDOT in getting Lowden into the payment system and the need to pay the contractor, the city chose this option rather than a loan with fees. IDOT will be repay these funds at 100 percent in the next few weeks.

City Clerk Carlson discussed the new meter reading system software integration by g/works. M/S Tjaden, Hamdorf to authorize the clerk to sign the contract in the amount of \$2,500.00. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the permit request by Windstream to install fiber optic cable within town. Councilman Hamdorf wants to ask the liaison at Windstream additional questions before approval.

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Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-12 - Appointing Commissioners to the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority From the City of Lowden, Iowa**. Gene Hamdorf and Austin Kristof will assume these responsibilities for the next 2 years. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to adopt **Resolution # 23-12 - Appointing Commissioners to the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority From the City of Lowden, Iowa for a term of 2 years**. Ayes: All.

Railyard Restaurant Liquor License Renewal. M/S Jones, Tjaden to approve the liquor license renewal for the Railyard Restaurant. Ayes: All.

M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to approve Good Times & C&R Pitstop Cigarette permit applications. Ayes: All.

Councilman Kristof discussed changes to the city ordinance for building permits along with the building permit application. The city ordinances and permit forms will be updated to include garages/buildings/sheds over 12 x 12 to have a foundation and the foundation will be considered part of the same project.

Building Permits: 604 Hall Avenue - Fence Permit. The council denied it due to lack of survey. 802 Hall Avenue – requested a shed, which council denied until a survey is provided. It will also require a permanent foundation due to the size of the shed. 405 McKinley Avenue - Fence. Council approved and a survey was submitted. M/S Kristof, Jones to approve 405 McKinley Avenue fence permit. Ayes: All.

Nuisances: The City Clerk and Public Works Director appeared in court for Lou Licht’s nuisance property. The judge ordered a clean-up and removal of buildings, junk, wood pile. 110 Jefferson Avenue will do a pre-trial hearing in early May to clean up its property.

PWD Steinke updated council on ongoing work. River Point will require consistent 45-degree temps to complete the road markings. PWD Steinke reported on a manhole that need repair - Main and Harding on South side. The estimate is \$980.00. JJJ Enterprise quoted the city on other needed repairs for manhole lids, pad, and rebar for \$3570.00. Council told him to proceed. LL Pelling will be doing spring/summer road work - \$16,131.30 estimated costs. M/S Jones, Hamdorf for LL Pelling to do the road work as discussed by PW Steinke. Ayes: All. F&B Communications will be removing lines and adding Wi-Fi to the park and pump house. The Bridge Contractor did 100 loads plus of dirt and clay removal for the park bridge, which was over the engineers’ estimate. The DNR is working with the city on a solution for disposing of the excess.

Iowa Bridge & Culvert. Second Payment application - \$84,993.80. M/S Tjaden, Kristof to approve the second pay application. Ayes: All.

M/S Jones Tjaden to close the regular meeting at 7:15pm to go into closed session. M/S Jones, Kristof to close the closed session and return to the regular council meeting. Ayes: All. The city clerk was asked to work with the attorney on a property sale for the city and to prepare public hearing documents.

M/S Hamdorf, Tjaden to adjourn the council meeting at 7.50p.m. Ayes: All. Next council meeting will be Monday, June 5, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk