

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – RESCHEDULED MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 - 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, Jones, G. Hamdorf, Lange, Tjaden.

Visitors: Second Deputy Bode Koranda, Sue Hall, Nathan and Scott Heick.

Mayor Cinkovich referenced that the City Clerk had to pay some bills ahead of this meeting due to the cancellation of two prior scheduled council meetings earlier in the month, which had both been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. This was done to avoid interest and penalty fees for late payments to vendors.

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

Councilman Lange reported 4 fire call. David Hintz reported by memo 11 rescue calls.

Library Director, Ann Harms was not present, but a library update was provided to council in writing.

Cedar County Second Deputy Bode Koranda did not have a monthly report available for this meeting.

804 Washington Avenue garage and carport. Councilman Hamdorf said they had located all four pins. A discussion on the carport and the materials to be used occurred. The building permit does not have enough information on it Councilman Hamdorf said. Councilman Hamdorf requested it be added to the November meeting as council needs additional information before a decision is made.

201 Washington Avenue. Nathan Heick discussed with council his plans to purchase this property and for the property to store up to eight used/salvaged vehicles at a time, which he will fix and sell. This property is at the front of town near the RailYard Bar & Grill. Council discussed land use, building use, flood zone, IDOT requirements, power, water & sewer. Councilman Hamdorf discussed the land area and measurements of the property. He will obtain the county records for this property. He asked the clerk to send all the documents to the City Attorney for his input, hopefully for the November meeting.

Mayor read the second reading of **Ordinance # 831. An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowden, Iowa By Amending Provisions Pertaining to Title VI Physical Environment, Chapter 10. Building Regulations And Permits. Section 6-10-3B Solar Energy is added to Chapter 10.**

Councilman Hamdorf motioned to waive the third reading, seconded by Councilman Lange and to adopt the ordinance as written. M/S: Hamdorf, Lange, Kristof, Tjaden and Jones. Ayes. All. Ordinance passed. The ordinance will become part of city code once published in the newspaper. A copy is available at City Hall.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 22-17 - An internal accounting transfer of funds** to the heavy-duty equipment line and to correct a software reporting issue. M/S Tjaden, Hamdorf. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 22-18 - An internal accounting transfer of funds to 171 and 172 to correct a software reporting issue.** M/S Jones, Kristof. Ayes: All.

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Mayor Cinkovich discussed with council codification of city ordinances and possible work sessions. Council decided not to do the work sessions for now, but to work on codification with ECIA.

City Clerk discussed the need to modify the current budget with a budget amendment for rising costs due to price increases, project updates and for revenues received from Amvets building sale.

Mayor Cinkovich opened the snow bids. JJJ Enterprise was the only bid for city snow removal. Backhoe with bucket - \$150.00 per hour. 1<sup>st</sup> dumptruck - \$100.00 per hour. 2<sup>nd</sup> dumptruck - \$100.00 per hour. Dan Hamdorf was the only bid for sidewalks - Fire station - \$30, Library - \$30 and City Hall \$50, each time. M/S Jones, Tjaden to accept both bids from JJJ Enterprise. Ayes: Jones, Tjaden, Lange, Kristof. Abstained: Hamdorf.

Mayor Cinkovich opened two tree bids for the trimming and or removal of dead, diseased tree at 804 McKinley Avenue. Council discussed both bids. Turkle Tree Services \$1000 plus \$140 for the stump removal was selected as the lowest bid. Suthers quote was \$2200.00. Council also discussed four other Ash trees that had been quoted and selected Turkle Tree Services. - \$2200 for the trees and \$230.00 for the stumps. M/S Jones, Kristof to approve Turkle bids. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed the fire box equipment, which is currently outside of the rescue/fire department building. Discussion occurred on what to do with the box. PWD Steinke said we need to make sure the city has a reserve on this box if we sell it. Councilman and Fire Chief Lange will get a description and a rough estimate cost of the equipment, so that it can be listed for sale. Second Deputy Koranda said Purple Wave is a good site to use and he will send the clerk information on this.

City Clerk asked council about replacing the existing camera system, which is from 2015. Technology has changed and our system is having continuing issues and support is limited. F&B Communications had provided a cost to replace the cities outdated system. Councilman Hamdorf asked if they could adjust the labor charge down as we have the cabling in place. Mayor Cinkovich will ask about this and council will revisit at the November meeting.

Permits. North Cedar Schools - Replacement shed at the park and 400 Hall Avenue, wheelchair ramp. M/S Jones, Lange. Ayes: All.

100 Roosevelt Avenue - Shed and Fence. Shed was approved and council requested the homeowner to come to the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the fence request. M/S Jones, Kristof to approve the shed only and for the homeowner to come to the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ayes: All.

502 McKinley Avenue permit needs to be modified by the homeowner. Councilman Hamdorf will work with the homeowner to look at the site and plans.

Brandon Cloughly - 205 8<sup>th</sup> Street is in violation of a city building permit. Council discussed as he put in a bigger building that he asked for, did not provide his survey as he said he would. Councilwoman Tjaden said he needs to be fined and discussed available options. The City Clerk will issue a notice to the homeowner. The city will consider several options including Municipal Infraction fines and removal of the building.

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PWD Steinke reported that leaf pick began 10/17/22. Service will be Monday and Thursday weather permitting. He asked that people do not put grass clippings in with the leaves as it blocks up the leaf vacuum. Leaves should be placed in a Windrow curbside. He said that they will issue nuisance letters for trees to be trimmed 8ft. above sidewalks and 15ft. above the curb line. He also discussed the park bathrooms. The west bathroom is now closed. The sewer line will be removed in preparation for the bridge replacement at the park. The second bathroom will remain open until after Trunk & Treat. PWD Steinke also reported on the meter tests, which came back 98% accurate, which is within approved limits. He discussed the meter change out to a new system along with new software and explained that properties will be able to download an app on their phones, so that they can review their own water use and the city will be able to detect leaks within 24 hours instead of when the clerk does the monthly billing, which will allow residents to correct an issue timely. He also made inquiries to have city road markings updated and or added. The estimate was \$6619.06. Councilwoman Tjaden asked about 701 Hall Avenue. Did the nuisance letter talk about the junk or just weeds and grass as the property? The property has a lot of junk items in the yard. PWD Steinke said he will look at the property as only grass and weeds were addressed.

Mayor Cinkovich said a letter was received from the garden club about planting a tree in the park next to city hall. The tree had been planted as council were not able to address it due to two earlier October council meetings that were cancelled. No comment from council. Mayor Cinkovich asked about signing a letter on behalf of the city supporting the Hardacre theater renovation. Council approved the letter. Mayor Cinkovich said City Wide Halloween Trick & Treat will be October 31<sup>st</sup>. 5:00pm-7:30pm and Trunk & Treat 5:00pm-6:00pm at the park. Mayor Cinkovich addressed a light issue at the library, which was already taken care of and about replacement filters for the heating. Town decorating will be November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 12 noon for city pots and park area. Light fest will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Legion. Public Works will be blocking the road from the Library to the Legion and the parade route will be the same as in prior years. She added that Public Works will be renting a lift to put up snowflakes and decorations as limited volunteers want to do it. Riverbend transit will be provided three parking spots by the corner café to pick up and drop off passengers using the service. Mayor Cinkovich read a letter to council about an incident that took place regarding a rescue run. The injured person had laid on the ground for over 34 minutes but the rescue team could not lift the person due to size. They put out two calls for assistance from the fire department but no-one responded. Rev. Redhage from Trinity Lutheran Church assisted rescue to get the person upright and transported. The incident took around 53 minutes. Councilman Lange began using profanity towards the mayor and said they should have called Wheatland or Clarence out. If Francis Fisher and Jayne Hintz cannot lift, they should get off rescue. Mayor Cinkovich asked how many fire people are on the fire roster, he said 22 people and Councilman Kristof said only about 10 ever show up to meetings. Council Woman Tjaden said they are all volunteers, why she understands the concern, it's a volunteer service, what does rescue want us to do? Mayor Cinkovich said, I don't think they want us to do anything, it's more to let us know what happened, to bring it to council's attention. Mayor Cinkovich then discussed the fact that we all represent the city and we had to cancel two meetings this month due to lack of a quorum. We are here to do a job. She reminded council that meetings are the first Monday of each month, if you cannot be present, please let myself or the clerk know, so we can plan accordingly. I understand things happen with work etc., but this left us scrambling to re-organize the city agenda, call our Municipal Advisor who was travelling from Des Moines, ask Mark

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Dohmen, North Cedar to reschedule to name a few things from the agenda, plus the clerk had to speak to the City Attorney as this had never happened before, so that she could address some time driven needs of the city. As a result of a cancelled meeting, bills don't get paid timely and we can be assessed late fees etc., we need to do better!

Mayor Cinkovich then addressed council and Councilman Lange about social media posts. I will not be intimidated by you or any of the Langes. My page is a personal page, nothing to do with the city. I can run it as I see fit. I have no voting ability about utility rates, nuisances or anything else. I do not vote on decisions made by you the council. Councilman Lange said it's not him, it's his brother Nick Lange. Councilwoman Tjaden said you comment on this stuff and its interesting how everything gets back before it's even written about in the paper or officially recorded and most of the time, it's not correct. Council Woman Jones said she sees the social media stuff and doesn't comment about it because she represents council, but the posts are bad and not correct most of the time and it upsets her that this happens. Councilwoman Tjaden said she has invited some residents to come to the council meeting, hear why we have to do something that we will affect all of us. If the city needs new roads or if we have to do a million-dollar project like replacing aging infrastructure such as sewer lines then we plan at meetings and look at funding. Councilman Lange once again engaged in a bunch of profanity and the mayor addressed his response. The mayor then ended the conversation.

The City Clerk reported that the General Elections will be November 8<sup>th</sup> from 7am - 8pm. Residents can vote at City Hall. She will be having an IPERS bi-annual exam from the state, attending the Department of Management Budget Class and will be involved with the state exam in December.

Councilman Hamdorf asked about the park bathroom replacement and funding options.

M/S Lange, Tjaden to adjourn meeting at 7:40p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Monday, November 7, 2022 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

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Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

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Sarah Carlson, City Clerk