

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, October 7, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The meeting of the Lowden City Council was called to order by Mayor Derrick Lange.

Council members present on roll call: Kristof, NLange, Poppe, ALange. Absent: Jones.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Jason Conrad, Mark Dohmen, Aaron Horman, Dean Hamdorf, Doug Krutzfeld, Jayne & David Hintz, Tiffany & Jeremy Wink, Shannon Poppe, Eugene Harms, Dan Smith, Katie Duffy, Francis Fisher, Ann Harms, August Harms, Warren Chapman. Akosua Wiafe, Jonathan Lewis.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Lange updated council and visitors regarding the November 5, 2024, General Election and reminded council that the November council meeting was moved to Wednesday, November 6 per a request from the County Auditor earlier in the year.

M/S Kristof, Poppe to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: All.

M/S A Lange, Kristof to approve the minutes from September 3, 2024.

Communication from citizens - Mark Dohmen discussed the 28E partnership agreement between the school and city for a concession stand, crow's nest and restrooms in the baseball diamond area. Mark said the city attorney for the school is working on the 28E agreement. Aaron asked the city if the city is interested in making a bigger restroom and contributing to the cost. Council discussed and asked for plans and estimated costs for the next council meeting.

Fence Permit - 86 Main Street. M/S NLange, ALange to approve the permit as submitted. Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange opened the discussion for the proposed EMS building site. Jason Conrad discussed the proposed site and showed a rendering of the building. He added that EMS currently receive 10-12 calls a month. Doug Krutzfeld wanted to know why we would consider putting this building in a residential area and not build onto the current fire station property where the city purchased 30ft. of land. Dean Hamdorf said he is not in favor of building at the proposed site. Dean discussed ongoing costs for maintenance, insurance, electricity, phones mowing and snow removal. David Hintz said potentially this new building could also be an office space for a city police officer. Kristof said the city had also received a signed petition and asked if Jayne was open to another area of town if this did not pass. Jayne indicated she would be open to a different location but preferred this one. NLange added that the Zoning Board needs to be involved, and Mayor Lange said it will be added to the November agenda.

Randy Dies - Dog complaint. Mr. Dies did not come to the meeting as he indicated he would. Mayor Lange said he was told that the dog owner put up a fence yesterday, but he had not verified this himself. Council discussed but no action was taken.

Snow Removal Bids - None received. ALange said Dan Hamdorf called him and JJJ Enterprise would honor the price from the prior year for the sidewalk snow removal and City Streets. M/S Kristof, NLange to approve Dan Hamdorf, JJJ Enterprise offer to charge the city the same pricing as the prior year for snow removal. Ayes: All.

USDA Loan for police vehicle and equipment. Council discussed and decided against a loan from the USDA.

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, October 7, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

ALange discussed police vehicles and hiring of an officer. He said he looked at new car police prices and they are about \$80,000 with equipment. NLange said he had sourced a used vehicle that came from another city, a 2019 Chevy Tahoe for \$24,500 and it will have 46,000 miles on it. Council discussed. M/S Kristof, NLange to purchase a used police vehicle. Ayes: All. ALange also discussed hiring a police officer, the general hiring process and required testing, Insurance, salary, Ipers, taxes, uniforms, and the academy costs for an uncertified officer. ALange spoke to Warren Wethington, and he will assist the city as Cedar County is certified to do required psych and physical testing at no cost to Lowden. The clerk suggested a hiring committee to work out benefit, salary, equipment details and budget operating costs. The hiring committee was decided as ALange, Kristof and Mayor Lange.

The clerk updated council on the codification process for the city code. The city has made changes to the city code book and the state has updated some general language.

The city clerk discussed a notice of funding from the IDOT regarding the railway crossing. This is an application-based program and cities with interest must submit their project applications for these funds by June 30, 2025. Council discussed and decided that they didn't want to apply.

Mayor Lange discussed the city credit card with council. The city was told that they would be required to use an individual's social security number even if the city uses an EIN # and ALange said he also checked, and this is what he was told as well. Kristof and NLange asked why we are still talking about this, we voted to order a debit card. Mayor Lange said he ordered the card, but it was stopped. The clerk replied she asked the bank to hold on sending a card until the city could determine in writing if we should be using a debit card and Mayor Lange had informed her that he would be reviewing with the city attorney. The clerk said the attorney invoice was in the council pack for review. The clerk added that she had not seen a written policy for a debit card and had not received any update prior to the council meeting regarding a debit card policy. The State Auditor Office opinion is that that the city should not use a debit card. The visiting attorneys said they would prefer the city use a credit card over a debit card but that they had sent Mayor Lange a debit card policy per his request. M/S ALange, Kristof for the city to get a debit card with \$100.00 per purchase limit that will be adjustable as needed for approved purchases. Ayes: All.

Mayor Lange discussed setting city-wide trick & treat hours. Date and time set for Thursday, October 31 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.

M/S NLange, Kristof to approve the council bills. Ayes: All.

Resolution # 24-20 A Resolution to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice that the city council proposes to adopt as a City Code the printed loose-leaf volume of ordinances bearing the designation "City of Lowden, Iowa Code of Ordinances" and that said code is on file for public inspection at the city office. M/S NLange, Kristof to approve Resolution # 24-20. Ayes: All.

Resolution # 24-21 - For the USDA Loan was cancelled.

Clerk reported on the **Urban Renewal Report** - Remaining balance FY 23/24 - \$28,631.00. M/S Kristof, ALange to approve the Urban Renewal Report.

The clerk also reported on the cash, function, utility billing and WGML reports and a need for a budget amendment for Library and Rescue. The clerk asked council if they had any other changes. None noted.

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, October 7, 2024 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

Kristof asked the clerk if EMS should come in front of council for approval of purchases such as the terrain vehicle before it was ordered as the city will be expected to pay for insurance even if it was donation funds. Clerk said that should be the expectation as Fire and Rescue both use the city EIN #.

Mayor Lange reported EMS had 10 calls and Fire had 1 call.

Clerk asked if agenda items could be provided to her by the Wednesday before a meeting if possible. Clerk said she had been working on the state exam and will have training and working out bugs with the bank for a new ACH provider for utilities. She will also do training for IPERS on a new secure port. She said that new meter installations completed by Public Works could not be completed in utility system, due to the state exam and it was end of quarter for taxes, monthly utility billing and water shutoff, but she hoped to get those done before the end of the coming month.

Ann Harms, Library Director covered the library report and provided general updates to council. They will be hosting a Halloween event 4pm - 530pm at the library and will be hosting games and will be offering pizza and soda. Ann also informed council that Jan Olsen will be stepping down from the Library Board as she will be moving from Lowden. Rodney Scheider was selected for the open seat, and he will support rural cedar county.

PWD Steinke reported that the splashpad was closed for the season. Had seeded the grass area. On October 21 and 22 a stump grinder had been rented. Leaf pick-up will also begin this month. He discussed a PFAS testing requirement for the city and the DNR will pay for the first test. Estimated cost is \$300-\$400. ALange discussed changes to some of the sewer equipment and asked about the water filter at the pump house. Dan Helm will be visiting Lowden to shock the filters. ALange, Kristof asked PWD Director Steinke about his office space at City Hall moving to the sewer plant and inquired about a printer purchase.

ALange asked the attorney if they could approve the debit card use now for the security camera. The attorney had not responded to the question when Kristof added let's make the motion now. M/S Kristof, NLange to approve the clerk to use the debit card on the camera system. Ayes: All.

Nuisances: Pat Wirth dog issue - Mayor Lange said he talked with her. Camper person said they own up to the road. Poppe said it's a farm to market route and near misses had occurred by trucks.

M/S ALange, NLange to adjourn meeting at 7:30 p.m. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Derrick Lange

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk