

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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, Lange, Tjaden. Absent: Jones.

Visitors: Sue Hall, Jodi Freet, Cole Moeller, Jaynes Hintz, Warren Wethington, Keith Granger, Steve Haring, Bruce Barnhart, Mike Bixler, Lou Licht and Mark Dohmen.

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

Councilman Lange reported 2 fire calls and the mayor reported 9 calls for rescue.

Sheriff Wethington said no monthly report was available for this meeting. He and Jodi Freet, EMA discussed radio testing within various city properties.

Ann Harms, Library Director reported mainly after school children attending the library. She covered library events and planning community events.

Jayne Hintz and Cole Moeller discussed updates to the splash pad that the Harman Charitable Trust is donating to the city park. They will also be adding 2 benches, 2 picnic tables, fencing and some shade cover. Anticipated funding is quarter of a million dollars for this splashpad, and Cole Moeller added that they need a 50% downpayment in due course.

M/S Hamdorf, Lange to close regular meeting and open the public hearing for Budget Amendment # 1 FY23/24. City Clerk discussed the amendments with council and visitors. M/S Kristof, D Lange to close public hearing for City Budget Amendment # 1. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-23 adopting Budget Amendment # 1 for FY23/24**. No comments verbal or written received. M/S N Lange, Hamdorf to adopt Budget Amendment # 1 for FY23/FY24. Ayes: All.

M/S Kristof, N Lange to close the regular session and open the second public hearing for sale of the Lowden Daycare to North Cedar Schools. No comments were received. M/S Kristof, N Lange to close the public hearing for the sale of Lowden Daycare to North Cedar Schools and return to regular session. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read **Resolution # 23-22 Sale and Conveyance of the Lowden Daycare to North Cedar Schools for \$325,000**. No comments written or verbal were noted. Roll Call: Hamdorf-Aye, N Lange-Aye, D Lange-Aye, Kristof-Aye. Motion passed. The clerk and mayor will work with the city attorney on closing documents and payoff of the city loan from the USDA for the daycare. Mark Dohmen added that they have their board meeting on September 25th.

MCM Consulting presented to council the health of the current EMS services across Cedar County. He shared a PowerPoint presentation on proposed plans to introduce a 15-year property tax of \$0.75 per \$1000 of assessed value to fund the services needed. Volunteers are decreasing and recently the Clarence ambulance Director resigned, and Wheatland ambulance will not travel into cedar rapids or beyond. This is a big concern for the county and Jodi Freet added she is troubled by Lowden not having enough coverage. This is happening in other areas as well, so the plan is to introduce this county plan, but it will need funds to operate. Ambulances currently are not guaranteed, but with the new plan they would be. It will be on the ballot in November and requires 60% percent vote to pass. MCM and EMS plan various open houses and events to get the word out to the community, so that they understand the importance of rescue coverage and can have certainty that an ambulance will come to you when you need one. Councilman Kristof said he believed this is an important requirement for the community and he will be supporting.

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HR Green - Matt Wildman was not present for the meeting.

MSA Engineer - Keith Granger discussed the Retainage Release for the Bridge Replacement Project in the amount of \$25,908.00. He discussed the outstanding issue of the remaining dirt. Council discussed a possible solution of giving dirt away for free to anyone who wanted it. M/S Kristof, DLange for Mayor Cinkovich to sign the Retainage Release for the Bridge Replacement Project in the amount of \$25,908.00. This is the 5% retainage fee held by the IDOT until the project concludes. Ayes: All.

Public Works Director Steinke reported a pump issue with Water Well Pump # 2. Council approved him to get estimates and to go with the cheapest one. M/S DLange, Kristof to get the lowest bid and proceed with the replacement.

Lou Licht provided the city with an update on his nuisance abatement. He said the sidewalls are down on the second building and this Friday, the roof will be removed. He requires a small dumpster to rent from the city. He asked Councilman DLange if he would do a controlled burn and then he would clean up the left-over materials. Council approved. Council agreed to come onsite for an inspection on Tuesday, October 3rd.

The City Clerk introduced **Resolution 23-21 the IDOT Street Report to council**. Ending balance is - \$2,535. M/S DLange, Hamdorf approving the Street Report. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk reported on the **Urban Renewal Report**. M/S Hamdorf, DLange to approve the Urban Renewal Report. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk reported on the **GASB-77 Report**. M.S Kristof, DLange approve the GASB-77 Report. Ayes: All.

The City Clerk reported on the **Annual Financial Report**. M/S Hamdorf, DLange to approve the Annual Financial Report. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich & Public Works Director Kirk Steinke discussed the need to remove two trees and stumps along with some tree trimming at the park for a cost of \$2,180.00. Council discussed. M/S Kristof, DLange to approve the removal of the two trees, stumps, and tree trimming Ayes: Hamdorf, Kristof, DLange. Nay: NLange.

Nick Lange discussed the need to add a stop sign by 5th Street and Hall Avenue. M/S NLange, Kristof to approve a change request to the city ordinance. DLange-Aye, Kristof-Aye, NLange-Aye. Nay-Hamdorf. PWD Steinke reported on a request to change the flip signs at the school, council declined this change.

NLange requested that the city grader be fixed or sold. The grader has a defective brake line. Council approved PWD Steinke to purchase parts or get the line fixed.

NLange requested the city purchase 96-gallon trash cans for each property in town. Council debated on needs and logs. Estimated cost would be \$27,000 plus. PWD Steinke asked council if they had asked the community about citizen needs. He said they pick up bags from many residents who only put out a small bag at most and would have difficulty in pulling a large trash can to the curb. The city will discuss in the upcoming budget planning.

Mayor Cinkovich asked council to set Trick & Treat Hours, which will be 5:30pm-7:30pm on October 31st. No trunk or treat will occur this year. Ann Harms, Library Director, is working on other community events.

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PWD Steinke discussed the need for a change order to a 6" pipe - South of road towards the softball diamond for the splashpad, bathrooms and any future land development. Council discussed.

Permits - 905 McKinley Avenue to put in a barrier fence between him and his neighbor's property. M/S Kristof, NLange to approve the permit. Ayes: All.

Nuisance Abatement update for 605 Jefferson Avenue. The property has been mowed and approximately 150 volunteer trees have been removed.

PWD Steinke reported that the new radio meter heads are installed at 13 properties for testing.

Mayor Cinkovich reported that the AmVets had very kindly donated \$10,000 for use at the park. She reported that the solar light project and the memorial/donation plaques have been installed, except for one plaque that needs additional holes tapped into it. Two additional lights and plaques have been sold. The city sells the lights and plaques for \$850.00. Order forms are available at City Hall or on the city website.

Councilman Dlange discussed the meter change out at 801 Jefferson Avenue that JJJ Enterprise handled. He was under the impression, the old meter was bad, but some misunderstanding had occurred, and a new meter was installed. Councilman Hamdorf said only bill for the curb box and rod etc., not the meter. Councilman Kristof asked if everyone was getting a new meter for free.

The City Clerk discussed Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, which was the charge that Nathan Spies received for intentionally damaging 4 city signs. The city has requested the court to award damages to the city from Mr. Spies in the amount of \$1,743.50. Council discussed.

Councilman Hamdorf asked the mayor why her cell phone isn't listed on the website. He said he wants his number off the website.

M/S Kristof, NLange to adjourn meeting at 7:35p.m. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Monday, October 2, 2023 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk