

PROCEEDINGS OF LOWDEN CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 - 5:30PM CITY HALL MEETING ROOM

The regular 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, G. Hamdorf, Lange, Tjaden. Absent Jones.

Visitors: Al Behrens, Austin Lange, Nick Lange, Ed Matheny, Sue Hall, Aaron Horman, Steve Gehrls, Matt Morris, Brandon Cloughly.

M/S Lange, Kristof to approve the Consent Agenda, Treasurers report, Minutes, Bills, Financial Reports, Utility Billing and to add one late submitted bill from J&J Grocery for \$5.97. Ayes: All.

Councilman Lange reported 2 fire call. David Hintz reported by report 6 rescue calls.

Library Director, Ann Harms was not present, but had submitted her library minutes. A report of vandalism at the library was discussed.

Cedar County Sheriff was not present, but a report had been submitted for council review.

Amvets, Steve Gehrls and Al Behrens presented the City of Lowden with checks from the sale of the Amvets building. Council and Mayor thanked Al and Steve for the generous donations.

5L LLC - Austin and Nick Lange discussed a garbage fee charge for a rental property they own and wanted a sewer project fee reduction. They want the city to change the ordinance, so they don't have to pay as much. Council will review the city ordinance at the next meeting.

Ed Matheny spoke to council about the tree's committee review of his maple tree at 806 McKinley Avenue. He considers the tree to be dying. The tree committee voted 4-2 to leave the tree up and remove dead limbs. Ed said the tree will cost the city more in the long run. The tree in his opinion was damaged during the derecho. Councilman Hamdorf asked Public Works Director Steinke to get bids for the next meeting to take the tree down and or trim it and council will decide.

Mayor Cinkovich on behalf of the City and Garden Club recognized the efforts of Weston Dircks, Tyler Stewart, Koby Stewart, Drew Behrens and Carter Horman for volunteering with the Lowden Garden Club on 8/2/22 for Silver Cord Hours.

Mayor Cinkovich apprised council of a garage that was moved through city streets to 804 Washington Avenue apartments. Madison Case and Mike Blake had not secured any permit or permission from the city to either move the building or to erect it at the apartments. A building permit was submitted after the fact, but it did not have all the information required and work had already started. Councilman Hamdorf said the owner Madison Case needs to locate the pins. He thought the property lines were not correct and the property behind at 808 Washington might be affected. He said to send a letter to the owners denying the permit and that all work must stop to avoid legal action. M/S Tjaden, Lange to not approve the permit and to issue the letter to the property owner to stop work. Ayes: All.

201 Washington Avenue owned by Mike Blake was discussed. The building is a storage building at the front of town, which was separated from the Railway Restaurant and Bar when it was recently sold. A request to turn it into a used car and repair shop was discussed by council. No utilities are at this premises and the building was previously used for storage. The survey pins need to be located and an easement with the railroad was discussed. No decision was made on this property. It will be discussed again at the October meeting.

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Aaron Horman, F&B Communications discussed Council's request to install security cameras at the park. He had submitted a proposal to council, which would include wifi. It would involve the initial camera cost and monthly internet fees. The city would be able to monitor the cameras via cell phone, tablet or TV. Councilwoman Tjaden asked if the school would be willing to share in the costs. This was not ruled out, but would will require further discussion. Councilwoman Tjaden also checked into US Cellular, but this would only be 4g technology. M/S Hamdorf, Tjaden to wait until Spring to get something in place. Ayes: Lange, Tjaden, Hamdorf. Nays: Kristof.

The City Clerk had an update for council on the possible sale of the daycare. The city needs to obtain an appraisal on the daycare. Rally Appraisal was selected as the cheapest quote at \$2,000. M/S Lange, Kristof to begin the process to get the daycare appraised and approve the cheapest quote of \$2,000. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed damage to the city park picnic tables, city mower and a memorial bench damaged by Hansen's who are currently mowing the park for a 2-year agreement. Mayor Cinkovich had discussed the damages and the Hansen's will be submitting an insurance claim to their own agent. The city will need to obtain quotes for repairs. Council also decided to terminate the agreement for next year for Hansen's to mow the park, but they will complete this year's agreement through October. M/S Lange, Tjaden to cancel the mowing agreement for 2023 and for the Hansen's to submit the repairs to their insurance to reimburse the city for damages. Ayes: All.

City Clerk discussed Annual Financial Report for the City with all present. M/S Tjaden Hamdorf to approve the AFR Report. Ayes: All.

City Clerk discussed the GASB Reports with council. M/S Lange, Kristof to approve the GASB report. Ayes: All.

City Clerk discussed the Urban Renewal Report with council. M/S Hamdorf, Lange to approve the Urban Renewal Report. Ayes: All.

Mayor Cinkovich read the first 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 ENVIROMENT, CHAPTER 10, BUILDING REGULATIONS AND PERMITS. SECTION 6-10-3B SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM IS ADDED TO CHAPTER 10 – BUILDING REGULATIONS AND PERMITS.** The second reading will be at the October meeting.

Mayor Cinkovich discussed two ads for city snow removal. Council approved and will open bids at the October meeting. Mayor Cinkovich also discussed property water leaks with council and shared information from other towns on how they handle. Councilman Kristof said the person needs to bring proof that the leak is fixed before any discussion and check if they have homeowner insurance. Council discussed and decided to leave the ordinance as it is currently written. The ordinance does not compensate homeowners or businesses for water that goes through the meter. Brandon Cloughly - 205 8th Street, requested a review of his building permit for a portable shed. Mr. Cloughly said the pad was installed years ago, but he wants to add a plastic shed. The shed was 20x8x8. No survey was present. Council told him to obtain a lot survey or check with the county to see if one is on file. If no lot survey, then he will need to submit a copy to the clerk. M/S Lange, Kristof to approve the building permit once the survey is received by the clerk. Ayes: All.

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Councilman Lange said the Railyard Bar & Restaurant will be holding a special event on Saturday, 10th September and will have live music in the garden area. Councilman Lange requested that the city approve the band to play until midnight. Council approved.

401 Washington Avenue - Fence Permit was approved. Survey was submitted. M/S Hamdorf, Kristof to approve the fence permit for 401 Washington Avenue. Ayes: All.

502 McKinley Avenue - no survey was submitted and the shed size is 15 ½ x 12 x 8. This property also has multiple sheds on it. Councilman Hamdorf will discuss with this property owner. Council did not approve this permit.

113 Grant Avenue revised permit for his garage was approved. Survey was present. M/S Lange, Tjaden. Ayes: Kristof, Lange, Tjaden. Abstained from voting: Hamdorf.

PWD Steinke reported an ongoing situation with a loose dog at 110 Jefferson. This dog owner has received multiple warnings. The clerk has added it to a current nuisance abatement with the city attorney. Councilwoman Tjaden said she wants 701 Hall Avenue to receive a nuisance abatement for weeds, trash and junk, which council agreed. The daycare had an inspection by Phil LaRue. No active mold reported and the building has passed all tests. He recommends that the city remove the drywall from the basement, but council saw no reason to do so. No action will occur. Solar lights and posts are up at the park and he will be installing one more sign to be installed to the right of the electronic message board soon. Councilman Kristof asked about the welcome banners. Some poles are broken and need to be replaced along with some new clamps. The city will be ordering these and then the banners can go up next year.

Councilman Hamdorf said the fence concern at the sewer plant is resolved. He asked about the flag pole rope at the park by city hall. Two ropes had failed and so a new one of a different style will be used. He asked public works to do some patching on Main Street.

M/S Lange, Tjaden to adjourn meeting at 7:35pm. Ayes: All.

Next council meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2022 @ 5:30pm - City Hall.

Mayor, Jill Cinkovich

Attest:

Sarah Carlson, City Clerk