

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on February 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at the Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Ford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members, Ford, Ballard, Middleton, Peters, Franklin, and Myrick were present. Also present were, Administrator Fleming, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent was Mayor Wells and Council Member Shaughnessy.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Martin to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None heard

**PRESENTATION**

**Best Tasting Water Award - Water One - Lester Estelle** - Lester Estelle presented the 2017 Kansas Best Tasting Water Award to the Water Plant employees. The City qualified to go to Las Vegas to compete in the National Competition for Best Tasting Water in the Nation. The Council congratulated the group.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval**

- **January 22, 2018 and February 5, 2018**

**B. Appropriations Approval – 2018-03**

**C. Personnel Action**

- **Darrell Chester - Code Enforcement - Annual**
- **Trevor Beyer - Parks & Cemetery - Annual**
- **Lyndon Kern - Water Production - Annual**
- **Bryan Braden - Fire/EMS - Resignation**
- **Bradly Vyhlidal - Fire/EMS - New Hire**
- **Jordan Drybread - Fire/EMS - New Hire**

Council Member Franklin inquired about the resignation of the Fire/EMS employee and the cost of the bunker gear. Administrator Fleming noted that the gear is passed on to another new hire if it fits. Motion made by Council Member Myrick to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

## ROUND TABLE

**A. Seizure & Forfeiture - Report** – Police Chief Warner presented the State Forfeitures report to the Council from January 13, 2017 thru January 26, 2018. Council Member Ballard asked what the funds were used for. Chief Warner stated that the funds were used for increasing the size of the impound lot and for expenditures associated with the K9 unit at the Neodesha Police Department. They have assisted the Iola Police Department on occasion with their K9 unit, so in return, funds were used to help with their expenses. The County Attorney receives 15% of the forfeiture funds as part of the civil fees.

**B. Recreation/Trail/Park Fee Discussions** - Administrator Fleming stated that there would be approximately \$58,491 if 75% of the water and electric customers opted to participate in the fee.

Council Member Ford stated that she would like to see an online form for customers to “opt out” of the fee. She would also like to see some sort of education prior to the fee being a part of the bill.

Council Member Myrick wondered when are we going to quit asking our customers to quit paying for everything.

Council Member Ballard stated that he agreed with Council Member Myrick until he attended the First Impressions Meeting recently. The out of town individuals that visited Iola stated that the trails and the parks are the best part of the town. Iola needs to focus on them and keep them great.

Administrator Fleming stated that a Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails could help the City focus the desires of residents. The previous Vision Iola Plan is old and has some gaps that could be addressed with a new plan.

Donna Houser stated that all of the parks and trails that have been added have added extra work onto the park employees and the City of Iola needs some assistance to pay for it.

Jim Talkington stated that he thinks that citizens should be asked to “opt in” not “opt out”. Council Member Franklin stated that he feels the City would get better results with the “opt out”.

Council Member Franklin stated that this is a positive thing for citizens. It is for the betterment of the physical and mental well being of all involved.

Council Member Ballard asked how much the City spends on trail maintenance yearly. Administrator Fleming stated he did not have an exact figure. Every year the City mows the trails several times and does repairs as needed. In the 2018 Budget Administrator Fleming stated that \$10,000 had been budgeted to repair a section of trail and the bridge that is in bad shape.

Council Member Franklin stated that this money will be used for other park facilities not just the trails. The pool needs painted, the playground equipment will need to be replaced over time, and the baseball and softball fields will need new fences.

Administrator Fleming stated since there is a consensus, staff will bring it back to the next meeting with a cost of advertising and additional information about implementing the fee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CASA - Funds Request** – Ashley Varner or CASA is requesting assistance to pay for a fundraising event at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center on February 17th. They are \$325.00 short of the \$1,250.00 needed to pay for the rental on the Bowlus.

Council Member Myrick noted that he is a CASA Advocate, and it is a good program.

Council Member Ford stated that the group should request funding from the Convention and Tourism Group next time.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to award the CASA group \$325.00 from the City Council Discretionary Nonprofit Assistance Budget. All in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Humanity House Community Garden - Request** – Humanity House is requesting that the city provide free water for the community garden for the 2018 growing season. Council Member Ford review of the actual water usage showed that the garden has typically used only a little over \$1,000 per growing season. She recommended limiting the amount to \$1,000 rather than the requested \$1,500. Council Member Ballard stated that if the City gives free water then the individuals that benefit from the free water should have to give volunteer hours.

Council Member Myrick stated that in years past the Community Garden was ran that if an individual couldn't afford the \$25.00 for a garden spot they had to work at the garden. If we make the individual volunteer for the water that seems like we are asking them to do double work.

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Tracy Keagle of Humanity House stated that when individuals ask for assistance they request that the individual pay it back or pay it forward.

Motion made by Council Member Franklin to give the Humanity House Community Garden up to \$1,000 for the 2018 growing season from the City Council Discretionary Nonprofit Assistance Budget. Motion seconded by Council Member Myrick. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

**C. SBDC Agreement** - Administrator Fleming noted that City Staff has been working with Tom Byler, Regional Director for Kansas SBDC at PSU. The City of Iola's \$5,000 allocation would be considered a "Cash Match" for the PSU SBDC program and in return SBDC will ensure regular visits to the Iola community.

Bill Maness, Thrive Allen County Economic Program Director, offered office space for Mr. Byler.

Mr. Byler stated he would be able to be in Iola two days a month along with holding some seminars at Allen Community College.

Motion made by Council Member Peters and seconded by Council Member Franklin to approve the Certification of Cash Match for Kansas SBDC at Pittsburg State University and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

**D. Municipal Code Re-Codification - Ordinance 3480** - Citycode has completed its review of our code and have the City of Iola Municipal Code prepared to be recodified and hosted online. Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Franklin to approve Ordinance 3480 Codification of Ordinances for the City of Iola and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

**E. 124 Bruner Street - Acquisition** - Assistant Administrator Schinstock informed the Council that staff have been working with the owners of the substandard structures at 124 Bruner Street. The dwelling and out buildings at this address have not been occupied since the 2007 flood event.

The property is in proximity to the Davis Athletic Fields. The owners are willing to quit-claim deed the property to the City. If the Council agrees to accept the property the City will assume the responsibility for demolition and cleanup of the property. Motion made by Council Member Franklin to approve the acquisition of 124 Bruner Street and authorize staff to obtain signatures on the quit-claim deed. Motion seconded by Council Member Martin. All in favor. Motion carried.

**F. Personnel Policy Adoption** - Administrator Fleming noted that the changes appear on the agenda sheet. The actual policy will be updated upon approval of the Resolution. He noted the corrective action as it is lined out in the Personnel Policy, and an Administrative Policy will then detail the administration of the progressive discipline procedures.

Some of the Council Members stated that they would prefer to read the completed Personnel Policy prior to approving the Resolution.

Council Member Ford stated she was under the impression that the six-month pay increase was eliminated completely.

Administrator Fleming stated that the Council should not be dealing with the day-to-day business of the City such as discipline of employees. Council should be thinking strategically and taking care of the big things within the City. This policy still allows the employee to come to the Council for a grievance if necessary.

Council Member Ford stated she is not against giving the Department Heads and the Administration the authority to handle these things. They are the ones that are dealing with the people on a daily basis. She is just asking for clarity in the policy.

Council Member Ballard stated that he thinks the Council should be aware of all discipline matters.

Council Member Myrick just wants to assure that the Council is given a list of who is hired and fired from the City.

The consensus was for staff to bring back more clarification in the policy.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### **A. Council Member Franklin –**

- None

### **B. Council Member Myrick–**

- Pleased with the way that Street & Alley salted the streets during the ice storm on Saturday.

### **C. Council Member Shaughnessy –**

- Absent

**D. Mayor Wells–**

- Absent

**E. Council Member Ballard –**

- Street & Alley did a great job.
- The First Impressions Meeting was informative. The Council needs to focus on what they noted that we need to make better for instance the sidewalks and the signage.

**F. Council Member Middleton –**

- None

**G. Council Member Ford–**

- The First Impressions Meeting was informative. We have a wonderful City and we take it for granted.
- The Bowlus show Saturday was great the Police were helpful with traffic and the intersections were salted and safe.

**H. Council Member Peters –**

- None.

**I. Council Member Martin -**

- Enjoyed the First Impressions Meeting. Everyone should take pride in the town.

**J. Administrator Fleming–**

- The material is here for the bleachers work should begin in March.
- Elm Creek Bridge is here. Staff has requested them to do some extra work with the rock that was brought in and line the edges of the embankment.
- Jed Rice and James Snavely have completed the program to become Certified Journey Lineman.
- Next meeting will take a council picture.
- Would like to have a Strategic Planning Session on a Saturday Morning.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2018

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**ADJOURNMENT 7:46 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ballard to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.



  
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Mayor Jonathan Wells

  
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City Clerk Roxanne Hutton