

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on October 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., at the Riverside Park Community Building, 600 S State, Iola, and Kansas.

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Shirley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Shirley, Council Members Becker, Kilby, Wicoff, Rowe, Stewart, Callahan, French and Franklin were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Attorney Apt and City Clerk Hutton.

## **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Becker. The vote was eight ayes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Donna Houser requested an update on the status of Judy Brigham; stated that John McRae came to the council to speak on her request after several residents voiced their concerns to her. Attorney Apt stated that Donna could come by his office and he would explain the differences in the two motions at previous meetings to reinstate Judy Brigham. Noted that it would be nice for the electric rates to go down, but encouraged the council to not make that decision when some of the city's infrastructure is in need of repairs.
- Holly Slakowski noted that she would be going with Donna to Attorney Apt's office to get clarification on the motions concerning Judy Brigham also. Voiced concerns that there are bullies on the council and they are influencing the other members.
- Ray Houser also requested an update on Judy Brigham even noting that the public might agree if they were told the truth. Concerned that the council is not acting openly with the public.
- Jana Taylor in attendance to thank the council for allowing the city staff to work many hours to help make Farm City Days a success. Mayor Shirley commented on the outstanding job the Farm City Days committee had done to make the event successful and noted that Carolyn McClean's help with the veterans trailer seemed to be a success also.
- Jana Taylor was also requesting that Jefferson Street be closed from East Street to Madison on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. for the young professionals third annual trunk or treat. Mayor Shirley stated that this has been done in the past and he approved it to be done again this year.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval** – October 11,2011, October 17,2011

**B. Appropriations Approval** – 2011-19

**C. Personnel Actions** –

- Mark Michael – Fire Department – Annual Evaluation
- Josh Mueller – Gas, Water & Wastewater – Annual Evaluation
- Tony Hutton – Gas, Water & Wastewater – Resignation (to be refilled)
- Kelly Rouse – Electric Distribution – Promotion
- Brandon Thomas – Water Production – Annual Evaluation
- Kara Godfrey – Administration – 12-Month Evaluation

Motion made by Council Member Stewart to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Motion seconded by Council Member Becker. Council Member Callahan noted that the October 11<sup>th</sup> minutes on page 3 section b should read a motion was made to take all of the utilities to the property line with the exception of sewer. All in favor with the correction. Motion carried.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

### **10 Year Service Awards**

- Carol West – Clerks Office
- Charles Sellman – Water Production
- Kevin Rush – Electric Distribution
- Kristy Sutherland – Recreation
- Anthony Maness- Police Department

### **20 Year Service Awards**

- Daniel McKarnin – Electric Production
- Mitch Phillips – Gas Water & Wastewater

Mayor Shirley recognized the two employees in attendance; Anthony Maness for his 10 years of service and Daniel McKarnin for his 20 years of service.

## ROUNDTABLE

- A. Senator Jeff King** – Senator King requested all those that could attend the economic summit at the Parish Center at the Catholic Church on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Noted that the funding the state has taken from the local government is not going to be reinstated. Would like to work together with the local entities to see what can be done to help. Mayor Shirley asked about the governor's decision to stop supporting the arts commission. Senator King noted that this decision would affect smaller communities more so than the larger urban areas. Senator King asked that the council keep an open mind when it comes to the redistricting process that the state is looking at this would benefit the smaller communities giving them a larger voice.
- B. KOMA/KORA Discussions** – Administrator Slauch noted that per a request the KOMA/KORA policy was being reviewed. Police Records that are provided to the new media are now on the website. Council Member Rowe noted that the city code should be followed. He wondered if each department head might become a deputy records custodian. Council Member Wicoff questioned why this item was being addressed. Administrator Slauch stated that he said he planned to review many of the city policies with council, one or two each month.
- C. FEMA reimbursement 2007 Review-** City Clerk Hutton reviewed the spreadsheet for the council noting that funds that were dispersed and funds that were received were all accounted for in the noted general ledger accounts. Still waiting on the housing grant to be finalized; a \$375,000 payout is expected soon; will give the council an update on those funds when available. Council Member French asked about a trailer house on S. Chestnut that is falling down. City Clerk Hutton explained that if individuals did not participate in the buyout the city could not act on demolition on the property until the grant was closed out.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Allen County Volunteers Request** – Allen County Volunteers Rural Fire Department is holding a fundraiser on November 5<sup>th</sup>. They are requesting the city waive the rental fee of \$50.00 for the North Community Building. Mayor Shirley approved this request.
- B. 2012 COLA Discussions** – The annual COLA increase of 3.6% was presented to the council for approval. This is in accordance with the current policy in the Personnel Manual. Council Member Franklin noted that she would like to think about it for two weeks and see what local manufacturing plants and local businesses are doing for their employees. Council Member Callahan would like to see hard numbers at the next meeting. Council Member Rowe noted that he would like staff to compare salaries with Gates and Russell Stover's. He would like to enhance the merit increase and do

away with the COLA in order to reward those that are doing their job and not just give a raise to everyone.

- C. 2011 Financial Audit** – The city received a proposal from Lowenthal, Webb and Oderman of Lawrence to perform the audit for the 2011 financials. Staff's recommendation is to continue with Lowenthal, Webb and Oderman. They are a reputable firm and have done an excellent job in the past. Council Member Franklin stated she would like the city to get a bid from Jared, Gilmore & Phillips since they are local. Motion made by Council Member Franklin to solicit bids for the 2011 financial audit. Motion seconded by Council Member Stewart. Voting in favor of the motion was council members: Franklin, Stewart, Kilby, Rowe, Callahan, and French. Voting against the motion was council members Wicoff and Becker. Motion passed by majority vote.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Kansas Power Pool Update** - Administrator Slaugh noted that the KPP had made no concessions since we sent our letter. The KPP will be meeting on Wednesday of this week will know more at that time. Scott Shreve informed the group that 70% of the KPP members have signed up for the 20-year commitment. If a city signs the two-year contract a 2.85% fee will be assessed to help pay for the Dogwood power plant. Five cities have given notice and more are likely too following the meeting on Wednesday. Council Member Callahan noted that at the meeting he and Council Member Rowe, Administrator Slaugh and Power Plant Superintendent Mike Phillips had with Westar a few weeks ago showed several thousand dollars different if the city had been with Westar in 2010. Council Member Wicoff noted that he and other council members would like to see a presentation from Westar. Scott Shreve noted that following the meeting on Wednesday if the city decides to terminate the contract with the KPP there are other options available including a possible pool of the cities that leave the KPP.
- B. Hospital Re-Zoning Ordinance** - The Ordinance was presented to the Council for approval. Motion made by Council Member Stewart to approve the ordinance. Motion seconded by Council Member French. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: French, Franklin, Becker, Stewart, Kilby, Callahan and Rowe. Voting against the motion was Council Member Wicoff. The motion passed by a majority vote.
- C. Water Rate – Ordinance** – Administrator Slaugh presented the ordinance to the council with the following increases: Meter charge \$15.00 to \$17.70, each unit \$2.66 to \$3.14, wholesale #1 rate \$2.58 to \$3.04 and wholesale #2 rate \$2.17 to \$2.56 and an annual increase based on the COLA rate. Council Member Rowe questioned Attorney Apt if a single ordinance could have been done to increase water rates and lower electric rates. Attorney Apt stated that it could be done, however he would advise against it. Council Member Stewart made a motion to

approve the ordinance. Motion seconded by Council Member Wicoff. All in favor. Motion carried.

**D. Electric Rate – Ordinance** - Administrator Slaugh stressed the importance of not lowering the electric rates. Council Member Rowe noted that with the decrease in transfers from the electric utility to general it would cause the city to reduce spending. Council Member Kilby noted that lowering the electric rates scares him. Council Member Franklin wondered about giving it a try for six months. Council Member French noted that it took years not months to get the water rates increased. Council Member Wicoff noted that all of the constituents that he has talked to are happy with their services and would not support cutting the revenue that supports those services; just leave it alone and move forward. Council member Callahan noted that the council should make a stand and not just raise rates every time there is a problem. Council Member Rowe made a motion to reduce the meter charge for the electric rates as proposed. Motion seconded by Council Member Callahan. Voting in favor of the motion were council members Callahan, Rowe and Franklin. Voting against the motion were council members Kilby, Stewart, Wicoff, Becker and French. Motion failed by majority vote.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

- A. Mayor Shirley** – Farm City Days a big success. A lot of veterans turned out to sign up for services.
- B. Council Member Stewart** – None
- C. Council Member Callahan** – None
- D. Council Member Wicoff** – Farm City Days great. Kids enjoyed it.
- E. Council Member Franklin** – None
- F. Council Member Kilby** – None
- G. Council Member Becker** – None
- H. Council Member Rowe** – None
- I. Council Member French** – City crews did a great job with citywide cleanup.
- J. Administrator Slaugh** –
- Need an executive session for real estate purchase.
  - Had an hour long conference call with Standard and Poors to obtain a rating for the bond renewal. Very informative and detailed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Attorney / Client 7:55 p.m. K.S.A.75-4319**

Motion was made by Council Member Wicoff and seconded by Council Member Kilby to recess into “Executive Session” for the purpose of conducting a meeting to discuss Attorney/ Client Matters. All in favor. Motion carried. Present: Mayor Shirley, Council Members, Administrator Slaugh and Attorney Apt. The open meeting to resume in the Commission Room at 8:10 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Real Estate 8:10 p.m. K.S.A.75-4319**

Motion was made by Council Member Stewart and seconded by Council Member Callahan to recess into “Executive Session” for the purpose of conducting a meeting to discuss Real Estate. All in favor. Motion carried. Present: Mayor Shirley, Council Members, Administrator Slaugh and Attorney Apt. The open meeting to resume in the Commission Room at 8:25 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Attorney / Client 8:25 p.m. K.S.A.75-4319**

Motion was made by Council Member Wicoff and seconded by Council Member Kilby to recess into “Executive Session” for the purpose of conducting a meeting to discuss Attorney/ Client Matters. All in favor. Motion carried. Present: Mayor Shirley, Council Members, and Attorney Apt. The open meeting to resume in the Commission Room at 8:30 p.m.

Motion made by Council Member Rowe to have Administrator Slaugh continue negotiations with the interested developer on property at Cedarbrook. Motion seconded by Council Member Stewart. All in favor, Motion carried.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**ADJOURNMENT**

**8:58.m.** Motion made by Council Member Becker and was seconded by Council Member Stewart to adjourn the meeting. The vote was eight ayes. As the vote was unanimous, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011.

CITY OF IOLA

2011-17 Page 7

10/24/2011

Mayor, William A. Shirley

---

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton