

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on February 13, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at the Riverside Park Community Building, 600 S State, Iola, 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 adding SAFER Grant under new business item E. Motion seconded by Council Member Kilby. The vote was eight ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jim Gilpin was present to show support of the consultants; Van Scoyoc from Washington D.C. Past experience has shown a \$10.00 return on every \$1.00 spent. A cost analysis should be done prior to “ditching” them. Over the last 60 years the city has encountered some problems. Problem #1 the city inherited a rat infested dump on the east side of town with no money in the coffers to clean it up. Iola Industries was formed and they cleaned up the mess and brought jobs to the area. Problem #2 the WPA auditorium was in poor shape and needed to be torn down. Iolan Thomas Bowlus donated his property and the funding to start the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. Problem #3 Iola lacked space for industries. Iola Industries bought land north and south of town and developed it for industries. Problem #4 the flood of 2007. The consultants in Washington D.C. were able to set up meetings for the CITF group to help gain timely access to federal funding to help rebuild city properties from the flood. The tax dollars are going to other communities if the city does not have consultants to step in and help gain access to that funding for the city.
- Jim Gilpin also mentioned a transportation grant that could possibly help with some of the streets that are main thoroughfares. The deadline for the grant is February 20th.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval – January 9, 2012, January 23, 2012, and January 28, 2012

B. Appropriations Approval – 2012-04

C. Personnel Actions –

- Larry Gilmore – Electric Generation – Annual Evaluation
- Dennis Walden – Street & Alley – Annual Evaluation

- Brian Fees – Solid Waste – Annual Evaluation
- Patrick Wilson – Parks & Cemetery – Annual Evaluation
- Kristy Sutherland – Recreation – Annual Evaluation
- Jarrod Tedder – Street & Alley - Resignation

C. Board Appointments

- Linda Close – Library Board Appointment

A motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Stewart to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. Mad Bomber Run / Walk– Mike Ford was present to ask for support from the city having the crews with the things they have done in the past to help make the run successful. This year they will have a light parade. Mayor Shirley asked for any objections from the council, there being none the city crews will participate as usual for the annual event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Recreational Dog Park - Administrator Slauch noted that the dog park group had met with Animal Control Officer, Zach French, Parks Superintendent Berkley Kerr and himself to discuss the criteria for the dog park. The group came up with six items that were of importance and came up with three different locations.

- Howard Ross presented a petition that of which he obtained 44 signatures of local residents that were against putting the dog park on South Washington. He stated that having dogs barking, the odor, no street parking, individuals dumping dogs, dog fights and loose dogs would not be conducive in a residential area. Mr. Ross noted that Cofachique Park would be a good location due to the fact that there was off street parking and not a residential area. Mr. Ross also noted that a lot of residents walk, jog and ride their bikes in his neighborhood this would not be possible if the area were blocked off by the fencing required of the dog park and the added noise and traffic would be a hazard to foot traffic.
- Red Garner also stated opposition to putting a dog park on the South Washington Street site.
- Beth Griffith had concerns about her grandchildren being in danger of the dogs from the dog park and those that would be dumped at that location. Pecan and Walnut trees in the area would be fenced in which would not allow the many citizens access to the nuts from the trees which has been done by citizens for many years.
- Council member Rowe stated that most dog parks around the state are in nonresidential areas they are located in existing parks. There is plenty of space in Riverside and Cofachique those two areas would be easier to keep an eye on.

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- Council member Rowe inquired about whose responsibility it would be to carry out the rules of the dog park. Administrator Slauch noted that the dog park users would police themselves, however if a complaint arises the animal control officer or a police officer would be the one that would handle it.
- Council member Rowe noted that there would be added expense in the animal control to deal with complaints, added maintenance. Administrator Slauch noted that the maintenance would be minimal due to the fact that the city maintains all of the properties just an addition of a fence and water hydrants.
- Council member French noted that the Vision Iola plan was to utilize current green space for a dog park. He is respectful to the citizens on South Washington, however noted that the other two sites would also be an issue for citizens since they are located in residential areas.
- Council member Callahan noted that the council asked the group to raise \$10,000 and the city would match up to that amount the council needs to follow through. The individual that stated at the last council meeting that Cofachique Park would not be a good site was not a member of the committee. The cost of moving the play equipment is really not an issue since it would be done in house. People are going to get upset no matter where you put it. The park atmosphere would be ideal. The Cofachique Park would be great for parking with access to the trail.
- Council member Becker stated he would be okay with the two sites, however not the Washington Street site.
- Council member Kilby noted that he would like to see it in the green space just not on the South Washington site.
- Council member French noted that that he had spoken to travelers at McDonalds that were walking their dogs they said they would use a dog park if it weren't located too far into the town with easy access off the main streets.
- Council member Rowe stated that he thought nothing could be built within the floodplain. Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Bauer noted that FEMA restrictions do allow for parks.
- A motion was made by Council member Stewart to put the dog park on site #2 located on South Chestnut between Rock and Irwin. Motion seconded by Council member French.
- Council member Callahan noted that maybe the council should walk and look at the sites with the commercial building there this would not be a good park area. Will the city be satisfied after it is built?
- Council member French noted that he feels like the city will eventually be pleased with the look of it. Cofachique Park has a lot more commercial property around it so that is not a good reason to not put it on South Chestnut.
- Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Franklin, French, Stewart, and Callahan. Voting against the motion were Council Members

Rowe, Kilby, Becker and Wicoff. Mayor Shirley broke the tie with a vote in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CDBG Housing rehab Project – Jeff Bauer – Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Bauer was present to discuss various items regarding the community development block grant for housing rehabilitation in the southeast part of town. Items needing approval include:

- 310 S Fourth – High cost waiver due to a gas line needing replaced.
- 311 S Third – Certificate of completion.
- Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report
- 306 S Third – Notice of Award
- 405 S Fourth – Notice of Award
- Funds Disbursement

Motion made by Council member Franklin made a motion to approve the notice of award for the properties at 306 S Third and 405 S Fourth. Motion seconded by Council member Stewart. All in favor motion carried.

Motion made by Council member Stewart and seconded by Council member Becker to approve the high cost waiver, certificate of completion and the request for payment and authorization for the Mayor to sign all of the necessary documents. All in favor motion carried.

B. Iola Entryway Signs - Discussion – Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Bauer presented information for possible sign replacement as part of the Vision Iola Plan. Staff is seeking direction regarding the replacement of the city entryway signs. Council member Rowe wondered why new signage couldn't be added to the existing masonry. Council member French asked Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Bauer to look at the state of the masonry and report back to the council.

C. Wastewater Improvement Project – Administrator Slaugh noted that the city had solicited proposals for engineering of the wastewater improvement project. Five proposals were received. Assistant Administrator Schinstock, Wastewater Superintendent Mitch Phillips and Administrator Slaugh rated the proposals and following the rating process they looked at the fees. The highest rated firm was also the lowest priced one. Staff's recommendation they are not anxious to change firms, however the lower price is attractive.

- Council member Callahan noted that if they rated the firms prior to looking at the \$80,000 price difference then that firm should be the firm they choose. Council member Rowe agreed.
- Council member Wicoff asked if the firm had done this kind of work before? Administrator Slaugh stated they have experience with similar types of work.
- Council member Wicoff asked if references had been checked? Administrator Slaugh stated he had not done that yet, however he had worked with them on a project at a previous city he worked at, he will check references.

- Motion made by Council member Callahan to accept lowest bid of \$72,000 from Ponzer-Youngquist. Motion seconded by Council member Franklin. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Council member Wicoff wanted to make sure that the right material would be specified. Administrator Slaugh noted that a firm would be chosen and then a scope of the project would be completed and then it would come back to the council for final approval.

D. Non-Gas Cost Factor -Discussions – Administrator Slaugh informed the council that if the rate was increased from \$1.55 to \$1.60 \$722,749 would be generated versus \$700,163 if it was left at the \$1.55, which is \$295,000 less than the 2012 budget called for.

- Council member Rowe does not want to increase burden to the citizens. Would like to see one thing on every agenda that would cut cost somewhere within the city.
- Council member Callahan wanted justification for the increase. Administrator Slaugh stated that part of the cost was the hospital infrastructure and trying to recoup some of the 2011 transfers to other funds.
- Motion made by Council member Franklin and seconded by Council member Stewart to increase the non-gas cost to \$1.60. Voting in favor of the motion were council members Stewart, Franklin, Wicoff and Becker. Voting against the motion were council members Rowe, Kilby, French and Callahan. Mayor Shirley voted in favor of the motion to break the tie. Motion carried by majority vote.
- Administrator Slaugh asked for feedback from those not supporting the motion. Council member Callahan and French stated that there was no proof for need of the money and thought expenditures should be down with the decrease in gas usage from this years mild winter. Council member Callahan requested Administrator Slaugh to check into the tax on gas storage.

E. SAFER Grant - Fire Chief Leapheart and Fire Department employee Mark Michael presented the grant guidelines. The deadline for the grant is February 24th. The grant will allow the city to hire three firefighters for two years. Council member Kilby asked if the additional staff would cut the department's overtime? Chief Leapheart stated that it was possible that it would help. Council member Rowe stated that the city couldn't afford the three employees now what happens after two years and they have to be let go? Chief Leapheart noted that the employees could take open positions within other city departments. Motion made by Council member Kilby to continue with the grant process. Motion seconded by Council member French. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- A. Mayor Shirley** – Attended the First Friday meeting in Ottawa last week with Administrator Slaugh and Council member Franklin would like to see something like this start in Iola. Administrator Slaugh noted that the Chamber of Commerce will be taking the lead.
- Noted that the power outage was handled the best it could have been. He thanked the council for their support.
 - Congratulated Clara Wicoff on winning the local spelling bee five times in a row.
- B. Council Member Stewart** – Nothing to report.
- C. Council Member Callahan** – Nothing to report.
- D. Council Member Wicoff** – Thanked the Mayor for the congratulations on Clara's behalf. This will be her last time she can compete.
- E. Council Member Franklin** – Enjoyed the First Friday event in Ottawa. Noting the benefit of the college as part of the group.
- F. Council Member Kilby** – None
- G. Council Member Becker** – None.
- H. Council Member Rowe** – The purchasing policy group is close to having a police ready for the next meeting for council and staff to review.
- I. Council Member French** – Wanted Administrator Slaugh to check into the 20 mph speed limit in the school zone. Administrator Slaugh will visit with Chief Warner.
- J. Administrator Slaugh** – Will be holding an after action meeting regarding the power outage on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.
- Luke Bycroft, Recreation Director presented the end of year report on the swimming pool. The year ended with a loss of \$69,000, which is higher than the last two years brought on by the hot summer, which required higher chemical use. Had to purchase more chlorine this year due to depletion of current stock. Would like to have a meeting with the Recreation Advisory Committee to look at the pool fees for next year.
 - Council member French would like Luke to look at like pools in other cities for comparable pricing.
 - Council member Rowe suggested cutting expenses elsewhere in the city before increasing rates.

- Council member Franklin asked about keeping the pool open through Labor Day.
- Luke stated that he had done some research about staying open through Labor Day the biggest issue is finding staff including managers. Of the thirty-seven employees ten left for college, twenty-seven of the high school age employees participated in fall sports. Training new employees to stay open a handful of days would not be cost-effective. Spoke with Chanute and they stated they would not do it again following a year that added \$15,000 to their expenses with a revenue generation of \$400.00, they also stated they had staffing issues. Luke figured to add twenty-two additional days would add \$6,000 to operating expenses plus \$100 per hour to staff at four hours per day would have a total cost of \$19,250. Estimating revenue of \$5200 would have an additional loss of revenue of \$14,050.
- Water plant crews have won the state competition again and are eligible to go to nationals at a cost of \$2,215. City Clerk Hutton noted that some of the expense is recouped from KRWA. Motion made by Council member Franklin to send them with a second by Council member Wicoff. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Wondered about committee appointments for the administrative policy and personnel handbooks. Council member Rowe stated that these would be handled among the council members informally. This seems to work well as they can discuss issues in small closed group.
- The EMS committee will meet on Wednesday at noon. Administrator Slauch has provided revenue and expense data to the committee. If anyone has questions let him know.

Attorney Apt stated that the Charter Ordinance committee needs to move on setting council and mayor terms. Council member Callahan stated that the committee is meeting this week with the original four members.

Council Member Rowe asked about the health insurance debacle. Not clear if the rates are set locally or by Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Topeka. Attorney Apt stated that the city establishes the rate and then notifies BCBS. The policy can be changed at any time and the employees and retirees notified of the change with the new rates becoming effective with the open enrollment period. Council member Rowe stated that anyone should be able to talk to BCBS about generic stuff, when he called he was informed that only Ken Hunt and Roxanne Hutton could have access to information.

FOLLOW UP ACTION REVIEW

- None

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, February 27th, 2012

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, March 12th, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

8:27p.m. Motion made by Council Member Becker and was seconded by Council Member Stewart to adjourn the meeting. As the vote was unanimous, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 27th day of February 2012.

Mayor, William A. Shirley

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton