

A special called meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on January 26, 2013 at 8:00 a.m., at the North Community Building. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a strategic planning session. Breakfast was served.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Shirley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shirley, Council Members Wicoff, Stewart, Toland, and Franklin were present. Also present was Administrator Slaugh, and City Clerk Hutton. Council Members absent were Ford, Becker, Kilby and French. A quorum was not present at this time. Also in attendance were: Council Member Candidates: Jerod Kelley, Michael McKinnis, Eugene Myrick, Bob Shaughnessy and Sandy Zornes. Becky Nilges and Iola Register Reporter Steven Schwartz.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Administrator Slaugh asked everyone to introduce themselves.

TRAINING

Administrator Slaugh informed the group that he is going to break them up into groups assigning one or more departments to each group, looking at the accomplishments of 2012, prioritizing wants/needs in 2013 with the budget that is available. Administrator Slaugh reviewed with the group his role within the city. As the administrator he is the advisor to the city council. Administrator Slaugh reviewed the Municipal Code and explained that this book holds the "laws" of the city approved by the council explaining how it can be accessed on line through the city's website. Administrator Slaugh showed the personnel handbook noting that it is adopted by ordinance. The Governing Body Handbook which is printed by the League of Kansas Municipalities and provides information for council members and the budget book which is adopted by the council.

Council Member Toland asked what the process was for putting strategic items in the budget. Administrator Slaugh noted that the items usually require large amounts of funding are put on the agenda for the council to discuss and get a consensus if the staff is to move forward, then it is placed in the budget. Council Member Toland wanted to make sure that items that were not done within the budgeted year did not drop through the cracks and never get done.

The Comprehensive Plan was discussed with Administrator Slaugh explaining that it is a development guide used mostly by the code office. No routine review is set up. Council Member Toland asked if the city was tracking progress according to the goals of the plan. Jerod Kelley a member of the planning commission noted that the group is going to start reviewing the plan, according to statute the city should review it on a yearly basis. The plan was adopted in 2006. In 2010 the Vision Iola Plan was developed and does overlap

the comprehensive plan spelling out the priorities of the community. Council is working on the signage part of the Vision Iola Plan.

CITIZEN SURVEY

A survey was posted on the internet, handed out to customers for one week through the drive thru and walk-ins at the front counter. Data was not very helpful due to the low number of returns. Council Members Franklin and Toland would like to see a six week push and spend more money to analyze the data. Affordable housing was one of the areas the survey responses seemed to focus on. Mayor Shirley noted that we need to research exactly what is affordable housing. With Gates having employees from 12 different counties and Russell Stover's from 14 different counties housing seems to be a need. What would be the city's involvement and how to move forward to accomplish this task? Question number 10 asked individuals if they would be willing to donate to help others pay their utility bill. Gene Myrick, Council Candidate asked if the city participated in the cold weather rule. Administrator Slaugh stated that the city did not fall under KCC'S jurisdiction and therefore did not follow the cold weather rule. Part of the cold weather rule is that individuals should participate in a level pay option, of which the city already offers.

KOMA/KORA

Administrator Slaugh reported to those present that Wade Bowie, Allen County Attorney has given his report to City Attorney Robert Johnson. No technical violations were noted, however public perception was that council members were holding meetings in order to avoid public knowledge. The council should remember in the future if committee's are assigned they should be open to the public and notice should be given and no business could be conducted at these committee meetings. It is not law that these things should happen, but it is the intent.

A ten-minute break was taken.

DEPARTMENT REVIEW – TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Everyone present was broken up into the eight departments with the direction to look at the accomplishments of 2012, goals for 2013 with the budget that is available.

9:22 a.m. Council Member French arrived a quorum was present.

2012 Highlights

1. Electric Production- installed transformers at Gates. Terminated contract with the KPP, starting a new contract with other cities. Installed new computers on the Wartsila.
2. City Administrator, Clerks Office, Court Clerk – Reduced staff cost moving the HR manager under the authority of the city clerk. Moved Code Office to another building freeing up space in city hall.
3. Water/Wastewater Treatment – Increase water production from 2011. Council increased rates to stabilize fund. Refinanced current loan on the water plant to lower interest rates.

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4. Street and Alley – Chip sealed east part of town. Repair of streets in areas of water leaks. Painting crosswalks.
5. Solid Waste – Discussed twice a week pick up saves wear and tear on streets and safer for employees.
6. Fire / EMS – Obtained three new employees thru the Safer Grant. Separated the accounting between departments to get a clearer picture of expenditures. Large number of runs – need to let public know. Obtained bunker gear grant and a thermal camera grant.
7. Gas/Water/Wastewater – 72 water leaks due in part to the dry weather. 15 gas meters hit. Replaced 2000 feet of water main. Installed water, and gas lines to the hospital.
8. Parks/Cemetery & Recreation– 82 burials, 200 times buildings were rented. Sports fields were completed. Dog park was completed.
9. Police – 15,000 calls. Instituted Cops for Jocks.

9:55 a.m. 10 Minute break was taken.

2013 GOALS

Resolve city/county EMS issue.

Maintain high level of service.

Increase youth participation in recreation activities. Use the code red service to communicate with the public on activities available.

Install restroom facility at athletic fields.

Develop a water line replacement plan – Goal of 10% of old lines replaced by 12/31/13.

Analysis of auto read meters to see if it is cost effective.

Housing – possible tax abatements for builders.

Demolish unsafe structures – give land to developers to build affordable housing.

Find another use of flood property to control costs of maintenance.

Economic Director – give support by incentive plan. Promote our town and ourselves.

Electric Fund Reserve – 3-6 month of operating capital.

If a capital improvement item has been budgeted carry it out, don't lose sight of the project.

Priority List

Concentrate on the infrastructure – updating and maintaining.

Replacing old water lines.

Medium Income Housing. (2 votes)

Economic Development Packet available to all interested parties. (6 votes)

Sidewalks to Walmart.

Stop population loss. (3 votes)

Handicap access to ball fields.

Green Space – Better use of it.

Expand CDBG Housing grant area.

Job Creation.

Signage – entrance downtown

Streets – crowning

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Use business cards to market our community.
Improve schools – encourage bond issue. (2 votes)
Sewer lines – continue improvement.
Kentucky Street
Clean up east side of Iola
Poles Downtown to hang banners
Clean up town
Help low income
Improve basketball nets and goals
Sidewalk replacement program – market it.
Annual report in the Register – look into it.

It is important to present a unified front to the public, continue moving ahead and accentuate the positive.

ADJOURNMENT

11:53 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Toland and was seconded by Council Member French to adjourn the meeting. The vote was six ayes. As the vote was unanimous, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 11th day of February, 2013

Mayor, William A. Shirley

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton