

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on June 10, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at the Riverside Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Becker, Zornes, Shaughnessy, French, Franklin, Ford and Myrick were present. Also present were Administrator Slauch, and City Clerk Roxanne Hutton. Mayor Wicoff and Council Member Wells were absent.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Shaughnessy to approve the agenda adding a personnel action item to the consent agenda and removing item A. under new business. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Houser commended the city council and the city employees on how nice the streets are looking, the swimming pool is clean and she loves the adult swim time. The council is doing a great job taking care of the city and it shows.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval - May 28, 2013 & June 3, 2013

B. Appropriations Approval – 2013-11

C. Personnel Action

- **Andrew Fournell – New Hire- Fire Department – FEMA Safer Grant Position until November 14, 2014**

Motion made by Council Member Franklin to approve the consent agenda with the addition of personnel action item. Motion seconded by Council Member French. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Alley Vacation Request – Carolyn McLean – This item was removed from the agenda and will be brought back after the Planning Commission discusses it and makes a recommendation.

B. 12” Water Main – Bid Acceptance – Bids were solicited for the purchase of 2,800’ of 12” C-900 water main. A bid opening was done at 2:00 p.m. on June 7th in the City Administrators Office at City Hall. Bids were received from HAJOCA from Wichita in the amount of \$37,464, HD Supply from McPherson in the amount of \$38,108 and Joplin Supply from Joplin, Mo in the amount of \$39,788. Following the purchase of this material

city water distribution crews will begin installing approximately 2,800 of existing 12" cast iron water main. This work will take place along the abandoned railroad right-of-way behind the Iola Cemetery that runs from the water plant to the Oak Street Water Tower. This main is one that has quickly become high priority to replace for the water distribution crew as leaks are becoming more and more frequent. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Franklin to accept the bid from HAJOCA in the amount of \$37,464 for 2,800 feet of C-900 PVC pipe-Dr18 as it is the lowest bid. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Federal Fund Exchange Agreement – The council was presented an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation to utilize the federal fund exchange program. \$75,000 will be used from this fund for the city's participation in the U.S. Highway 54 project. Staff will present another request for the \$64,000 to reimburse city funds spent from the capital projects funds for the mill and overlay project. Staff forwarded the agreement to City Attorney Johnson for review he stated the contract was acceptable. Motion made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Zornes to authorize the Mayor to execute the enclosed contract allowing staff to request reimbursements for the U.S. 54 Highway project and Mill and Overlay project. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. Allen County Regional Hospital – Ron Baker – Mary Ann Arnott, member of the Uniting for Excellence Campaign gave a brief overview of the fundraising efforts of the group for equipment for the new hospital. Ron Baker, C.E.O. of Allen County Regional Hospital, Karen Gilpin, Hospital Trustee and Jim Gilpin, Chairperson of Uniting for Excellence were at the meeting to answer questions on the status of the hospital and current fundraising efforts for the hospital equipment. Ron Baker, C.E.O. of Allen County Regional Hospital presented a slide presentation on the new hospital. The new hospital will not have a basement; however the classroom doubles as a safe room for the patients and employees during a tornado threat. Having the safe room on the main floor will be beneficial due to the fact that the elevators won't be bogged down while moving patients to safety. Mr. Baker opened it up for questions:

- Council Member Becker stated that he has used the hospital on several occasions and has had the opportunity to use other hospitals and the care he has received at the hospital here has been outstanding; the quality of food is great there the employees care about their patients.
- Council Member Myrick asked if the hospital had a contingency plan for the affordable care act. Mr. Baker stated that hospitals have had to adjust to federal regulation changes several times over the years. The trend is starting to be for patients to have their major procedures done at larger hospitals and then recover at their local small town hospital. Saves costs for the smaller hospital because they don't have to invest in the high dollar equipment that is not used very often.
- Council Member Ford questioned whether or not the hospital will increase their staffing with the move and wondered if the hospital will start the new electronic record system prior to moving to the new hospital. Mr. Baker stated that the current staff should be

sufficient. The electronic record system is on time to start operation by July 29th at the current hospital.

- Council Member French asked if there were plans for an Urgent Care Clinic so those that don't necessarily need an emergency room have somewhere to go. Mr. Baker said that it is not a priority there is not enough demand to staff one. The hospital is in the process of taking over the medical facility owned by Via Christi on South Washington which will be used as a doctor's clinic.
- Council Member Franklin asked why they didn't ask for \$35 million for the build. Mr. Baker responded that the financial consultant felt that the \$30 million would be the best amount due to the ability of the hospital to pay it back over time. Keeping the budget at the \$30 million allows for some of the current office equipment and newer equipment to be taken to the new facility. With the efforts of the Capital Campaign group the vital equipment will be purchased.
- Council Member Ford asked what would happen with the older equipment that is not taken to the new hospital could these items be auctioned off and the money used for new equipment. Mr. Baker stated that the county will be the owners; therefore the equipment will be disposed of according to county policy.
- Council Member Franklin asked about the physician clinic that is attached to the old hospital if it will be used or what will happen to those physicians. Mr. Baker replied that some of the physicians will be moved to the new hospital and hopefully eventually a clinic close to the hospital will be built.
- Council Member French asked about the large number of uninsured? Mr. Baker replied that just because a hospital has to treat emergency cases if someone comes to the emergency room and they are triaged and determined to be non-emergent the hospital can refer them to a physician or clinic setting. With the new health care that number should decrease and with the local education source Rural Health Initiatives hopefully we will educate those individuals on obtaining health insurance and get them connected with the resources they need.
- A couple of the council members had some concerns with the high cost of the ER bills they had received. Mr. Baker noted that the hospital over time will be looking at some of the charges and determining costs versus reimbursement.
- What will happen to the old hospital? It is unknown at this time. It is built very well just not very user friendly on the inside.
- Council Member Becker thanked the committee for the job they did, while not a glory job they took a lot of grief over the building of the new hospital they did a fine job and the council appreciates the work they have done.

B. 2014 Budget - Presentation – Department presentations are being divided between the June 10 and June 24 city council meetings. After review and comments a final draft of the budget will be prepared for the July 8 meeting along with the required entry on state forms.

Mitch Phillips – Gas, water Distribution & Sewer Collection – Has five employees in the Gas Department, Josh Gumfory, Josh Mueller and Cody Hufferd work on leaks and replacing of the mains. There are 54 miles of main with 16 of those being bare steel main. Two men in the department, Ron Knavel and Brian Cochran are dedicated as the leak survey crew they are required to walk so many miles of line each year. The city is

split up into five sections and each section must be walked once every five years checking for leaks. The Wastewater crew has two employees, Steve Appling and Joe Bonczkowski that take care of 58 miles of main and fourteen lift stations that have to be checked three times per week. The two man crew also fixes leaks and flush lines as needed. Council Member French asked why the lift station in the Haldex Division is so much cheaper than the lift stations the city is currently replacing. Mitch replied that the lift stations the city is replacing are much larger lift stations. The water crew Eric Miller, Bo Becker and Aaron Wight are responsible for 63 miles of water line replacing mains, fixing leaks and laying new line. Most of the lines are old; therefore the crew spends a majority of their time on leaks. The council asked about replacing these lines. Administrator Slauch replied the water fund has been broke for four years. We are just now building up some reserve to start replacing some of these mains as time allows. The councilmembers would like to have some facts on the amount of infrastructure the city has.

Toby Ross – Water Production & Sewer Treatment- Has three employees in the Water Production Department Eric Keagle, Landon Kern, and Brandon Thomas. Brandon and Eric are currently at the Top Ops National Competition in Denver, Co. They have won the state competition for the last six years. The duties of the water production team are to take raw water from the river treating it and pumping it to the water towers. They treated 370 million gallons of water last year. In the Waste Water Treatment side there is another employee, Charlie Sellman. Charlie, Toby and Eric Keagle are certified authorized operators. There are 100 acres of lagoons, 11 solar bees and an equalization tank to be taken care of daily, an outside lab comes in once per month to perform samples on the lagoons, since the upgrade of 2008 the city has been in compliance.

Kent Tomson – Electric Distribution – There is six employees in his department; Kevin Rush, Jimmy Baker, James Snavely, Kelly Rouse and Darrell Baughn are all linemen, Darrell also runs the service truck on a daily basis, and Jed Rice is an Apprentice Lineman. Kent's major item in the 2014 budget is to replace unit #22 which is the service truck. Currently his crew is working on a three phase line at the sewer lagoons, upgrading the clinic at the current hospital; this project will involve some weekend work, primary service to Sam and Louie's, possible upgrade at Haldex. Next year will have to hire a contractor to do some tree trimming haven't done any for two years. His crew also works closely with Mike Phillips and his crew. Council Member Myrick asked how long the wood poles last. Kent replied they last approximately 40 to 50 years. Kent explained the spoilers that he placed on some of the lines that were bucking when they collected ice. The new transformer that was leaking at the new hospital should be installed sometime this week.

Mike Phillips – Electric Generation – There are five employees in his department; Chuck Heffern, Kevin Appling, Jim Portenier, Larry Gilmore and Danny McKarnin. They are responsible for the generation for the city and taking care of the six sub stations. Two of the four Oak Street breakers have been budgeted for replacement in 2013 and two in 2014. The city will have to apply for new permits following the catalyst improvements that are required by the RICE ruling. The stack test that cost the city \$6,000 was required to have a baseline for the emissions before the catalyst are installed.

Dana Nauertc – Stores- Dana has one other employee in his department. His department is responsible for working with the departments in laying out a project, sourcing the material and purchasing the material, tracking the inventory in the store room and for purchasing and monitoring the fuel for the city. His department also takes care of calling in locates and distributing incoming locates to each department as necessary.

Brad Yoder – Recreation – There is two employees in Brad’s department this number increases to about 30 during the summer season with the addition of seasonal pool and ball field maintenance employees. Brad mentioned the programs that area available during the different seasons for all ages. About 22, 000 people come to the pool during the 77 days of operation. Council Member Myrick questioned why the city rents porta potties instead of installing permanent ones at the athletic fields. Administrator Slaugh stated that the flood provisions keep us from building on the area and there is also a problem with vandalism of restrooms in areas that are not highly visible.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Mayor Wicoff –

- Absent

B. Council Member Wells–

- Absent

C. Council Member Ford –

- Would like a report showing the number of animals that are taken to ACARF. Chief Warner informed her that during the spring a lot of dogs are picked up because people are letting them outside to run.
- Inquired about the e-mail her and other council members received about the water tower on Oak Street. Administrator Slaugh stated that a company was supposed to take down the water tower for scrap will contact them to see where we are with the tower.
- Wondered why training that is reimbursed by an outside agency can not be credited back to the expense account. City Clerk Hutton explained that expenses have too be shown separate from revenues. The training could have been expended and then the department head explain the budget overage by the revenue amount.

D. Council Member Franklin–

- Asked if we could let the sheriff use a piece of the green space for gardening like they are across the street from the courthouse. Administrator Slaugh will visit with the sheriff about this.

E. Council Member Shaughnessy –

- Was contacted about a landowner on Alamosa about the creek bed not being mowed behind her house.

F. Council Member Becker –

- Stated that the City of Lawrence filed for the four year extension on the concealed carry law because of the high cost of equipping their buildings with the proper equipment.
- Would like the city to increase the budget on house demolitions. Several properties need to be taken down as they are an eyesore to the community.

G. Council Member Myrick –

- Would like city crews to look into the ditch down by the Elm Creek Garden that has standing water in it.

H. Council Member Zornes –

- None

I. Council Member French –

- Wondered where we are on restricting sales on pseudoephedrine. Police Chief Warner stated that we are just not seeing increase in sales since Chanute changed their law. Will monitor and have numbers for the council to review.
- Continue to look into grants for demolition of houses.
- Stated that the Coffeyville National Guard is interested in partnering with communities demoing structures and or cleaning ditches, helping on Cottonwood Street or the levees so they can continue to train and practice on their heavy equipment operation. The only cost to the city would be meals for those guard members that participate and possibly housing if the local guard is in use that weekend. Zach French would be the contact here in Iola.

J. Administrator Slauch –

- Asked Chief Warner to discuss the cities storm siren policy. Chief Warner stated that the standardized warning is once every 10-15 minutes. Currently the city runs the sirens for the duration of the threat. Chief Warner would like to visit with other city officials to possibly coming up with a county wide signal so visitors from the other towns would know exactly what the signal would be. Council would like to see a notice on Channel 6 describing the city policies on the signal.
- Asked council to get with him if they have any concerns or questions about 2014 budget figures.
- New council training will have to be moved to the first week in July due to scheduling conflicts.
- Received notice this week that our Standard & Poor's rating increased to a BBB+.
- Still hasn't found a KOMA Training in area may have to pay the attorney general's office to come here.
- Asked for input about the EMS merger. Council Member Shaughnessy stated that after he had discussion with both the county ems and the city ems he prefers option three. Council Member Myrick would prefer at least a two year contract as this may be more attractive for potential employees. Council Member Franklin would prefer option 3. Administrator Slauch would like a vote at the next meeting showing a firm direction from the council.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 24th, 2013

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 8th, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

8:33 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Myrick 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 24th day of June 2013.

Mayor, Joel Wicoff

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton