

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on January 13, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Riverside Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Wicoff Council Members Zornes, Ford, French, Franklin, Wells, Becker, Shaughnessy and Myrick were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Attorney Johnson, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Wells to approve the agenda adding an executive session to Unfinished Business item B. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Houser informed the group that the historical society has hired a new director. She will be on board by the end of January.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval - December 23, 2013

B. Appropriations Approval -- 2014-01

C. Personnel Action

- Danielle McNaught – Fire/EMS Department – New Hire
- Sheila Sigg – Clerk Department – 12 Month Evaluation
- David Ingle – Police Department – Annual Evaluation

Council Member French inquired about the accounts payable for postage of bill cards, noting that it might be cost saving for residents to receive their bills electronically. Motion made by Council Member Becker to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Council Member Franklin. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. Strategic Planning Proposal –Corrine Bannon – Administrator Slaugh noted that hiring an outside entity to put together a strategic plan would offer a different perspective. Council Member French stated he is not sure the city would be any better off for the \$8,000 price tag. Administrator Slaugh noted that it would give validation to what the council is doing and offer ideas from the public. Council Member Wells noted that it would be beneficial to receive a strategic plan from an outside source every so many years. Council Member Ford stated that she liked the idea of the other entities. Council Member

Myrick stated that it would be good to involve county-wide. Council Member Becker stated that he thought the cost was too high right now with all of our current changes. Council Member Franklin liked the idea and thought an outside entity would be beneficial in the overall process. Ms. Bannon from Wichita State University presented a proposal to the council to perform a strategic planning for the city. Ms. Bannon noted that some of the benefits to the city using an outside source are a neutral process, comparison with other cities, labor trends are used, and community input is obtained. The community is engaged once the conversations are started. The financial strength and trends are analyzed to see how they are affecting the planning and can the city financially tackle the goals presented. Mayor Wicoff noted that there would be value in having an outside group that is dedicated to the project. Donna Houser wondered if the survey done by the chamber last year would be helpful to this project. David Toland stated that he had concerns that this would be like some of the other plans the city has done in the past and not implemented. There should be an accountability of moving forward on the plan. Council Member Shaughnessy noted that if the plan could help save money and improve the trust in government with improved citizen relations it would be beneficial. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Franklin to table this agenda item until the next meeting so the council can think about it and money could be found in the budget. Council Member French noted that it would be beneficial to the council to have staff report on previous plans, where we are at today, and are we capable of completing some of these tasks in house. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Country Estates Annexation- The public hearing for the proposed annexation of Country Estates is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dr. Silas Bass North Community Center. At the public hearing staff will review with the residents present the required elements to determine advisability of annexation. Administrator Slaugh noted that the Allen County Commissioners have agreed to turn over the sewer funds that they are holding for this district. Staff and Attorney Johnson are working with the water district to develop an agreement on the funds to be used for this district only. The hope is that these funds will offset the cost of the lift station so that a benefit district will not have to be used to fund these repairs. The overall utility decrease should even out the increase in property tax for the residents. Council Member French inquired if the water funds have to stay with this neighborhood. An option to offset the cost would be to continue the higher sewer charge. Administrator Slaugh noted that if the water district turns over the funds they would be designated for this neighborhood only. The county's approximate cost of the lift station is \$42,000. The city will not know the true cost until an engineer gets in there to look at the entire system.

B. Rock Purchases 2014 Bid Proposals- Bids were solicited for providing AB-3 crushed rock to the city for the calendar year 2014. Two bids were received for this project, one from Nelson Quarries for \$8.70 per ton delivered and Whitaker Aggregates for \$8.72

per ton delivered. Staff also contacted Allen County Public Works Director, Bill King, regarding the council's previous requests about receiving rock from the county. In visiting with Mr. King it was apparent that he is very willing to help supply rock when they have excess rock. With that being said the county production level of crushing is only at approximately 50% of projected levels and with their planned projects they will be using a large amount of rock themselves. The city will continue to check with the county regarding the possibility of receiving rock material from time to time throughout the year, thus ensuring we save on rock purchases whenever possible. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Wells to accept the low bid of \$8.70 per ton delivered for KDOT grade AB-3 crushed rock for the calendar year of 2014 from Nelson Quarries of Gas. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Economic Development Funding Request – David Toland- At the January 6, 2014 Iola Industries meeting Thrive Director David Toland made a request to increase the annual funding for economic development work from \$15,000 to \$20,000 due to the increased amount of time spent on the efforts. The Iola Industries board voted to approve the request. David Toland was at the council meeting to make the same request of the City of Iola. David noted that he spends an average of 25 hours per week on economic development projects. He is currently working with three different operators on a supermarket. They desperately need sites for industrial prospects and subdivisions. Administrator Slauch stated the funding would come from the Industrial Fund of which \$15,000 was budgeted for 2014. A possibility to come up with the extra funding would be to cut out the money budgeted for Van Scoyoc. Discussion followed with the majority of the council not in favor of cutting the funds going to Van Scoyoc. Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member French to approve an increase of \$5,000 for a total of \$20,000 for the 2014 calendar year. Council Member French stated that when he became a council member they were given a presentation on the benefits of having the lobbyists and everything they have done for the City of Iola. Mayor Wicoff stated they helped fund the wastewater project but wondered what they are doing for us now. Donna Houser stated that the CITF group made trips to DC and Van Scoyoc helped with contacting the elected officials. David Toland encouraged the group to budget for incentives and possible industrial Sites in the 2015 budget. All in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. EMS Lease Agreement – The County Commissioners voted 2-1 at their December 31, 2013 meeting to approve the lease agreement for \$1.00 per year for the building at 412 N State Street. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve the lease agreement on the building located at 412 N State Street with a rent of \$1.00 per year. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. McAdams offered the City of Iola the same rental agreement on his building in Moran. Attorney Johnson stated that the City of Humboldt is deciding at their council meeting this evening to allow the City of Iola to continue to use the building in Humboldt free of charge.

Mayor Wicoff declared a five-minute break.

B. EMS Director Position – Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member French to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel/EMS Director Pay. All in favor. Motion carried. Present Mayor, Council, City Attorney Johnson and Administrator Slauch. The meeting to resume at 8:05 p.m. No action was taken.

C. FIRE/EMS Overtime /Callout Policy- Deputy Chief Ron Conaway reviewed the overtime, call out hours of the department using three different scenarios with their current staff of 27, a staff of 30 and a staff of 33. Mayor Wicoff wondered if anyone had done a cost benefit study of a 12 hour shift versus the current 24 hour shift. Deputy Chief Conaway noted that a 12 hour shift would require more supervisory staff. The department is seeking direction from the council to advertise to fill the positions in the department. The council directed them to advertise for the open positions. EMS Director Ryan Sell stated that they had hired two part time temporary employees to help fill the gaps necessary.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Mayor Wicoff –

- Inquired about the sales tax fund on the treasures report. City Clerk Hutton stated that the fund fluctuates due to the submittal of the sales tax being behind a month.
- Inquired about the Stores Department balance decreasing so drastically. City Clerk Hutton stated that this funds revenue is generated by transfers from the enterprise funds. When goods are purchased the funds deplete, especially at the end of the year until transfers are done the next year.

B. Council Member Wells–

- Citizens he has spoken with are in favor of the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP). Would think that a countywide plan would be beneficial.
- Reminded everyone to obtain their pet tags for the new year. This is a great way to locate the owner quickly when a pet is loose.

C. Council Member Ford –

- Agree that the NRP is important and would do a lot of good for the city.

D. Council Member Franklin–

- Nothing.

E. Council Member Shaughnessy –

- Wondered when the debris is going to be cleaned up at the American Storage buildings that were created by a fire.
- Stated that the old flea market area needs cleaned up and the building repaired and/or removed. Staff will check into this items.

F. Council Member Becker –

- Nothing

G. Council Member Myrick –

- Nothing

H. Council Member Zornes –

- Nothing

I. Council Member French –

- Echo everyone's thoughts on the NRP. If not city-wide how do you do it fairly to help out those in other areas not in the plan?

J. Administrator Slaugh –

- The fire department received two bids for a fit test kit, neck straps and temple straps for the air packs, and a voice amplifier to expend the grant that was received. One from Feld Fire for \$18,057 and one from MES for \$17,834. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Becker to award the bid to MES who had the lowest bid of \$17,834. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Presented a grant from KABOOM to help purchase the handicapped accessible playground equipment. The grant is for \$9,000 cash and a \$6,000 discount on the purchase of the equipment. Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Ford to allow the mayor to sign the documents for the grant from KABOOM. All in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn to executive session for attorney client matters concerning litigation with Allied Roofing. All in favor. Motion carried. Present: Mayor, Council, Attorney Johnson and Administrator Slaugh. The meeting to resume at 9:02 p.m.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Special Called Meeting 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 14th, 2014

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, January 27th 2014

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, February 10th, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

9:09 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member Ford 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 January 2014.

Mayor, Joel Wicoff

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton