

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on February 10, 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, Franklin, Wells, Shaughnessy, and French were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Council Members Becker and Myrick were absent from the meeting.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve the agenda adding letter of support for Healthy Living Grant to 9B. That motion was withdrawn. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to add letter of support for Health Living Grant to 9B, switching item 10B to 10A and item 10C to item 10B and 10B to item 10C. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Shaughnessy spoke on behalf of Haunt for Hirschsprung's the non-profit group that is raising money to provide families of children with the disease motel rooms and meal cards. They have had one fundraiser at Sam and Louie's. The next fundraiser will be a chili feed at the Elks. They just wanted to let the council know who they were and what they are doing. Council Member French told the group that he appreciated them getting the word out about this disease.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval - January 27, 2014

B. Appropriations Approval – 2014-03

C. Personnel Action

- **Dennis Walden – Street & Alley – Annual Evaluation**
- **Ryan Chapmen – Fire Department – Six Month Evaluation**
- **Tom Nevans- Park & Cemetery – Annual Evaluation**
- **Jim Boeken – Sanitation – Six Month Evaluation**
- **Robbie Droessler Jr. – Street & Alley – Six Month Evaluation**

Council Member Wells inquired about the monthly fax bill for the fire department that was a part of the appropriations. Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that this would be taken care of after the switch to Cox Communications. Council Member Wells inquired about the DARE supplies that were purchased and wondered if the county and city could combine supplies to make them cheaper. Council Member Ford stated that at the current

time the county does not have a DARE program and these supplies were shirts, medals and certificates for the graduation. Council Member Wells then asked about the diesel fuel that was purchased from Hampel if this was a bulk purchase. City Clerk Hutton stated that it was indeed a bulk purchase and as each vehicle fills up with fuel it is charged to that particular department. Motion made by Council Member Franklin to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Council Member Wells. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. Scott Shreve – Update on Electric Power and Gas – Scott Shreve of EMG, Inc. of Topeka, city consultant on gas and electric utilities was in attendance to give the council an update on some of the issues in the utility markets. Scott mentioned that there is a 200% increase from Southern Star on transportation of natural gas due to the fact that FERC has not approved a rate structure for Southern Star. This figure is put into the fuel adjustment cost along with the price of natural gas, the stored gas and passed onto the customer. Scott spoke with Southern Star today and they stated that the city will probably receive a refund within the next month or may not. With natural gas prices higher this past week due to the cold weather demand, the cost of electricity is slightly higher. With the city joining the Southwind Energy Group it has allowed the city to bring in our own generation and result in a savings to the customer through a smaller cost adjustment. Council Member French asked about the Southern Star tariff. Scott explained that it is affecting all customers that receive transportation services from Southern Star.

B. EMS Budget – Carl Slaugh – The Emergency Medical Service Joint Agreement between the City of Iola and Allen County was approved and signed by the City of Iola on September 23, 2013 and by Allen County Commissioners on October 1, 2013. The merger became effective January 1, 2014.

Of the 18 former Allen County EMS employees, nine made the transition to the City of Iola. The combined department now includes 29 employees including the Fire Chief. Of the 29 11 are paramedics, and 1 RN. With the combined service the city will incur a deficit, a budget reduction for the county and potential overall savings for the tax payer, if the county decides to lower the mil levy. The Iola Register reported February 5 on a briefing by Terry Call, EMS Billing Clerk for Allen County, that there were 220 EMS runs in January, 89 were ALS, 72 BLS and 59 without transport. Billings totaled \$162,047 and \$47,338 had been paid. January 2013 numbers were \$93,100 and \$53,953. Updates will be provided throughout the year on the Fire/EMS budget. Administrator Slaugh noted that fund 34 had been merged with fund 01-514 for better accounting flow. With a deficit in the EMS/Fire Department due to the merge there will be a possibility of requesting more funds from the county and or transfer from utility fund reserves. Council Member Ford asked about the substantial amount of overtime that has occurred since January 1st. Administrator Slaugh noted that currently the department is staffed at 28 employees we are trying to recruit two more to be staffed at 31 total counting the Fire Chief; this should cut down on the overtime. The department has a few part time employees that are filling vacancies. Council Member Franklin asked if the deficit was budgeted. Administrator Slaugh noted that it was not budgeted because the agreement was not signed until after the 2014 budget was approved.

Funds will have to come from reserves to make up the deficit. The county did budget a mill levy for ambulance service that they will receive this year. Council Member French noted that the 2015 budget will show the \$750,000 income. Administrator Slaugh stated that this is correct; however that will be the only revenue source to support the department. Council Member Wicoff asked if the projected budget will decrease if overtime is decreased. The budget was based on trend data; it is possible that the numbers could decrease. Ryan Sell, EMS Director, reported that there have been 252 runs since January 1st. All staff is rotating within the three stations; personnel are learning what the expectations are of the department.

C. Strategic Planning – Tentative arrangements have been made to hold two strategic planning sessions, one February 17th and the second on March 3rd from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. A survey will be prepared for council members to fill out in advance. The survey will also be posted on the city web page for community members to fill out. Administrator Slaugh stated that a meal would be available in the college cafeteria from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. He is changing the February 17th date to April 7th.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Set Dates for Condemnation Hearings - Shonda Jefferis, Code Enforcement Officer presented three structures that are unfit and/or dangerous. Staff is requesting the council approve resolutions setting public hearings on each of the structures located at 821 North Street, 208 N Chestnut, and 423 S Kentucky to be held on March 24, 2014. The council reviewed pictures and information on each structure. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Franklin to approve the resolutions setting a hearing on each property for March 24, 2014. All in favor. Motion carried. Council Member French asked if there were homeowners insurance to cover the property at 208 N Chestnut since there was a fire at the property. Shonda stated that they had no insurance. The property owners are deceased and the children are responsible. Discussion followed about a possibility of neighbors purchasing these homes and tearing them down at their expense just to improve the property. Shonda noted that the city does not become owners of the property. We only clean up the structures that are dangerous and unfit. The cost is then levied on the property taxes.

B. Letter of Support for Health Care Grant for a Frisbee Golf Course – CITF applied for a previous grant and was denied. They want to apply for this grant and need a letter of support from the city. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to submit the letter of support and authorize the mayor to sign the letter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Chicken Ordinance – Following a presentation at the January 27, 2014 city council meeting by fifth grade students Jacob Riebel and Levi Miewes requesting an ordinance be passed allowing chickens, a draft ordinance was prepared that would have authorized chickens on lots of 22, 000 square feet or larger. Council Member French stated that the ordinance limits the residents that can have chickens due to the lot size. He would like to see a stricter policy than the city currently has on trash and debris in yards. There should be a permit process that has the Code Enforcement Office inspect the property and the coop that is to be used prior to housing any fowl on the property. If they don't meet the qualifications a permit will not be issued. If someone houses chickens without going through the permit process they should be issued a citation immediately. Council Member Wells noted that if there is an issue with the chickens, can the ordinance be repealed or the fee raised to the point no one would want chickens. Administrator Slauch stated that the council can do that if they so desire. Council Member Ford stated that everyone she had spoken with had nothing but positive feedback. Council Member Zornes stated she has had only negative feedback. There are currently foxes in the city and housing chickens will only bring more. This would compound the current issues we have with those individuals that are not taking care of their yards and or their pets. This will cause more problems that staff will have to deal with.

Jacob Riebel stated that he had spoken with surrounding towns that allow chickens and they have not had any problems. Dogs and cats don't give back like chickens do with the eggs they provide. Levi Miewes stated that a permit fee would discourage those that don't want to deal with it. Council Member Zornes stated those that are not obeying the ordinance now will not obey it after it is passed.

Council Member Wells made a motion to table the topic until the next meeting so staff can draw up an ordinance that would require a permit fee of \$100 and permission would have to be obtained from the neighbor. Motion died for lack of a second. Angela Henry spoke on behalf of Safe Base in support of allowing chickens in town. The educational benefits to the children, the responsibility it would teach them, weed control, and insect control would outweigh the problems. She is in favor of the permit process that Council Member French suggested. Council Member Wells made a motion to approve the ordinance as written. The motion failed for lack of second. Motion made by Council Member French to table until the next meeting allowing staff to revise the ordinance that would require a permit process that would include a fee and an annual inspection, with a notice that if the ordinance is violated it would be considered a class C misdemeanor and a \$500.00 fine and up to 30 days in jail would be imposed. Motion seconded by Council Member Wells. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. EMS Director Position – Council Member French asked if the council should go into executive session. Administrator Slauch noted that it is not necessary because they are not discussing a discipline issue with an employee. Administrator Slauch noted that the council could set policy or direct him to take action on the issue.

Mayor Wicoff declared a five-minute break.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member French to adjourn to executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. All in favor. Motion carried. Present: Mayor, Council, Ryan Sell, Administrator Slaugh and Attorney Johnson. The meeting to resume at 8:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn to executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. Council Members in favor of the motion were: Ford, Wells, French, Shaughnessy and Zornes. Motion carried. Present: Mayor, Council, Ryan Sell, Administrator Slaugh and Attorney Johnson. The meeting to resume at 8:20 p.m.

8:15 p.m. Ryan Sell left the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn to executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. Council Members in favor of the motion were: Ford, Wells, French, Shaughnessy and Zornes. Motion carried. Present: Mayor, Council, Ryan Sell, Administrator Slaugh and Attorney Johnson. The meeting to resume at 8:30 p.m.

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to authorize the city attorney to obtain a signed agreement with Ryan Sell to be approved at the next council meeting.

8:20 p.m. Attorney Johnson left the meeting.

C. Pay Compensation Study – Administrator Slaugh noted that obtaining the study would balance out all of the departments and minimize the requests for higher pay for certain positions. Council Member French asked how often a city should do the study since the last one was done in 2004/2005. Administrator Slaugh noted that on average a study is done every five years. Council Member Franklin asked if the study would include comparison with local industries. Administrator Slaugh noted that it would and would also include cities comparable in size and also the same utility services. Council Member Franklin asked if the council would have to follow the recommendations of the study. Administrator Slaugh stated that in order to give increases the council would have to find the funding and budget accordingly. The company would only recommend increases if the study justified it. Motion made by Council Member Wells to approve Austin Peters Group in the amount of \$22,340 to perform the study. Motion seconded by Council Member Ford. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Mayor Wicoff –

- Impressed with the road crew cleaning off the streets.
- Asked everyone to remember Don Becker in their prayers with the recent loss of his wife.

B. Council Member Wells–

- Commended all city crews on the snow removal, water leaks, EMS and police during this storm.

C. Council Member Ford –

- Thanked the businesses and churches for canceling activities to limit the number of people out on the streets during the storms.

D. Council Member Franklin–

- Appreciated the crews that have been working on snow removal.
- Thinking of Mr. Becker

E. Council Member Shaughnessy –

- Thanked the city crews for their efforts during the weather.

F. Council Member Becker –

- Absent

G. Council Member Myrick –

- Absent

H. Council Member Zornes –

- Thanked all of the crews for their work.
- Thanked the downtown merchants for following the snow policy.

I. Council Member French –

- Commended the street and alley crew and their handling of the salt spreader to avoid vehicles.

J. Administrator Slauch –

- Commended the police department for solving the vehicle break in crimes. Chief Warner authorized some extra overtime for officers to flood the area of the break-ins and catch the individuals.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to adjourn to executive session for non-elected personnel. All in favor. Motion carried. Present: Mayor, Council. The meeting to resume at 9:05 p.m.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, February 24th, 2014

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

ADJOURNMENT

9:07 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Zornes and seconded by Council Member Shaughnessy 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 February 2014.

Mayor, Joel Wicoff

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton