

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on July 28, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Dr. Bass North Community Building, 505 N Buckeye, Iola, Kansas.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lyndsey Shaughnessy of O'Shaughnessy Liquor located at 1211 East Street and Kevin Shaughnessy, 107 S Ohio were present to complain about the infestation of cockroaches over the last two years at a home that is in their neighborhood. They have been in contact with Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis. Administrator Slaugh stated Shonda is working within the parameters of the law to get this matter taken care of. The council would like Shonda to work with Attorney Johnson to speed up the process if possible to take care of this matter.

Ron Baker, CEO of Allen County Regional Hospital and John Masterson, President of Allen County Community College stated that they used the resources of Van Scoyoc recently to set up meetings with Veterans Administration Representatives in Washington DC. They are trying to gain a contract for services at the local hospital to benefit veterans in the area. They stated that it is an asset of having Van Scoyoc available for these situations and wanted to encourage the council to keep that line item in the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval - June 14 & June 21, 2014

B. Appropriations Approval – 2014-14

C. Personnel Action

- **Doug Clark – Parks & Cemetery – Annual Evaluation**
- **Jason Franklin – Gas, Water & Sewer – Annual Evaluation**
- **Shonda Jefferis – Code Enforcement – Annual Evaluation**
- **Tim Francis – Police Department – Annual Evaluation**
- **Danny McKarnin – Electric Generation - Reclassification**
- **Ryan Latta – Recreation – New Hire**

Motion made by Council Member Myrick to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Zornes. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Power Up Iola – Request Elyssa Jackson – The group is asking for a continuation of Washington Street closure from Madison to Jackson following the regularly scheduled Farmers Market on Thursday, August 14th for a back to school block party. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to allow the closure pending Police Chief Warner’s approval. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. SCADA System Engineering Agreement – Staff solicited engineering support for the extension of this water and wastewater project. The amended contract will provide oversight for the upgrade to the existing telemetry system at the main plant and west interceptor lift stations. It will also include upgrading of existing computer and software at the existing water plant central unit. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Becker to approve the contract amendment with Ponzer-Younquist engineering for the project with Micro-Comm for the Water Plant SCADA system upgrade and SCADA systems at the Main Plant and West Interceptor lift stations in the amount of \$6,000 and authorize the mayor to sign the necessary documents. All in favor. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. USD #257 Sales Tax Funding - Resolution – USD 257 Superintendent, Jack Koehn and School Board President, Tony Leavitt presented the concerns and issues with the buildings as well as the route that was taken to get here. This is the best time to build new schools with the state aide paying 51% of the bond and interest payment over the life of the bond issue. Council Member French asked if the current middle school will be able to last another thirty years. Superintendent Koehn stated that they are hopeful that the new facility will be built large enough if the middle school gets to the point it cannot be used they can move the remaining students into the new campus. Council Member Wells stated that the future will be district consolidation and if Iola has the best campus with room for growth they will be the first pick for a consolidated school. Council Member Wells stated that with 230 employees in the district it is a large employer within the City of Iola. Those employees are spending money within our town and we need to keep them here. Board President Tony Leavitt stated that the board is asking the councilmembers to put it in front of the voters and let them decide if they want to support building the new schools. Council Member French asked why the district is not asking Gas and LaHarpe to increase their sales tax to relieve some of the burden on taxpayers. Mr. Leavitt stated that the board made a decision to concentrate on Iola because it would be a bigger pool. Council Member Shaughnessy asked why not build

the new schools large enough to accommodate the middle school students. Mr. Koehn stated that it would cost an additional \$10 million and would remove them from the lower interest rate bracket for the bonds. The buildings are being designed for future expansion. Safety has been addressed at the middle school and can be controlled at the current building. Council Member Zornes asked what would happen if the sales tax question on the ballot doesn't pass. Mr. Leavitt stated that the school board will have to look at their options at that time. Council Member Wells stated that technology is big in education. He pointed out that the college is currently going through a multi-million dollar electric upgrade to accommodate all of the electronics being used within the college. Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve resolution 2014-14 that will add the proposed sales tax measure to the November 2014 ballot. All in favor. Motion carried.

7:15 p.m. Mayor Wicoff declared a five-minute break.

B. Pay Compensation – Discussions – Becky Crowder, founder and President of The Austin Peters Group, Inc., was in attendance to brief the council on the proposed plan. Approximate cost for the 2015 budget year will be \$32,480.25 and is included in the budget proposal. Administrator Slaugh noted of the \$31 million total budget for 2015 \$5,289,455 is salaries with benefits the total is \$7,203,556 or 23% of total expenditures for the budget. A 2.5% COLA is in the budget; if the COLA is under that amount there will be a savings within the budget. Ms. Crowder stated that her company has done pay studies for over 80 local governments. Employees are an important investment for the city. The study shows that the pay scale is 7.55% below the middle of the group. Council Member Ford would like to see a breakdown on how each employee was rated in the different categories. Council Member French stated that the benefits should also be considered in the employees' pay; would like to see how the city fits in with benefits with the cities used in the pay study. Ms. Crowder stated she would be happy to provide the information; however they did not see any significant difference that would be notable. The city provides tools for the employees, a benefit compared to private companies. Administrator Slaugh stated that the current pay plan was done in 2005. Questions had arisen about increasing pay in the police and fire departments to become competitive for the area. The study was done to provide a professional and fair assessment for all employees. Council Member Wells mentioned each department cutting their budgets to accommodate the cost of the increase. Maybe a hiring freeze should be a possibility. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Myrick to table this item until the next meeting giving the employee task force and the employees in general time to review the pay study and make comments back to Ms. Crowder. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Emergency Medical Services Funding Discussions – Administrator Slaugh stated that if the city gives up the right to the EMS service they will not be able to run a city wide service for five years. The county has stated that they may offer some funding with a stipulation that if the city discontinues the service they have to pay it back.

The city would be using the money to run a service. This is not a loan and the city should not have to pay it back. The only way the city can generate funding for the 2015 budget is to increase sales tax, raise utility costs in order to transfer more funds from them, or a mill levy increase. If the city chooses to keep the agreement the extra expenses will have to be budgeted in the 2015 budget which will be approved at the August 11th meeting. Council Member French stated that he thinks we should give our six month notice to discontinue the service unless funding from the county comes through. He recommended we get the processes going to renegotiate the contract. This is a county wide service being run by the city. Iola is already paying its share in county taxes. It should not be on the backs of Iola citizens to benefit the entire county.

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations - Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. All in favor. Motion carried. Present Mayor, Council, City Attorney and Administrator Slaugh. The regular meeting will resume at 8:40 p.m.

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Myrick to table making any decisions on this agenda item until the August 11th meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Johnson left the meeting.

D. 2015 Budget Discussions- Resolution - Administrator Slaugh reviewed the main budget items. Council Member French discussed the need to continually review rates for all of the utilities so we don't have to make a large increase due to the fact that rates haven't been increased for several years. Administrator Slaugh noted that continually transferring from utility reserves take away from infrastructure upkeep.

Council Member Wells left the meeting.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Mayor Wicoff –

- Thanked the Iola Police and Fire Crews and the Sheriffs deputies for escorting the Vietnam Memorial Wall when it came through town a couple of weeks ago.
- The BBQ and car event at the fair was great.

B. Council Member Wells–

- Absent

C. Council Member Ford –

- The concrete poured for the playground just waiting for the ground cover to be laid.

D. Council Member Franklin–

- Absent

E. Council Member Shaughnessy –

- None

F. Council Member Becker –

- None

G. Council Member Myrick –

- Would like to give the council an update on his health after the meeting.

H. Council Member Zornes –

- Requested packets on Thursday to have more time to review them.

I. Council Member French –

- Glad to be back.

J. Administrator Slauch –

- Would like an executive session to talk about his upcoming annual evaluation.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel - Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Zornes to adjourn into executive session to discuss Non-Elected Personnel/ annual performance evaluation for City Administrator Slauch. All in favor. Motion carried. Present Mayor, Council, and Administrator Slauch. The regular meeting will resume at 9:10 p.m.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday August 11th, 2014

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday August 25th, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

9:10 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member Myrick to adjourn the meeting. As the vote was unanimous, the meeting was declared adjourned.

CITY OF IOLA

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Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 11th day of August 2014.

Mayor, Joel Wicoff

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton