

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on March 9, 2015, 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 Becker, Myrick, Wells, Shaughnessy, Franklin, Zornes, Ford and French were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

### **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval** - February 23, 2015

**B. Appropriations Approval** – 2015-05

**C. Personnel Action**

- **James Snavely – Electric Distribution – Annual Evaluation**
- **Kenneth Thompson – Fire/EMS – Annual Evaluation**
- **Lauren Johnson – Clerk – Resignation – Position to be filled**

Motion made by Council Member Wells to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the resignation of Lauren Johnson. Motion seconded by Council Member Myrick. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Annual Insurance Renewal – Debbie Taiclet, Iola Insurance** – The premium has increased by 3% over last year due in part to workman comp claims and general increase nationwide for property value replacement. The city received a dividend check last April in the amount of \$30,052.67. Motion made by Council Member Wells to approve renewal of the policy and authorizing payment in the amount of \$366,945 to Iola Insurance for the policy period April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016. Motion seconded by Council Member Becker. All in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Unsafe/Dangerous Structures – Shonda Jefferis** – Code Enforcement Officer Jefferis was present at the meeting to request a hearing for two structures that are unfit or dangerous. Code Services has inspected and prepared reports for the two

addresses. Council Member Myrick asked about the basement at 321 S Washington. Code Enforcement Officer Jefferis stated that the required rules would have to be followed including removal of the walls and four foot of filling put in the basement. Council Member French stated that he thought the structure at 321 S Washington was sound and that there were possible investors that may make an offer on the home. He asked what would happen if the property sold prior to the hearing. Code Enforcement Officer Jefferis explained that the process would have to begin all over. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Myrick to approve Resolutions 2015-03 and 2015-04 setting a hearing for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for the structures at 321 S Washington and 802 N Cottonwood. All in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Sign Ordinance Revisions** – The council was presented with an ordinance revision to the sign ordinance which would reduce the maximum size of pole signs from 150 square feet to 100 square feet. The ordinance revision would limit the time frame that political signs may be posted to 45 days prior to an election and requires removal of the signs within seven days following an election. Council Member Franklin stated that garage sale signs are an issue with residents not removing them after their sale. Comments were made by council members about decreasing the number of days to remove the signs, noting that allowing a few extra says following an election would give the individual a weekend to remove the signs. Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Franklin to approve Ordinance 3443 amending the sign criteria with an effective date of April 8, 2015. All in favor. Motion carried.

**D. Allen County Animal Rescue Facility – Annual Contract Renewal -** Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis, stated that no changes have been made to the cost to the city. Council Member French wondered if the city could require that pets be chipped in order to obtain a city license. Administrator Slaugh and Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis did not think the city could require that. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve the contract for 2015 with ACARF as proposed. Council Member Franklin wondered if we couldn't provide a pamphlet to pet owners about the benefits of chipping your pet. Council Member French asked about the results of a spayed/neutered and release program. Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis, stated that the animal control officer has looked into the program, however; a non-profit group has to participate in the grant process and to date ACARF has not been interested. All in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**E. Allen County Animal Rescue Facility – Request** – ACARF is requesting to use the Bass North Community Building on Saturday, November 21, 2015 free of charge for a craft show fundraiser. They will be charging the craft show sales people a fee to raise funds. Council has approved this request in years past. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Franklin to allow ACARF to use the building on Saturday, November 21, 2015 free of charge and allow them to hold a fundraiser charging craft show booth participants. All in favor. Motion carried.

**F. Gates Expansion Project – Bid Acceptance** – Staff has been working with Gates regarding the electric demands for the new expansion. Following approval at the February 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting staff sent out for sealed bids on three items that will be used for the expansion. Items that were requested on the bid proposal were two 1500kva pad mount transformers, three 333kva single phase voltage regulators and one 7500kva three phase sub-station transformer. The bid opening was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for the items. The following bids were received.

B&B Transformer – Farmington, Minnesota - \$61,477 (no bid on the 3-phase sub-station transformer)

Central Moloney, Inc. – Pine Bluff, Arkansas – Declined to bid

Kriz Davis Company – Topeka, Kansas - \$272,365

Solomon Corporation – Solomon, Kansas - \$239,140

Southwest Electric – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Declined to bid

Stanion Wholesale Electric – Chanute, Kansas - \$260,904

Tucson Transformer – Dodge City, Kansas – Declined to bid

It is staff's recommendation that the equipment is purchased from Solomon Corporation; they are the low bid and staff is comfortable and familiar with the company. These items are just a small portion of the materials and equipment that will be purchased for the Gates project. These items were the largest and require bids per the purchasing policy. Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Wells to accept the bid for providing two 1500kva pad mount transformers, three 333kva voltage regulators and one 7500kva sub-station transformer in the amount of \$239,140 from Solomon Corporation. All in favor. Motion carried.

**G. Budget Saving Measures** – Administrator Slaugh presented a list of seven possible cost saving measures that the city could take.

1. Reduce Manpower – Administrator Slaugh noted that in 2004 the city employed 119 employees and in 2014 they employee 107. This is with the additional staff to run the county wide EMS department.

2. Cut Services – Not a popular option. The consulting services of Van Scoyoc Associates cost the city \$45,000 per year reduced down from \$60,000. Administrator Slaugh noted that the service could be cut and a consultant hired on an as need basis. Council Member French noted that Van Scoyoc has been involved in city, hospital and county projects. He noted several items they have assisted with. He wondered if they would be able to assist the city with getting the EPA to move quicker on the soil cleanup east of town. Administrator Slaugh noted that the money would be better spent with other projects for the city. Council Member Myrick noted that he was glad Van Scoyoc was involved with the effort to move veteran's administration cataract surgery and sleep study services to the area. Mayor Wicoff asked Council Member French if he would get a list of items that Van Scoyoc has helped the city with and report back to the council. Council Member Ford noted that with her involvement in the Community Involvement Task Force she traveled to Washington DC and was impressed with the way Van Scoyoc

was able to get the CITF group where they needed to be and meeting with the people necessary to get the projects done.

Council Member Myrick noted that he would like to see all departments try to attain a 3% reduction in the 2016 budget. Council Member Wells noted that 3% may be unattainable. The departments should determine where and how much they could cut.

Administrator Slaugh noted that the capacity payment for electric was lowered \$5,000 this month. Council Member French noted that since this council has been seated a cost reduction overall had taken place.

There was discussion about possible uses for the empty lots the city maintains. The lots that were purchased as part of the flood buyout could not be sold. The council asked if a list of empty lots owned by the city could be distributed to the council members.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Tower Usage Agreement** – Staff has prepared an agreement for the three current broadband service providers that have equipment on city water towers. The providers will be charged \$50.00 per year beginning January 1, 2016. It was noted in the contract that if one company ceases to operate the other companies will be responsible for providing free WIFI service to the locations noted in the contract. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member French to approve the revised five year agreement for telecommunications companies for use of city towers for broadband services effective January 1, 2016. All in favor. Motion carried. Mayor Wicoff asked if the equipment was removed during a water tower cleaning. Staff will check into this.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

**A. Housing & Development Discussions** - Administrator Slaugh noted that he attended a housing development seminar in Wichita on March 4, 2015. He will forward via email the information he received from the seminar. He would like to get members of the community involved in a housing assessment tool. Council Member Shaughnessy noted that he had visited with Jim Gilpin about the housing problems in Iola. Jim Gilpin noted that potential buyers are having a hard time qualifying for a loan.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **A. Mayor Wicoff –**

- Attended the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner last Friday night. The city was awarded the business of the year award for businesses that employ over 25 employees. Administrator Slaugh noted that the award spoke to the quality of individuals that work for the city. The council praised the employees for the service they provide.

### **B. Council Member Wells – None**

**C. Council Member Ford –**

- The Disc Golf course will open soon.
- Acknowledge the students that qualified for the national forensic tournament and the basketball teams from the high school and the college.

**D. Council Member Franklin–**

- Back from her trip to Texas noting the weather wasn't any warmer than here.

**E. Council Member Shaughnessy –**

- Asked the city to take care of the sewer at 702 S Buckeye. He noted that a plumber had camered the service line and there is a brick lodged in the line. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated he would have staff look at it.
- Glad to see the new donut shop east of town building up Iola.

**F. Council Member Becker – None**

**G. Council Member Myrick –**

- This weekend noticed a lot of people were out and about in the park.

**H. Council Member Zornes – None**

**I. Council Member French – None**

**J. Administrator Slauch –**

- Gave an update on the EMD catalyst project. Will be doing a test on the emissions limits.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

**7:43 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

Page 6  
03/09/2015

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of  
March 2015.

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Mayor, Joel Wicoff

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton