

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on April 27, 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, B. Franklin, Zornes, French, and Ford, were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

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

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to approve the agenda adding under item 11 H Chip and Seal, 9 D Relay for Life request and move Roundtable after New Business. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Mayor – Joel Wicoff
- Ward One- Robert Shaughnessy
- Ward Two – Jon Wells
- Ward Three – Austin Sigg
- Ward Four – Aaron Franklin

### **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MEMBERS**

- Ward Three – Eugene Myrick
- Ward Four – Steve French

City Clerk Hutton swore in the newly elected members. New council members Austin Sigg and Aaron Franklin took their seats on the council. Mayor Wicoff thanked Council Members French and Myrick and presented them with a plaque for their service. A time for welcoming the new members and honoring the outgoing members was taken.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Judy Brigham offered her help with the Van Scoyoc Lobbyists. While she was an employee of the city she worked closely with them. The first trip to Washington D.C. by the Community Involvement Task Force (CITF) opened doors that wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of Van Scoyoc. The face to face contact with the legislators was invaluable.

David Toland was present to request the same assistance from the city as in past years for the annual Charley Melvin Mad Bomber Run which will be held on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. He

is also requesting assistance for the first ever Portland Alley Pedal Festival which will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. The property that the event is being held on is out of city limits. He is requesting some electricity and possible street closure for the event. Mr. Toland also mentioned the value of Van Scoyoc to the city. If the city communicates the needs spelled out in the strategic plan they can help point us in the right direction to help us meet the goals.

John McRae also spoke on the benefits of Van Scoyoc to the community.

John Masterson stated that he went to Washington D.C. to attend meetings that Van Scoyoc had set up to enhance opportunities for veterans at the local hospital.

Jim Gilpin stated that he and his wife were in Boston and he called Van Scoyoc and set up an impromptu meeting with them to discuss the possible funding to improve the street in front of the hospital. He told Administrator Slauch that if the city wants to grow and annex property it would be a good investment to keep Van Scoyoc on retainer. If the city just wants to maintain the infrastructure they have and not annex then it would not be a good investment.

Nancy Ford stated that she had attended several of the trips to Washington D.C. as part of the CITF group. It was impressive how Van Scoyoc connected the group with the needs we had stated. She feels we need to meet with them about our future projects and let them help us get them done.

Larry Crawford spoke in support of the lights on South State Street. Since this is an agenda item for latter in the meeting councilmembers took no action at this time.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval - April 13, 2015**

**B. Appropriations Approval – 2015-08**

**C. Personnel Action**

- **Ashley Robb- Fire Department – Annual**
- **Justin Benton – Fire Department – Six Month Evaluation**
- **Brandon Westerman – Electric Production – Promotion**
- **Aaron Wight – Gas, Water & Sewer - Annual**
- **Scott Stewart – Code Enforcement – Annual**
- **Elaine Stewart – Code Enforcement – Twelve Month**
- **Douglas Campbell – Police Department – Annual**
- **Kristy Sutherland – Recreation – Annual**
- **Dana Nauerte – Stores/Purchasing – Annual**
- **Tristian Roegner – Fire Department – Resignation**

**D. Relay for Life Request** – The team is requesting the use of the Riverside Park Recreation Building for Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Life Survivor Banquet free of charge.

Council Member B. Franklin asked about the payable to the league that showed more than one registration to the Mayors Conference. It is actually for the Governing Body Institute attendance for Council Members A. Franklin and Sigg. Council Member B. Franklin asked about the payable for repairs to the ambulance that struck a deer and if we received

insurance money for the incident. Administrator Slaugh stated that the city had received reimbursement minus the deductible from the insurance company. Motion made by Council Member B. Franklin to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Becker. Council Member Wells stated consent. With no objections the motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Smokin' Hot Cars & BBQ Request – Tom Brigham** – The Rotary is requesting regular police patrol of the BBQ event throughout the cooking and judging 5:00 p.m. Friday evening until Saturday morning. Dumpsters for trash, hot coals and used oil. Assistance with electric and water for cooks, pool passes for the cooks and their families and permission for overnight stays in the park for the event to be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Bob Hawk, President of the Iola Rotary, stated that this is a fundraiser for the many projects they have in town such as the MOMS playground project, the kid's closets at local schools. Tom Brigham, Rotary Member, stated that they are requesting the same services as last year. Motion made by Council Member Ford to approve the request from the Rotary for the BBQ and car show. Motion seconded by Council Member B. Franklin. All in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Dangerous / Unsafe Structures Public Hearing – Shonda Jefferis**– The Code Services Office has inspected and prepared reports on two structures that are unfit or dangerous. Mayor Wicoff opened the public hearing for 802 N Cottonwood. No public comments were made. Mayor Wicoff closed the hearing. Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis stated that the owner's attorney had contacted her previously, however the owner did not show up for the public hearing. Ms. Jefferis stated the property is valued at \$1,300. Motion made by Council member Becker and seconded by Council Member Wells to approve the resolution to have the property condemned and demolished. All in favor. Motion carried. Mayor Wicoff opened the public hearing for 802 N Cottonwood. David Toland stated he and Job Springer had purchased the house as South Washington LLC. They have secured the property as Ms. Jefferis requested and have begun cleaning up the property. They will develop it into five units which will include a unit in the carriage house. Mayor Wicoff closed the hearing. Ms. Jefferis stated that the resolution presented to the council was to rehabilitate the structure. The resolution requires a six-month time limit. The time can be extended if the council chooses to do so. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Shaughnessy to approve the resolution to rehabilitate the property. All in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Dangerous/Unsafe Structures** - The Code Services Office has inspected and prepared reports on three properties that are unfit or dangerous. Staff is requesting public hearings to be set on each of these structures. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve the resolutions to set the public

hearing for June 8, 2015 for the property located at 616 South Street, 210 S Chestnut and 1209 N Sycamore. All in favor. Motion carried.

**D. Nuisance Animal Trapping Contractor** – Request for bids were sent to licensed nuisance animal trappers that are permitted to work in Allen County. Bids were due April 24, 2015. Two bids were received one from JL Critter Gitter, Jeff LaRue, Bronson, Kansas in the amount of \$100.0 per animal trapped and removed the other bid received was from McClure Trapping, James McClure, Howard, Kansas in varying dollar amounts depending on the type of the animal trapped. His price list is attached. Council Member Wells asked if this information is for Code Enforcement to contact for city private citizens. Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis, noted that the council in the past had asked staff to obtain bids for trappers for private citizens. Mayor Wicoff asked if the information could be handed out to private citizens and let them call the trappers themselves. Ms. Jefferis stated that it could be handed out to citizens when they come and get a trap and or call about trapping animals. Council Members Wells and Zornes stated they would like to leave it up to the private citizen to hire the trappers. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes made a motion to not approve the contract with the trappers. All in favor. Motion carried.

**E. State Street Lighting – Discussions** – At the April 21, 2015 Allen County Commission meeting a discussion took place regarding street lights on south State Street from the south city limits to the Elm Creek Bridge. The county public works director has asked the city electric distribution superintendent, Jim Baker, to put together a cost proposal to install the lights. Council Member B. Franklin stated that it would make the city look better. Council Member Wells inquired about the amount of time it would take for city crews to install light poles. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated it would take approximately two weeks to complete. Council Member Shaughnessy stated it would be better to get more information on the setbacks for Kentucky Street for future road improvement before installing street lights. Council Member Wells asked who pays for electric for the street lights. Administrator Slaugh stated that it would be the city's responsibility. Mayor Wicoff stated that Kentucky Street does get dark especially in the winter time. Motion made by Council Member Wells to instruct staff to proceed with installation of street lights on south State Street if the county agrees to pay for the material. Motion seconded by Council Member Zornes. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to table installing lights on Kentucky Street and direct staff to obtain right of way information. All in favor. Motion carried.

7:22 p.m. Council Member Wells left the meeting.

**F. TIGER Grant Transportation Projects** – Administrator Slaugh stated that traditionally TIGER grants are applied for and awarded to state projects. We need to find a part of the project that would improve economic development to make the project more appealing. It would also help our chances of being awarded if the city could pay a

portion of the project. The city could sell bonds for their portion of the project. Administrator Schinstock Slaugh noted that it might be helpful to obtain more information and elect to apply next year. Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that the legwork could be done for the project whether the city is applying for the grant or not. Council Member B. Franklin noted that interest on bonds right now is low and this would be a good time to apply. Council Member Becker stated he thinks it would be better to apply next year to give staff plenty of time to prepare a good application. Council Member Ford asked David Toland if THRIVE would have time to gather the economic development numbers needed for the grant. David Toland stated that the streetscape project would be attractive to the downtown businesses and would make the grant application more of a positive economic development impact. Council Member Zornes asked why we are looking into this grant when there are other streets in town that need attention. Administrator Slaugh stated that the project needs to be done in the near future and the TIGER grant is an avenue of funding. It would be awhile before any other larger street projects could be done if funding had to be tied up for this project since the city committed the \$300,000 per year to the hospital for 10 years. Mayor Wicoff asked if KDOT would fund the design portion of the project. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated they do not fund design work. Council Member Sigg stated that we seem to have more questions than answers and has a concern about not having funding if we are awarded the grant. Council member Ford stated that the federal government may cut this program. David Toland stated that 100% funding is unusual, maybe the city could offer 10% match instead of 20%. Council Member Ford made a motion and Council Member B. Franklin seconded the motion to proceed with the grant application. Voting in favor of the motion were council members Ford, and B. Franklin. Voting against the motion were council members A. Franklin, Becker, Shaughnessy, Sigg and Zornes. Motion failed. Mayor Wicoff stated he would like staff to put hiring an engineer to do the design work on a future agenda.

**G. Annual Tree Trimming Contract** – Request for bids were sent to four professional tree trimming companies for the annual tree trimming project for electric transmission line clearance. It was requested that each company bid a two man crew with bucket truck and chipper at an hourly rate to be based on previous years trimming hours of 450-500 hours. Only one bid was received. Poor Boy Tree Service, Inc. from Fair Play, Missouri in the amount of \$78.90 per hour. Based on the bid price received the \$55,000 allocated money for this project should get us approximately 625-650 hours of trimming. Council member Sigg asked why we did not do the tree trimming in house. Administrator Slaugh stated that we don't have the time or some of the equipment necessary to do all the work required. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Becker to approve the bid received from Poor Boy Tree Service for a 60' bucket truck and crew at \$78.90 per hour to perform the annual contract tree trimming and clearing of electric lines up to the budgeted amount of \$55,000 and authorize the mayor to sign the necessary contract documents with Poor Boy Tree Service as the project begins. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members A.

Franklin, B. Franklin, Becker, Shaughnessy, Ford and Zornes. Voting against the motion was Council Member Sigg. Motion passed.

**H. Annual Chip Seal Project – Bid Acceptance** – In preparation for the annual chip and seal road maintenance project staff is seeking council approval to waive the purchasing policy requirements for sealed bids on the rock portion of the project. This material is KDOT specification of CM-L for an approximate total of 1,600 cubic yards of material. This rock/aggregate material is what staff calls red rock and is approximately ¼” X 1/8” material. Last year staff was only able to obtain one provider to bid on this type of rock material. Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member Shaughnessy to waive the standard sealed bidding process for the purchase of approximately 1600 cubic yards of CM-L (red rock) for the 2015 annual chip seal project and accept the bid price of \$49.00 per cubic yard delivered from Buildex for this year’s rock purchase. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

**A. Utility Revenue & Expenditure Review** – Administrator Slaugh gave a snapshot of the enterprise funds stating that without the transfers to the general fund and the recreation fund from the enterprise funds the mill levy would have to be 115. Administrator Slaugh noted that the electric fund reserve is about 14% which is lower than the three to six month reserve desired. This is due in part to EPA demands and transfer of \$1,000,000 each year for the last two years to the equipment reserve fund for purchase of future generation. Administrator Slaugh noted that since the city left the Kansas Power Pool (KPP) customers have seen a decline in the cost of their electric whereas; other towns that are part of the KPP have seen about an 14% increase in their electric cost.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **A. Mayor Wicoff –**

- Welcomed new members of the council.
- Appreciated the budget numbers on the enterprise funds.

### **B. Council Member Wells–**

- Left the meeting early.

### **C. Council Member Ford –**

- Informed the council that the CITF group is holding a tree sale this Saturday in the Countrymart parking lot.
- Informed the council that the police department is holding a benefit for Mike Aronson on Sunday at the American Legion.

**D. Council Member B. Franklin–**

- Council Member B. Franklin made a motion to continue to have Steve French sit on the Economic Development Board. Motion seconded by Council Member Becker. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Asked if the city has to hold a public hearing on the Gates abatement? Administrator Slauch noted that once all of the paperwork is finished the state will review for completeness and send the city information that is required such as holding a public hearing.
- Wondered if the council needed to appoint a group to work with Van Scoyoc. Council Member Ford stated that the CITF group worked with them in the past and would be willing to do so again.

**E. Council Member Shaughnessy –**

- None

**F. Council Member Becker –**

- Complimented staff on the hard work they have done and also for future projects such as the chip and seal project.

**G. Council Member Sigg –**

- Thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

**H. Council Member Zornes –**

- Welcome all new members.

**I. Council Member A. Franklin –**

- None

**J. Administrator Slauch –**

- Have hired the engineering group PEC to do a capacity analysis of the lagoons as part of a consent order from the EPA concerning Russell Stover's.
- Checked on the city managers list serve and no other city in Kansas has a consultant like Van Scoyoc on contract.
- Have received expressions of appreciation for the volunteer board member dinner last week.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

**8:30 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to adjourn the meeting. A consent motion was declared. No objections were noted.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015.

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Mayor, Joel Wicoff

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton