

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on June 22, 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 Wells, B. Franklin, A. Franklin, Sigg, Ford, Zornes, Becker, and Shaughnessy were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

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

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Donna Houser reminded the council that the open house for the Elm Creek Disc Golf Course will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Donna Houser reminded the council that the Funston 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration will be held July 21<sup>st</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval - June 8, 2015**

**B. Appropriations Approval – 2015-12**

**C. Personnel Action**

- **Trent Rhodes – Parks & Cemetery – Annual**
- **Bo Becker – Electric Distribution – Twelve Month**
- **Jed Rice – Electric Distribution – Twelve Month**
- **Kristy Sutherland – Recreation - Reinstatement**

**D. Board Appointments**

- **Board of Zoning Appeals – William Newman – Reappointment**
- **Board of Zoning Appeals – Jean Anderson - Reappointment**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Planning Commission Recommendation Zoning Change –** Friends of the Bowlus and Bowlus Fine Arts Center Trust filed applications to rezone properties on E. Madison and S. Buckeye. 205 & 217 E Madison and 200 S. Buckeye are currently

zoned as R-2 two-family. The proposed rezoning would change to C-O Neighborhood Business. A public hearing was held in front of the planning commission on June 17, 2015 regarding this application. The planning commission members voted unanimously to permit the rezoning as proposed. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to approve the rezoning of 205 & 217 E Madison and 200 S Buckeye to C-O Neighborhood Business. All in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Northern Star Girl Scout Request**– The Northern Star Girl Scout troop is requesting overnight stay in the Riverside Park on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Wells to waive the curfew for this event and allow overnight stay on June 24<sup>th</sup> for the Northern Star Girl Scout Troop. All in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Van Scoyoc Lobbyist Committee - Appointments** – Mayor Wicoff has suggested a committee of five individuals to work with Van Scoyoc as long as the funding remains for the lobbying effort. Individuals who desire to serve on this committee should submit a recommendation to the mayor by email or phone no later than July 2. The council will vote on the mayor's recommendations at the July 13 council meeting. Council Member Sigg noted that it would be good to put a member or two from the Economic Development Committee on this committee. Council Member Ford noted that the CITF committee was the liaison between Van Scoyoc and the city in the past. Council Member B. Franklin suggested David Toland, Lonnie Larson, and Jerry Dreher. Council Member Wells noted that John Masterson would be a good choice with his past work on the possible veteran's clinic site. Possible candidates need to contact the mayor if they desire to serve.

**D. Iola Middle School Traffic Flow – Corey Schinstock** – With the realigning of schools throughout the district the middle school will add approximately one hundred additional students and eight to ten additional staff members. With the increased number of students and staff it will no doubt increase the number of vehicles a day that travel the roads around the school throughout the day. A traffic study was done by the city's on-call engineers. The study gives two options for improving the traffic issues that are currently at the school and incorporates the potential for increased traffic with the additional students and staff. Option #1 would be to change East Street from two-way traffic to westbound one-way traffic from First Street to Cottonwood Street. It would also change Jackson Avenue from two-way traffic to eastbound one-way traffic from First Street to Cottonwood Street. Option #2 would only change East Street from two-way traffic to westbound one-way traffic from Elm Street to Colborn Street. The school has approached the city in the past about making the roads one way around the middle school. Council Member B. Franklin stated it would be nice to give the public more time to discuss options. Mr. Jack Stanley, Iola Middle School Principal, stated that they have wanted this for a long time to help with the traffic issues around the school. Lisa Dunn, 422 East Street, stated that the neighbors feel like this decision is being

rushed into and it may not help. The kids do not pay attention around the school they step out into traffic.

Mayor Wicoff stated that the study also suggests crossing guards and other options other than closing streets. Council Member Wells made a motion to table until the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to obtain more public input. Motion seconded by Council Member A. Franklin. All in favor. Motion carried.

**E. Wrecker, Towing, Impound Agreement** – Allen County Commission sought bids to impound vehicles. The county staff drafted an agreement to equitably deal with requests to tow vehicles and impound them. One bid was received from TJ's Towing, LLC. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to approve the agreement between Allen County and the City of Iola for impounded vehicles, wrecking and towing services and authorize the mayor to sign the documents. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

### **A. 2016 Budget Presentations –**

**Industrial & Economic Development** – Administrator Slaugh stated that the industrial fund pays for the economic development director position through THRIVE.

**Convention and Tourism and Employee Health Fund** – City Clerk Hutton reviewed the two funds noting that there would not be much change. There has been an increase in the convention and tourism tax revenue with the improvements done to the motel in town. Council Member Ford would like to see the guest tax increased in order to be able to support those non-profits to continue tourism events.

**Gas, Water & Wastewater** – Mitch Phillips reviewed the budgets for the three departments noting that there will not be much change.

**Water Production and Wastewater Treatment** – Toby Ross reviewed the budgets for the two departments noting that the major costs in these departments are the chemicals and the loan payments. Council Member A. Franklin asked about painting the water towers in school colors. Mr. Ross will check into the added cost, if any, to do this.

**Electric Distribution** – Jim Baker reviewed the budget for electric distribution. He noted that his department is collaborating with the Electric Generation department to replace the breaker at Oak Street substation.

**Electric Generation** – Mike Phillips reviewed the budget for electric generation noting that the money put into equipment reserve for future generation is a large part of his budget and the replacement of the breaker at Oak Street Substation that his department and the electric distribution department are sharing the cost of.

**Purchasing/Stores** – Dana Nauertc reviewed the stores budget noting that his department purchases supplies and materials for the other departments.

**Recreation** – Jason Bauer noted that his budget remains about the same. He discussed the attendance at the pool this year. He would like to close the pool on August 16<sup>th</sup> due to the fact that of his 12 lifeguards six of them are in college and he will lose them around the first of August. Council Members voiced no objections to closing on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The recreation department will be monitoring the heat policy for the upcoming baseball and softball games. The breakfast with Santa that was held for the first time last year was a success. They will do it again this year. The Recreation Department is helping in the free school lunch summer program by serving meals at the recreation building. Questions were asked by the council about the ballfield concession stand not being open. Jason stated that they have lost so much money running the concession stand they just decided it wasn't worth it to pay employees to run it.

**Equipment Reserve & Major Non-Street Projects** – Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the major non-street fund is supported by sales tax revenue with ½ of that going to the hospital. The rail trail, dog park and sidewalk on State Street was paid for out of this fund. For the 2015 and 2016 budgets \$250,000 is being transferred from this fund to save up for the street projects on Madison and Kentucky.

**B. 2015 Utility Rate Review** – Administrator Slaugh noted that the reserve on the utility funds is lower than desired. The water fund is looking better, however still dips down in the red when the loan payments are made. Council Member Sigg asked about the transfers to the General Fund and the Recreation Fund from the Enterprise Funds. Administrator Slaugh noted that this is to keep the mill levy down. Administrator Slaugh stated that he will hold a budget work session in his office next Monday at 5:30 p.m. Let him know if you will be attending.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**A. Mayor Wicoff –**

- Attended the American Water Works Association national convention in Anaheim, California where he ran into the two city Water Plant employees that were there to compete along with 38 other teams in the annual Top Ops competition.

**B. Council Member Wells–**

- Noted that handicap parking spots need to be designated around the new playground at Riverside Park. Staff will look into the possibility of designating a parking space.

**C. Council Member Ford –**

- Reminded everyone of the open house at the disc golf course Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**D. Council Member B. Franklin–**

- Wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day.

**E. Council Member Shaughnessy –**

- None

**F. Council Member Becker –**

- None

**G. Council Member Sigg –**

- Nice Father's Day Weekend at the park and around town.

**H. Council Member Zornes –**

- Wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day.

**I. Council Member A. Franklin –**

- Stated he had been approached about accessibility issues for diamond two. Staff will look into it.

**J. Administrator Slauch –**

- Noted that the Economic Development Director had made some requests at the last meeting. One of those is for a traffic study for the new grocery store. Staff consulted the on-call engineer for a cost for this project. The cost would range from \$5,000 - \$30,000. What role should the city have in a private development? The street changes that are being looked at could cost up to \$200,000. Normally these costs are the developer's responsibility. Council Member Becker stated that the traffic will change after the grocery store is open; therefore, is it wise to do a traffic study before construction. Administrator Slauch noted that the information should be presented prior to a commitment from the council. Council Member Ford noted that the city has to have

a dream and go look for those opportunities for growth and development. Council Member Wells noted that the city has to be presented options and then determine if we can afford it. Council Member A. Franklin stated that the council needs to know the costs up front. Mayor Wicoff stated that the council must understand the costs before a commitment is made.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

**8:20 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member Wells to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 2015.

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Mayor, Joel Wicoff

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton