

A special called meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on August 17 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 A. Franklin, B. Franklin, Becker, Shaughnessy, Wells, and Sigg were present. County Commission Members present were Jim Talkington, Tom Williams, and Jerry Daniels. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, City Clerk Hutton, County Clerk Sherrie Riebel and County Counselor Alan Weber. Absent were Council Members Zornes and Ford.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The purpose of the meeting was to have an open discussion between city council members and county commissioners.

Introductions were made around the table.

Mayor Wicoff asked the county to give the city an update on the old hospital site. County Counselor Weber informed the group that the county has signed contracts with the demolition company and with G&W foods. There are still some open questions on how the ground will be developed following demolition. Will the retaining wall be removed and the grounds brought down to street level or remain as is? The medical arts building will need some rehabilitation after the hospital is removed.

Council Member Becker asked if the Highway 54 curve will be straightened out. Commissioner Williams stated that the county has contacted Kansas Department of Transportation and they have said they do not have the funds to straighten the curve.

Commissioner Williams stated that they are waiting to hear what G& W representatives want before they go changing a lot.

Council Member Wells thanked the county for the relationship between the two governing bodies. Everyone is working better together to serve the citizens.

Commissioner Talkington stated that the apartments are being built by private developer not G&W. David Toland, Economic Director, stated that G&W wants as many apartments and/or townhomes as possible. A housing study will be done to determine what is needed in the area.

Mayor Wicoff and Commissioner Talkington both stressed that if either governing body had questions or concerns they should let the other body know.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that he would like to have a meeting a few weeks before demolition begins with the demolition company to discuss the utilities in the area.

County Counselor Weber stated that it is the goal to have the demolition completed by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

On Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a community farewell at the hospital. On Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. there will be a ceremony to start the demolition.

G&W is planning to start construction in March or April of 2016 with a nine month completion.

Council Member Shaughnessy asked if the housing that is planned for the area will be market rate rental housing. Economic Development Director, David Toland stated that it will be market rate rental housing.

Council Member B. Franklin asked the county how they thought the countywide EMS service being run by the city is going.

Commissioner Talkington stated that he thought it was going well. Commissioner Williams stated that it has exceeded his expectations. He noted that Administrator Slauch is doing a great job with the department. He told a story of a wreck he witnessed on the highway outside of the county in which the county EMS service came upon. They checked on those involved in the accident and stayed on the scene until the responding EMS service arrived from Miami County.

Council Member Wells thanked the county for their cooperation in the service and the open lines of communication.

Commissioner Williams stated that the county intends to put lighting on 169 north and south of Oregon Road to help motorists find the new hospital. A sign will also be erected.

Council Member Wells stated that while they saw a need they are not planning to put lights on Kentucky Street to the hospital.

Council Member Shaughnessy stated that it would be nice if two lanes could be made with a center island of lighting on Kentucky.

Council Member B. Franklin asked if there were plans to put a clinic beside the new hospital. Commissioner Williams stated not at this time.

Council Member Becker asked how the hospital was doing financially. Alan Weber stated that they are doing well so far.

Council Member B. Franklin asked about the possible V.A. site in town. Commissioner Talkington stated that a meeting is scheduled with the new hospital administrator on Wednesday and the V.A. Services will be discussed. He encouraged council members to meet the new hospital administrator.

Council Member Becker stated that Kentucky Street is a concern with the new hospital and plans for improvement should be done sooner than later. Maybe the county and the city could work together on improvements. Council Member B. Franklin stated that stripping would help.

Mayor Wicoff asked about the airport improvements. Commissioner Daniels stated that the new jet fuel facilities can pump the fuel much faster than the previous equipment. It is an excellent airport. New weather reporting services were added. It was noted that possible industries looking to move to the area will note the airport as beneficial.

Commissioner Talkington asked the council members how they thought the EMS service was going. Council Member Wells stated he felt good about it and making it work. There will be bumps along the way and the commissioners have dealt with the city in a fair manner. Council Member B. Franklin stated she thought the service is going well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**6:47 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

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Mayor, Joel Wicoff

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton