

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., at the Iola High School, Lecture Hall, 300 East Street, Iola, Kansas.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Becker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Council Members Becker, Wells, B. Franklin, A. Franklin, Zornes, and Sigg were present. Also present were Administrator Slauch, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent were Mayor Wicoff and Council Members Ford and Shaughnessy.

David Toland, THRIVE Director, introduced Mark Fenton, Public Health Planning and Transportation Consultant.

Mr. Fenton discussed ways to improve the health of children by getting them walking and or riding their bikes to school. The city and the school will need to work together to make it a safe route for them to get to and from school on foot or bicycle.

One of the suggestions was to make Madison Avenue one lane on each side of the street with a turn lane in the middle and a bike route on each side. This would alleviate the struggle of a walker or biker trying to get across four lanes of traffic.

Mr. Fenton stressed the importance of getting the children involved in the planning stages. They can point out the barriers that prevent them from walking to school and come up with ideas adults don't necessarily come up with.

He encouraged the two governing bodies in conjunction with the planning commission to adopt a complete street resolution that would state that every time a road is touched to stop and think what the right thing to do is. Think about the walkers and bikers as well as the drivers on the road.

Motion made by Council Member Sigg and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to adjourn the meeting to reconvene at the Riverside Park Building, 510 Park Avenue at 6:30 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Council Member Shaughnessy arrived at the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at the Riverside Park Building, 510 Park Avenue.

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

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Toland, Executive Director of THRIVE, informed the council that THRIVE had discovered a \$75,000 grant opportunity through the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, to be used for engineering of a bridge over Elm Creek on South Washington. He is asking for permission to have THRIVE apply on the city's behalf for the grant. At this time there is no financial obligation to the city. The bridge could provide an enhancement to the city's transportation system. Motions made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to authorize THRIVE to apply for this grant on behalf of the city. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. Minutes Approval**

- October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### **B. Appropriations Approval – 2015-20**

### **C. Personnel Action**

- **Ryan Sell -Annual – Fire/EMS**
- **Justin Benton – Twelve Month – Fire/EMS**
- **Michael Lynch – Resignation – New Hire**
- **James Jerome – New Hire – Fire/EMS**

### **D. Convention and Tourism Committee Reappointments**

- **Beth Ann Turner**
- **Roxanne Hutton**
- **Clyde Toland**
- **Glenda Creason**

Motion made by Council Member Wells to approve the consent agenda with the revised personnel actions. Motion seconded by Council Member Zornes. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Water Taste Award – Kansas Chapter of American Water Works Association** – James Epp, Manager of Water Operations for the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and Chair of the Kansas Chapter AWWA, presented the award for best tasting water in Kansas for 2015 to the water plant crew.

**B. Public Hearings for 706 N Washington Avenue and 824 E Jackson Avenue** – Council President Becker opened the public hearing for 706 N Washington and 824 E Jackson. No public comments were made. Council President Becker closed the public hearing. Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis, noted that the owners of 706 N Washington were deceased. Her office has had no contact from any interested parties.

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve Resolution 2015-21 directing the structure to be removed and the premises made safe and secure. All in favor. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Officer, Shonda Jefferis, stated that she had received a fax today from the property owner at 824 E Jackson. He was unable to attend tonight because he had to work. He has a mortgage on the property and would like the opportunity to repair it. The appraised value of the house is \$6,900. More than likely repairs will exceed more than 50% of the value. Council Member Shaughnessy asked Ms. Jefferis if her office has the right to enter the property. Ms. Jefferis stated that she does have right of entry on the property and when she approached this property the door was open. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Shaughnessy to approve Resolution 2015-20 to give the owner thirty days to pull a permit for repair and make the property safe and livable. All in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Online Bill Pay** – City Clerk Hutton reported that after discovering the cost to do online bill pay through the city’s current software program was cost prohibitive other avenues were researched. The online bill pay service through Information Network of Kansas (INK) is used by the State of Kansas as well as counties and cities within the state. It is staff’s recommendation that the service fee of 2.5% for credit card use and \$1.50 for each check be passed onto the customer. City Clerk Hutton stated that this is considered a convenience to the customer and therefore an assessed fee to the customer is not out of line. Allen County uses the service for all of their credit card transactions and the fee is assessed to the customer. This will not affect the current users of our automatic withdraw from checking and credit card payments or our walk-in customers. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to approve the contract between Information Network of Kansas and the City of Iola to provide online credit card and check payments at no cost to the city. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **A. Mayor Wicoff –**

- Absent

### **B. Council Member Wells–**

- Enjoyed the pumpkin patch at the safe base garden.
- Would like the city to keep the 54 Highway ideas from earlier in the evening on the back burner. Working to come up with a solution is best for all involved.
- Noted that the hospital is coming down quickly.
- Congratulation to the Water Plant Crew.

### **C. Council Member Ford –**

- Absent

**D. Council Member B. Franklin–**

- Congratulations to the water plant crew on their award.
- Has been asked if Kentucky Street could be striped for better visibility and as an option right now until the road can be improved. Staff will check into this.

**E. Council Member Shaughnessy –**

- Haunt for Hirschsprung's Haunted House is open.
- Congratulations to the water plant.

**F. Council Member Becker –**

- Noted that police officers nationally are being treated badly. He wants to recognize the police and fire employees and let them know they are appreciated.

**G. Council Member Sigg –**

- Congratulations to the water plant crew..

**H. Council Member Zornes –**

- Congratulations to the water plant crew.
- Appreciate all the employees of the city.
- The pumpkin garden was very quaint.

**I. Council Member A. Franklin –**

- Would like a follow up report at a future meeting on the traffic changes around the middle school.
- Inquired into the remaining balance of the sidewalk fund money. The unused money remains in the fund. The same dollar amount is allocated through the budget process each year. Administrator Slauch noted that he would like to use the budgeted amount as matching funds for the second phase of the Safe Routes to School grant.

**J. Administrator Slauch –**

- Congratulated the water plant crew on the award.
- Thanked the Farm City Days Crew for an outstanding job on the event.
- Council Member Franklin thanked the city crews for their help on the Farm City Days event. They were always a phone call away and willing to help anyway that was needed.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Safe Routes to School grant. Council Member Sigg noted that Lincoln and Cottonwood is a spot of concern and would like that area to be included in the grant if possible.
- Updated the council on the Wartsila UNIC System project. Some of the revisions were not included in the latest contract and therefore was sent back to Wartsila. When the final contract is received Attorney Johnson will review it.

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- The 2016 Social Security Index has stated there will not be a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for 2016. Administrator Schinstock noted that the 2016 budget included a 2% COLA increase and would like the council to consider approving the third and final step of the wage study increase in 2016. Council Member Wells stated he would like to see some numbers at the next meeting.
- Asked for volunteers to fill vacancies on the tree board and the housing authority board.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**7:15 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015.

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Mayor, Joel Wicoff

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton