

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on May 9, 2016, 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, Zornes, Ford, Wells, Sigg, Becker, B. Franklin and A. Franklin were present. Also present were Administrator Slaugh, Assistant Administrator Schinstock and City Clerk Hutton. Council Member Shaughnessy was absent.

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

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tom Brigham, representing the Iola Rotary Club, was present to ask for the support of the city for the Rotary Day at the Park a/k/a Smokin' Hot Cars and BBQ. In the past the city has provided pool passes for the participants and family members, use of the little theatre, trash pickup, use of electric for participants, patrol through the park during the night, and extension of the curfew in the park.

This is a fundraiser for Rotary which enables them to provide funding in the community such as the Iola High School band, Rotary Closets in the elementary schools, dictionaries for all third graders and atlases for fifth graders.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to approve the request from the Rotary for help as done in the past for the Rotary Day at the Park. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **A. Minutes Approval**

- April 25, 2016
- April 28, 2016 – May 5, 2016

#### **B. Appropriations Approval – 2016-09**

#### **C. Personnel Action**

- **Dana Nauertc – Stores/Purchasing – Annual**
- **Brandon Westerman – Electric Generation – Twelve Month**
- **Jim Baker – Electric Distribution – Annual**
- **Jared Froggatte – Police Department – Twelve Month**
- **Brian Cochran – Gas, Water, & Waste Water – Annual**
- **Jason Bauer – Recreation – Annual**
- **Dakota Sigg – Electric Distribution – Six Month**
- **Sara McDaniel – Fire Department – Rehire**

- **Permission to advertise Patrol Officers pending resignations.**

Council Member B. Franklin asked if bids were taken for the uniforms that were purchased from Hawk Business Specialties. Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that most of those items were jeans for the employees and Hawk is the only vendor for them. Council Member B. Franklin noted that the telephone bill from Cox Communications seems to be increasing.

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

## **ROUNDTABLE**

**A. CDBG Grant Application - Discussions** – Administrator Slaugh noted that Code Enforcement Officer, Gregg Hutton attended the CDBG meeting in Topeka in April. Administrator Slaugh compiled a list of the types of grants, eligibility guidelines and 2016 awardees.

Council Member Wells stated that the downtown rehabilitation grant would be advantageous to businesses around the square to access loan money to rehabilitate the apartments above their businesses. This would give the business owners cash flow from rental income for their retail business and provide needed housing for the area.

Council Member Ford stated that it would be beneficial to the city if under the urgent need grant the city could build storm shelters.

Council Member A. Franklin stated he would like to see either grants for storm shelters or water and/or sewer improvements.

Council Member B. Franklin wondered if the rural fire department could get a new truck through the CDBG process. Administrator Slaugh stated that they would have to apply through the county.

Council Member A. Franklin wondered if continuing with the Safe Routes to School grant might have the city putting in sidewalks where schools will not be in the future if a school bond issue is passed and a new school is built. Administrator Slaugh noted that during the grant process he and Assistant Administrator Schinstock drove around the schools and noted areas that did not have a sidewalk on either side of the road, therefore, putting sidewalks in those areas would benefit the city as a whole not just as routes to current schools.

**B. Budget Preparation & Tax Lid - Discussions** – The Kansas legislature passed legislation restricting the ability of municipalities and counties from raising property taxes without a public vote.

Allen County officials are hoping to provide necessary documents regarding assessed valuation to the cities prior to July 1 to allow more time to develop the budget prior to the deadline for an election to increase the mill levy.

Administrator Slaugh noted that staff has prepared a flat budget of no projected increase. With the probability of no increase in sales tax or property tax expenses will have to remain the same.

**C. Ball Field Lighting Controls – Discussions** – Over the past few months' staff has been preparing to implement some control measures regarding the use of ball field lights. Currently anyone that knows the location of the switches can turn the lights on any time of the day or night. This concern was mentioned in the past by a former council member. Some local residents have called and complained about the lights being left on. Council Member Wells noted that it does cost the city a couple of thousand dollars if all of the lights were left on during the month.

Mayor Wicoff stated that he would rather the kids have access to playing ball on the field than sitting in front of video games.

The council was in consensus that the locks should not be installed on the ball field lights at the park. During their routine patrol if the police officers find them on they can shut them off. The council agreed that educating the public about turning the lights off when they are done with the field would also be beneficial.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Municipal Code Revisions** – The third part of the Municipal Code update is presented to the council for review. Administrator Slaugh noted that the revisions need to be reviewed by the city attorney. An ordinance will be brought back at a future council meeting with the proposed changes.

**B. Washington Avenue Pedestrian Bridge** – A contract is presented from Schwab-Eaton, P.A. to provide engineering design of a pedestrian bridge over Elm Creek on South Washington Avenue. Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Zornes to approve the contract for engineering design services from Schwab-Eaton, P.A. for the Elm Creek pedestrian bridge project in the amount of \$28,700 and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Gas Meter Location** - Administrator Slaugh noted that the International Gas Code addresses locations of devices inside of a structure it does not address locations of meters

outside the residence. Staff recommends locating the meters away from the houses for safety. Staff will continue to locate the meters away from the house as done in the past.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **A. Mayor Wicoff –**

- None

### **B. Council Member Wells–**

- Reminded everyone that referees for the recreation baseball and softball games are working for very little money and they are doing the best job they can. Be respectful of them and do not belittle or yell at them.

### **C. Council Member Ford –**

- Congratulated Council Member A. Franklin and his group for the successful May Day Unplugged event.
- Congratulated the graduates in the area from preschool up to the college level.
- Reminded everyone that veteran's banners are still available from the CITF group. This is a fundraiser for the Veterans Wall.
- There are trees left from the tree sale that was held on Saturday. If anyone is interested they can inquire at City Hall.

### **D. Council Member B. Franklin–**

- Pleased with the EMC insurance dividend check. Council Member A. Franklin asked if a portion of the money could be used to show appreciation to the staff for keeping insurance claims down. Administrator Slauch noted that would be a nice gesture.

### **E. Council Member Shaughnessy –**

- Absent

### **F. Council Member Becker –**

- None

### **G. Council Member Sigg –**

- Asked how the loading zones were going at the middle school. Council Member Wells stated that during his runs around the school this year he noticed less congestion. Council Member A. Franklin stated he went into the building and asked staff how they thought it was going. They stated they thought it was going well.

### **H. Council Member Zornes –**

- None

### **I. Council Member A. Franklin –**

- Thanked everyone for their help with the May Day Unplugged event.

**J. Administrator Slaugh –**

- Addressed a recent event that occurred when a local property owner was sent a letter after his grass has reached a height of more than 12 inches that gave him ten days to mow before the city contractors would mow the property and he would be charged. On the eleventh day staff checked the property and it had not been mowed. The contractor was sent to mow the property. The owner came to mow the property that day after it had been mowed. He approached two council members upset because the mowing had been done. The council members informed staff not to charge him for the mowing. He stated that the rain was a factor in it not being mowed. Council Member Ford wondered if the rain should be considered. Council Member Sigg stated that the 10 days were calendar days and not business days. Administrator Slaugh stated that the city follows state statute. Council Member B. Franklin stated that the resident receives a letter every year and she informed him that per policy he would not receive further notice this year; if the grass reached over 12 inches it would be mowed and he would be charged. Council Member Wells stated that staff has to follow the same rules for all individuals and treating one resident different is not a good practice.
- Council Members thanked the Electric Distribution Staff for helping the City of Girard following the storm.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**7:06 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.



  
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Mayor Joel Wicoff

  
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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton