

A special called meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on May 12, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., at the Art Room in The Bowlus Fine Arts Center, 205 E Madison Avenue, Iola, Kansas. The purpose of the meeting was to have a joint discussion with USD 257 school board, Allen County Commission and city council concerning funding of the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. Following this discussion the city council will discuss the city administrator applicant.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Wicoff called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Tony Leavitt, USD 257 School Board President, gave some history on the schools support of the Bowlus. The Board is seeking clarification from the Allen County District Court on specifics within the Bowlus Trust. Some of those questions are what happens if the school board can no long financially support the Bowlus, what exact classes constitute "Fine Arts", and what happens if the State Legislature mandates a consolidated school district?

Susan Raines, Bowlus Director, gave an overview of the Bowlus budget. She noted that the salary line includes six staff members. The maintenance budget has been trimmed down to bare minimum due to new chillers and boiler system.

Tom Williams, Allen County Commissioner, stated that he is in favor of the county helping any way possible. He does not want to jeopardize loosing this "gem of the county".

Tony Leavitt stated that the school board has looked into other methods of teaching the same classes. They are seeking a definition of what exactly is "fine arts".

Carl Slaugh, City Administrator, stated that the main purpose today is how do we replace the \$144,000 that the school is no longer able to provide to the Bowlus due to aging buildings within the district.

Tony Leavitt stated that the school is willing to contribute one mill equivalent to approximately \$42,000.

Darrell Catron, School Board Member, wondered about increasing ticket prices for individuals living outside of the county. Susan Raines stated that last year the ticket sales only amounted to \$36,000 so that would not raise a considerable amount of funding. Ticket prices were increased by \$1.00 this year to include preservation of the building.

The Bowlus Commission has sought ways to come up with the funding to help offset the USD 257 funding.

Mayor Joel Wicoff stated that on behalf of the city council, the Bowlus is great for the community and he is sure that the city will make it work.

Tom Williams asked if there were hidden minefields, with the board seeking a judge's opinion. Tony Leavitt assured the group that they are only trying to get clarification on the specifics of the trust. The board has been threatened in the past of being sued if they changed the way "fine arts" were taught at the Bowlus. The board only wants to understand the trust and fulfill their commitment in that role.

Council Member A. Franklin asked if there was federal funding for "special fine arts classes". Superintendent Jack Koehn stated that at this time there is not funding for those types of classes.

County Commissioner Jim Talkington wondered if the school would be able to step down their funding to give the county the ability to step up their funding each year. The school board stated they would not be able to provide more than the one mill for the following school year.

Commissioner Tom Williams stated that the county owes it to the Bowlus to step up and show support. He noted that Moran and Humboldt districts benefit from the Bowlus and therefore the county as a whole should support it. He wanted assurance that the funding that comes from the county would not be used for legal fees for the judge's opinion on the trust.

Council Member Sigg asked the school if they are planning on continuation of holding classes at the Bowlus. The board stated that their job is to make decisions on what is best for the students at the time. Discussion about the buildings proximity to the schools and safety of students commuting back and forth is a concern for board members.

The question about possibly receiving funding from the city's transient guest tax arose. City Clerk Hutton stated that in 2015 approximately \$75,000 was received in transient guest taxes. There was some concern if those funds were committed to the Bowlus would the smaller non-profit events suffer.

Council Member Wells stated that the city is triple taxed with the funding for the Bowlus coming from the city, county and the school district. He wondered what specifically was being asked of the city. He wondered if it couldn't be a step process instead of a large commitment all at once and the support could be planned out over time.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to commit the money now to alleviate pressure on the school board and the Bowlus having to seek funds in the future.

School Board President, Tony Leavitt stated that he would have Susan Raines get budget proposals ironed out with a one mill commitment from the school and get those to the city and county.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**5:45 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Sigg and seconded by Council Member Wells to adjourn the meeting until 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

**6:00 p.m. Mayor Wicoff reconvened the meeting.**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Wicoff, Council Members, Zornes, Sigg, Shaughnessy, B. Franklin, Wells, Ford, Becker and A. Franklin were present. Also present were Human Resource Director, Carla Brown, and City Clerk Hutton.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Non-Elected Personnel** – Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of non-elected personnel - Administrator candidate contract negotiation. The meeting will reconvene at 6:20 p.m. Attending the executive session will be Mayor, Council, Human Resource Manager, Carla Brown, and City Clerk Hutton.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Non-Elected Personnel** – Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member B. Franklin to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of non-elected personnel - Administrator candidate contract negotiation. The meeting will reconvene at 6:30 p.m. Attending the executive session will be Mayor, Council, Human Resource Manager, Carla Brown, and City Clerk Hutton.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**6:37 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Becker and seconded by Council Member Wells to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

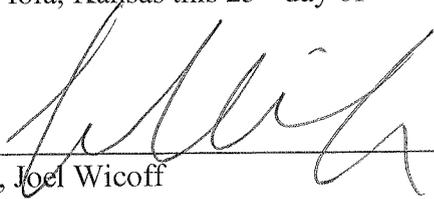
CITY OF IOLA

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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