

CITY OF IOLA
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The City Council of Iola held a regular meeting on January 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor French called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor French, Council Members Grundy, Peterson, Wells, Middleton, D'Albini, Wicoff, Shallah, and Lohman were present.

Administrator Rehder, Assistant City Administrator Schinstock, Attorney Vaughn, and City Clerk Hutton were present.

SWEARING IN OF MAYOR

City Clerk Hutton swore in Mayor French for his two-year term.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

City Clerk Hutton swore in Council Members Peters, Ivy, Lohman, and Kerr for their four-year term.

ROLL CALL

Mayor French, Council Members Grundy, Kerr, Wells, Peters, Lohman, Peterson, Shallah, and Ivy were present.

Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, City Attorney Vaughn, and City Clerk Hutton were present.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor French recognized those Council Members D, Albini, Wicoff, and Middleton and presented them with a plaque for their service.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Wells motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Shallah seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Persons wishing to address the City Council regarding agenda items may do so as they are called. Persons wishing to address the City Council regarding items not

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on the agenda may do so when called upon. Comments on personnel matters and matters pending in court or outside tribunals are not permitted. Speakers are limited to three minutes. No action will be taken.

Donna Houser extended her congratulations to the new members of the Council and to the outgoing members. She noted that she is proud of each of those who chose to serve.

Dan Davis stated that Steve Strickler had asked him to be at this meeting tonight. Mr. Strickler was not in attendance. Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Strickler had told him that he was no longer going to pick up cardboard around town for recycling. When asked whether he would continue baling the cardboard brought to the recycling area, Mr. Strickler did not answer. Mr. Davis thanked the Council for their assistance in paying the baler's utility bills.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **December 8, 2025**
- B. Appropriations Approval**

Council Member Peters asked about the appropriation on page 17 to Security First Title. He asked whether we had conducted a title search on all the properties prior to the condemnation procedures. Staff informed Mr. Peters that all properties had undergone title searches prior to condemnation.

Council Member Peters asked about the appropriation on page 19 to the US Blue Book for deodorant. Staff informed Mr. Peters that it is a deodorizer for the sewer system.

Council Member Wells made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Council Member Shallah. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. City Council President - Appointment - Council Member Wells nominated Council Member Peterson as City Council President. Nomination seconded by Council Member Shallah. All in favor. Nomination carried.

B. Neighborhood Revitalization Request - 323 S Chestnut-

Brendon Crain of Crain Holdings was present to request an extension on his participation in the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The Plan allows the Council to extend its time up to 180 days.

Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Grundy to allow the extension for Crain Holdings for the property at 323 S Chestnut up to 180 days from the date of the permit application on August 25, 2025. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Dangerous/Unsafe Structure Removal - Set Public Hearings

- 1. 302 S Kentucky Street** - Motion made by Council Member Wells and seconded by Council Member Peterson to approve Resolution 2026-01 for 302 S Kentucky, setting a public hearing on March 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501 of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 2. 415 N Elm Street** - Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Wells to approve Resolution 2026-02 for 415 N Elm setting a public hearing on March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501 of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 3. 506 E Lincoln Street** - Motion made by Council Member Ivy and seconded by Council Member Kerr to approve Resolution 2026-03 for 506 E Lincoln setting a public hearing on March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501 of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 4. 626 N Colborn Street** - Motion made by Council Member Peters and seconded by Council Member Shallah to approve Resolution 2026-04 for 626 B Colborn Street setting a public hearing on March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501 of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. City of Iola West Industrial Park - Final Plat Approval- Code

Enforcement Officer Hutton noted that the Planning Commission reviewed the plan and voted unanimously in favor of the final plat of this property.

Motion made by Council Member Lohman and seconded by Council Member Wells to approve the final plat of the property, located on the west side of Marshmallow Lane in the 1900 Block. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A.U.S. 54 Highway Waterline Project - Update - Assistant Administrator Schinstock informed the Council that the water portion of the project should be starting soon. The project runs from West of McDonald's to Ohio Street. Administrator Schinstock intends to keep the public involved with the project. Providing project updates on Facebook as well as communication as much as possible.

Council Member Lohman asked if there would be an interruption of water service to the neighboring businesses and houses. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that there would be minimal interruption of water service. The main will be constructed and then

each tap will be completed prior to hooking into the individual service. This should not create more than a minimum disruption in water flow to the business or home.

Council Member Shallah asked if the project will help with some of the flooding issues along the route. Administrator Schinstok stated that new stormwater systems will be installed with the street project and this would take care of some of the excess water that stands on the roadway during heavy rains today.

Mayor French noted that some of the businesses have changed hands since the prior public meeting was held. It would be beneficial for staff to reach out to those businesses and review the project with them. Assuring all those involved that a detour would not be required for the project. The only interruption will be parking. While the South side of the street is being constructed individuals will have to find parking across the street and/or on the side streets adjacent to the businesses.

Council Member Lohman stated that as a member of the Allen County Historical Society Board they were offering their parking lot adjacent to the Historical Society building on the west side of the square as a parking option if the city will assume liability for those using it. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that while the city appreciated the offer the parking lot doesn't offer a separate entrance and exit. The city has several free parking areas close to the downtown area for use.

B. Transient Vendor License - Discussions - Administrator Rehder stated that he had visited with Police Chief Warner about running the background checks on the applicants. Chief Warner stated that in order to do a background check on the applicants a check should be done through the KBI. The cost of each of the background checks is \$30.00. Currently we are charging only \$10.00 per application for the fee. Staff is recommending increasing the fee to \$30.00 to cover the cost of at least one background check per application.

Council Member Shallah stated that she had understood the new ordinance meant that if an individual paid taxes on their food truck within Allen County they were only charged the \$10.00 application fee.

Mayor French stated that the committee felt that in order to be charged the within city limit \$10.00 fee the individual had to actually reside within the city limits of Iola.

Kaylinn Kennedy, Blacksheep Donuts lives at 1418 W Virginia Road. She stated that she tags her vehicle in Allen County, buys her supplies and fuel from Iola. She feels she should be considered an Iola Resident for the application fee. She has also been told that the Farmer's Market doesn't fall under Section 5-111 Exceptions. The Council discussed whether to consider the Farmer's Market as an exemption and determined that it should be.

Council Member Wells noted that his opinion was that a vendor had to reside within the City limits of Iola to benefit from the reduced price due to the fact that they pay city taxes like Brick and Mortar businesses do.

Council Member Ivy noted that if the individual has an Iola address on their ID they should be considered for the reduced rate.

Council Member Lohman stated that they should live within the city limits.

Council Member Wells stated that they should live within the city limits

Council Member Grundy stated that they should live within the city limits.

Council Member Shallah stated that she was not going to comment since she was abstaining from the vote. She later stated that an individual that pays property taxes on the vehicle within Iola should benefit from the reduced rate.

Council Member Peterson stated they should live within the Iola Zip Code.

Council Member Kerr stated that they should live within the city limits, however the Council could make an exception if the individual wanted to come to them and ask for it.

Council Member Peters stated that they should live within the city limits.

Mayor French stated that they should live within the city limits.

Administrator Rehder noted that the consensus was that the individual should live within the city limits to be considered an Iola resident and benefit from the reduced application fee.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Ivy—Council Member Ivy stated that he is excited to be a part of the Council. He noted that he is opinionated.

B. Council Member Lohman—Council Member Lohman reminded everyone that following a snow an individual has 24 hours to remove snow from their sidewalks..

C. Council Member Grundy—Council Member Grundy commented on the beautiful Christmas lights the city had out for the holiday.

D. Council Member Peterson—Council Member Peterson had nothing to report.

E. Council Member Shallah—Council Member Shallah welcomed the new members to the council

F. Council Member Peters—Council Member Peters was happy to return to the Council.

G. Council Member Wells—Council Member Wells reminded everyone that next week students will be returning to ACC campus.

H. Council Member Kerr—Council Member Kerr is excited to be a part of the Council. He wants to connect the city with the community through communication.

I. Mayor French - Mayor French welcomed all of the new members of the Council. He wanted to be transparent about Council Member Ivy being his nephew.

J. Administrator Rehder—Administrator Rehder stated that the landbank is up and running.

Administrator Rehder welcomed the new Council Members.

He noted that he and Assistant Administrator Schinstock had given Council members Kerr and Ivy a tour of city properties in Iola.

Administrator Rehder noted that when bids are received on the street project costs will be easier to manage and make bond decisions on. He noted that Dave Arteberry will be at the January 26 meeting to discuss financial options with the council.

Administrator Rehder noted that Peerless had not met their hiring mark this last quarter and therefore the city has withheld their tax refund money.

K. Assistant Administrator Schinstock—Assistant Administrator Schinstock reminded the new Council members that he will have their new email addresses set up this week.

L. City Clerk Hutton—City Clerk Hutton, had nothing to report.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026

City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026

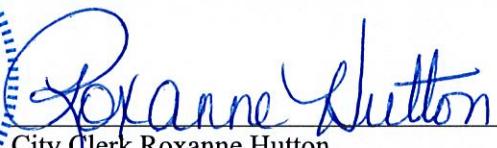
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7:27 p.m. Council Member Wells made a motion, seconded by Council Member Shallah, to adjourn the meeting.

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on January 26, 2026.

Mayor Steve French



City Clerk Roxanne Hutton

