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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on February 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Mayor Wells, Council Members Ballard, Peters, French, Myrick, Ford, Kinder, Slaugh, and Peterson were present. Also present was Interim City Administrator Schinstock and City Clerk Hutton.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve the agenda as posted. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Persons who wish to address the City Council regarding items on the agenda may do so as that agenda item is called. Persons who wish to address the City Council regarding items not on the agenda and under the jurisdiction of the City Council may do so when called upon by the Council President. Comments on personnel matters and matters pending in court or with other outside tribunals are not permitted. Speakers are limited to three minutes. Any presentation is for information purposes only. No action will be taken.

Angela Henry, Director of Safe Base, spoke to the Council about past support from the City of Iola for Safebase. Safe base will be submitting a new grant application and would like the City of Iola's help again.

Ms. Henry noted that the \$5,000 per year the City of Iola has given to Safebase was used for supplies the previous five years.

Mayor Wells asked Ms. Henry to appear at the February 22nd Council Meeting to request support from the Council as an agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval

- **February 8, 2021, Council Meeting**

B. Appropriations Approval

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Myrick. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. 2020 Economic Development Year in Review- Johnathon Goering, Economic Development Director at Thrive Allen County, gave an overview of the projects that were done in 2020.

Peerless came to Iola and has hired 20 employees.

Gates needs 50 people.

Russell Stovers added 150 employees and five managers with the closing of the Montrose plant.

Green Cover Seed opened in Iola.

Started a new committee to address affordable housing needs in the county.

Council Member Slaugh asked Mr. Goering if Russell Stover had individuals new to the area to fill their open positions.

Mr. Goering noted that in the management positions, some of those individuals came from the Montrose plant.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Goering for his report and diligent work throughout the year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Downtown/State Street Winter Decorations- The current decorations are starting to show quite a bit of wear. Staff is finding it difficult to replace the glass bulbs when they break. The current decorations are bulky and misshapen from years of handling.

The staff has researched new decorations. Temple Display, LTD is offering a 33% discount through the end of February.

The product that Temple Displays offers are LED bulbs, which not only last longer but are less likely to break. They will be lighter and look much better than the current ones.

Staff is proposing to pay for the decorations from the sales tax fund.

Council Member Myrick asked about the old decorations and what will be done with them.

Interim Administrator Schinstock stated that his choice would be to offer them to a small community in the area or sell them on Gavel Roads or a similar site.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to approve the new Winter Decorations from Temple Display, LTD for \$29,058.57, with the funds coming from the Sales Tax Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. EMC Insurance Renewal - Debbie Taiclet, Iola Insurance Associate, briefed the Council on the EMC Insurance policy for the 2021-2022 period.

Ms. Taiclet noted that EMC has had an underwriter handle the malpractice insurance for the Fire/EMS Department. EMC is now covering it under the City's full plan. EMC will now bundle it with the City's liability insurance, making the policy cheaper than in past years.

Ms. Taiclet also noted that the city had received substantial dividend checks for the last several years, stating that the amount received for 2020 was \$82,537.93.

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Slaugh to approve the renewal of the EMC policy for \$485,381 for the policy period April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022 billed in two installments. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. FMS North America Inc - Request - Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that Shane Lamb of FMS North America Inc. is requesting a new and upgraded service at 17 East Portland.

Mr. Lamb stated that he is planning on running an Industrial Tire and Rubber Recycling facility.

He is requesting some assistance from the City of Iola regarding the charges for installing the transformers and upgrades of the electric service necessary for the facility.

Interim Administrator Schinstock stated that the transformer's cost is \$18,480 because it is a 750KV pad mount unit.

Council Member Slaugh noted that the Council Members had tasked him with researching other cities within the area regarding what incentives they give to incoming businesses.

Council Member Slaugh noted that of the ones he spoke with, none of them give electric incentives. He would like to see the city develop a formula for providing incentives to businesses much like the State of Kansas does.

Council Member Peterson asked how many employees Mr. Lamb intends to hire. He noted between 20 and 50.

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Mayor Wells noted that the facility would consume a large amount of energy, which will increase Iola's revenue.

Council Member Ballard stated that the Council should treat this request as they made the Sigg Brothers request at the last meeting. Waive the transformer's cost and the labor and equipment use and only charge for the actual supplies used.

Council Member Slaugh cautioned that if the City continues to give the electric incentives if we start getting requests for water and sewer incentives, this could cost the city more than they can recoup from the additional utility usage.

Council Member Slaugh noted that the city did approximately \$318,000 of upgrades for a plant expansion at Gates a few years back, and then the development did not happen.

Council Member French stated that the City of Chanute gave \$1 million in incentives to lure a production plant to their City. The City of Iola needs to be competitive for economic development.

Council Member Myrick asked Mr. Lamb if he had looked into the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Mr. Lamb stated that he didn't think that the program fit his needs for this particular facility.

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member French to waive the transformers' cost and the labor and equipment costs for the project with Mr. Lamb paying for all materials. Voting in favor of the motion was Council Members Ballard, Peterson, French, Peters and Myrick, and Kinder. Voting against the motion were Council Members Ford and Slaugh. Motion passed by a majority vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Peterson to recess into Executive Session for 10 minutes pursuant to contract negotiations, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3). The purpose of the executive session is to prepare for future contractual discussions and shall include the Mayor, Council, Interim Administrator Shinstock, and Fire Chief Waggoner. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 7:03 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Stay warm. Check on your neighbors.

B. Council Member Ford–

- Check on your neighbors and watch for children playing where it is slick.

C. Council Member French –

- Wondered if Code staff could help find homes for the Weatherization Grant through THRIVE to help individuals make changes to their homes to save energy.

D. Council Member Peterson–

- None

E. Council Member Ballard

- Inquired about the stormwater runoff at the new elementary school with the lead cleanup around the physician's office. According to the engineers' study, Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that the water should not drain to that area.

F. Council Member Slauch–

- None

G. Council Member Myrick–

- Noted he had missed the last couple of meetings due to announcing at High School Basketball games.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- None

I. Mayor Wells

- Be safe.

J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock–

- Updated the Council on the EV Charging Station. The cost is much higher than staff anticipated, and with that knowledge, the City will step back and look into the option at a later date.
- We are waiting to hear back from KDWP&T on the MOPAC trail grant. I will have a zoom meeting with them next week.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021

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7:12p.m. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peterson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

It is approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas, this 22nd day of February 2021.



Jonathan P. Wells

Mayor Wells

Roxanne Hutton

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton