

A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on May 09, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the 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 Peterson, Peters, D'Albini, Slaugh, Kinder, Shallah, Wicoff, and Lohman were present. Also present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Shallah and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to approve the agenda as presented. 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 want 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 Mayor. 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.

None were heard

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **April 25, 2022, Council Meeting**
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. Relay For Life - Request**

Council Member Slauch made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member D'Albini. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Chip Seal Project - Bid Award - Street and Alley Superintendent Jason Ellis stated that he sent out bids to the two vendors that service this part of the United States for the type of product the City uses for the Chip Seal project.

Mr. Ellis noted that the town is divided into five sections. This year the section that will be chip sealed is approximately 130 blocks. The area will cover the Riverside Park, Highland Cemetery, Oregon Road, Bassett, Montana Road, and the Water and Power Plant.

Council Member Kinder asked Mr. Ellis if the department had seen shortages of rock. Mr. Ellis stated that with the City sweeping the rock after the chip seal project and cleaning that rock for future use, and purchasing rock when the price was lower, the city has not run into any shortages or higher costs.

Motion made by Council Member Kinder and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the purchase of approximately 46,000 gallons of RS-1P Emulsion Oil from Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions out of Kansas City. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUND TABLE

A. Gas Department Overview & Rate Discussion- Gas Department Superintendent Mitch Phillips gave a brief overview of the department, noting that the department has a five-person crew that monitors odorization, calibration, five border stations, and six odorant tanks as marking all utility locates during the year.

As well as the day-to-day maintenance, the department also replaces a minimum of 1000 feet of the 53 miles of main throughout the town.

The Department is monitored by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). The KCC is responsible for carrying out the federal regulations for all municipal gas suppliers.

Council Member Slauch asked Mr. Phillips why they replace 1,000 feet of the line every year. Mr. Phillips noted that when the Department developed the O&E manual, the minimum KCC would allow the City to replace the bare steel main each year; most years, the department replaces approximately 2,000 feet.

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Council Member Slaugh asked Mr. Phillips what type of pipe was used to replace the bare steel main. Mr. Phillips noted that they are using a high-density poly that seems to work very well and makes the job of laying line move along at a faster pace. The average replaced diameter is 2" with some crossings up to a 6" line.

Council Member Slaugh asked about the odorant used in the odorant tanks. Mr. Phillips noted that the city has a company specializing in filling odorant tanks. The crew inspects and keeps the tanks in good shape throughout the month.

Council Member Shallah noted that she had recently toured with Mr. Phillips and was impressed by how his department is run and the knowledge he and his crew have about the gas lines.

Administrator Rehder stated that while the gas fund can take care of the routine maintenance necessary for the KCC regulations, transfers to other funds from the Gas Fund are not financially stable. Mr. Rehder noted that the budgeted transfer to the general fund for 2021 was only funded at 25% of the budgeted amount due to decreased funding within the Gas Fund.

Council Member Peterson noted that while she always feels wrong about increasing rates on the customers, it is necessary to continue to fund the department and the transfers essential to run the other departments.

Council Member Slaugh noted that he saw a need for rate increases starting in 2016, and the fund has just slowly decreased each year. We are in the current situation that we were in the past with the water fund. It comes to a point where we have to make the increases to pay the bills and keep the infrastructure in good shape.

Council Member Slaugh noted that Scott Shreve with Priority Power had done an excellent job for the city. Last February, when the Polar Vortex hit, Scott was able to pull from our reserves so that we didn't have to purchase the high-priced gas that was on the market.

Council Member Wicoff wondered how long it would take after this rate increase before a healthy fund balance is seen. Administrator Rehder replied that a good full year should show a difference, and the fund will be healthy again.

The Council Members' consensus was to bring back an Ordinance showing the price increases discussed at the next meeting.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters reminded everyone with school getting out and summer activities picking up; kids will be out riding bicycles. He cautioned everyone to be alert and watch for them.

B. Council Member Lohman–

- Council Member Lohman asked about allowing bikes in the skatepark. Administrator Rehder stated that the individual who requested this be an agenda item had been sent an agenda request form and had not returned it. If the council wishes, it can be put on the agenda at a future meeting.

C. Council Member D’Albini–

- Council Member D’Albini reminded everyone that the college would be out for the summer months.
- Council Member D’Albini noted that the Farmer’s Market had begun again for the Summer and reminded everyone to come out and enjoy the market.
- Council Member D’Albini stated that the IT Position had been removed from the website. Does that mean the position has been filled? Administrator Rehder said that a highly qualified individual had supplied the position, and he should be starting next week.

D. Council Member Peterson–

- Council Member Peterson had nothing to report.

E. Council Member Wicoff-

- Council Member Wicoff had nothing to report.

F. Council Member Slaugh–

- Council Member Slaugh had nothing to report.

G. Council Member Shallah –

- Council Member Shallah stated that she had recently toured the Gas, Water, and Wastewater Departments, Water Plant, and the Electric Plant and was very impressed by the city's employees. They were knowledgeable as well as welcoming.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder asked if the businesses had been asked to support free days at the pool. Administrator Rehder noted that several had already sent in their donations to allow free swimming for the first 100 swimmers each day.

I. Mayor French

- Mayor French had nothing to report.

J. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder had nothing to report.

K. Assistant Administrator Schinstock

- Assistant Administrator Schinstock requested that the Council Members sign up on the Budget meeting list for staff to take time with one or two Council Members to review the budget for 2023.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2022

6:44 **p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 23rd day of May 2022.





Mayor Steven French



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton