

CITY OF IOLA

Page 1

05/10/2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on May 10, 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 Peters, French, Ford, Myrick, Slaugh, Peterson, Kinder, and Ballard were present. Also present were Administrator Matt Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peterson 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.

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval

- **April 26, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Chip Seal Project - Oil Bid Award - Assistant City Administrator Schinstock informed the Council that staff had solicited bids for emulsion oil for the annual Chip and Seal Maintenance Program.

Two bids were received from the two companies in the area.

Council Member Myrick asked if there was enough budgeted to cover this item.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that this year with the Street & Alley crew screening the rock from previous projects, the amount budgeted for the project would cover this year's expenses.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the purchase of approximately 44,000 gallons of RS-1P Emulsion Oil from Vance Brothers, Inc., All in favor. Motion carried.

B. CDBG-CV3 - Lisse Regehr, Thrive Director told the Council that this is the third round of Covid Virus funding for local businesses. The business can not have received prior assistance from the Covid Virus grant.

Ms. Regehr noted that two businesses are currently on a waiting list to qualify for this third round of funding. This round will assist home-based businesses as well.

Mayor Wells stated that THRIVE would only receive the \$7,500 for the administration of the grant if the grant was awarded.

Council Member Ballard stated that companies with a more significant number of employees could receive most of the funding leaving others with nothing.

Ms. Regehr noted that she would advise the Council to cap the amount of funding for each business as per the same guidelines that Allen County followed with their Grant Funding.

Council Member French stated he had some concerns with the money that isn't given out going back to the State of Kansas.

Ms. Regehr stated that Thrive would use word of mouth, handing out flyers to local businesses and the newspaper and radio to reach as many as possible.

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve Thrive Allen County to write the CDBG-CV3 grant application and to provide

Administration of the grant for \$7,500 from the Industrial Fund for Businesses in Iola that was impacted by COVID 19. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Myrick to set a public hearing for the CDBG-CV3 grant application process on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Park Community Building. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Cedarbrook Green Space Discussions - Thrive Allen County - Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that after the discussion at the March 22, 2021, Council Meeting staff discussed the plans with Park Superintendent Berkley Kerr and Police Chief Warner.

Council Member Myrick asked Mr. Kerr how much mowing this would add to his current load.

Mr. Kerr stated that currently, the property is very wet as well as overgrown. His staff will not have time until late fall to clean up the property.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that the plans are not set in stone. Staff can start with the walking trail and the fishing pond relatively inexpensively and go from there if grant funds are available.

Council Member French stated that housing shortage is a concern in the area. Making improvements like this will draw builders to the site.

Council Member Ballard stated that he thinks it will be an expensive project and could involve hiring another employee to maintain the area.

Council Member Slaugh noted that he liked the idea. Starting the project modestly will determine if there is the usage of the area and allow time to develop even further. He noted that the clean-up of the sight will more than likely be done in the colder months, volunteers may be willing to help.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh to move forward with the project, authorizing staff to obtain a legal survey of the property, motion seconded by Council Member Kinder. Voting in favor of the motion was Council Members Slaugh, Kinder, Myrick, Peters, Ford, French, and Peterson. Voting against the motion was Council Member Ballard. Motion passed by a majority vote.

ROUNDTABLE

A. EMS Service Discussions - Administrator Rehder gave an update on the Council. He noted that Allen County Commissioners gave written notice on May 5 not to extend our current contract.

Mayor Wells informed the Council that the discussion this evening will not be about numbers but if the Council wants to send in a proposal. Mayor Wells stated that he is disappointed in the County.

He told all of the Fire/EMS employees that they had done an excellent job. They have saved the taxpayer's money. He understands that they have some insecurities about their future employment.

Council Member Myrick noted that he has personally used the EMS service. They were professional and did a great job.

Council Member Myrick went on to say that he is upset with the County; he doesn't feel they can get an outside company that would provide as good service at the price they are paying. He wondered if the County was using the fire that happened a couple of weeks ago over the City's head regarding this EMS negotiation.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he thinks we can turn this into a good thing for the city. With the City of Iola using firefighters as EMTs and paramedics, the two services can be covered with less cost to the taxpayers.

Council Member Ballard noted that he thinks the Council needs to give direction to the employees to know that the City is not abandoning them.

Council Member Ballard stated that he understood the County looking for bids to get the best price for the service. With that being said, he thinks the City should put in an offer.

Council Member French said the reality is that there is not a new contract. The City should be prepared for all aspects of the RFP.

Administrator Rehder stated staff would have a draft proposal at the next meeting for Council to discuss amounts during executive session under trade secrets.

Corey Isbell, representing the Iola Fire/EMS Department, spoke on behalf of the employees, stating that he has been in his position for almost 20 years. He asked for the Council's consideration to continue the service either with the County or with the City only.

CITY OF IOLA

Page 5

05/10/2021

Mr. Isbell relayed that many of the Department's employees have moved here and are vested in the community.

Donna Houser asked if this would make a difference in Iola Fire responding outside of Iola.

Mayor Wells said this contract does not affect mutual aid between the entities.

George Levans stated that the cheapest way is not always the most economical way. Mr. Levans said the Fire/EMS employees are great. He said to give them a raise. We can't afford to lose them.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that it is difficult to wait on the unknown. It will be time-consuming for the staff to prepare the RFP and the budget.

Council Member Peterson stated that the city should bid on the service.

Council Member French said that the city should bid; everything is in place to do the service. He requested that citizens need to speak up so that their voices are heard about the EMS.

Council Member Ford said the City should be prepared for all the scenarios and be transparent so that the taxpayers are well informed of the process.

Council Member Peters stated that the City should bid.

Mayor Wells reviewed the Council's wishes to move forward with the bid process and have a legal review of the current contract regarding the City running its service.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- I appreciated the electric crew working on Sunday.
- A citizen of the County is complaining about 1415 Montana Road not mowing frequently, causing rats and other critters to be a nuisance. Administrator Rehder will look into the matter.

B. Council Member Ford—

CITY OF IOLA

Page 6

05/10/2021

- Council Member Ford asked Mr. Schinstock why the trail expansion is being called the MOPAC trail instead of the Kitty Railroad trail. Mr. Schinstock noted that it connects to the MOPAC trail; therefore, it makes sense to continue with the same name.
- She congratulated all of the graduates, including the college and the high school.

C. Council Member French –

- None.

D. Council Member Peterson–

- None

E. Council Member Ballard

- None

F. Council Member Slauch–

- None

G. Council Member Myrick–

- None

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Thanked the Fire/EMS Staff for the work they do.
- Asked about the IT position. Staff noted they hadn't had time to look into it.

I. Mayor Wells

- Mayor Wells said a Council Member had approached him to address the firing/hiring process. He feels the Council has discussed it and decided, so there is no reason to discuss it. He asked how many members of the Council were interested in putting it on the agenda. With only two of the eight members, Mayor Wells said it did not need to be on the agenda.
- He asked about the pool opening and staffing it. Administrator Rehder stated the pool would open on Memorial Day. Staffing levels are adequate for the pool.

K. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder reported to the Council that the State Legislature did not reinstate the property tax lid.
- Budget preparations are being made.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 14, 2021

CITY OF IOLA

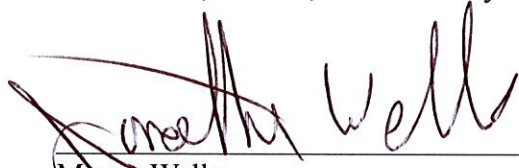
Page 7

05/10/2021

7:02 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

It is approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, this 24th day of May 2021.





Mayor Wells



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton