

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on May 23, 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, Shallah, and Lohman were present. Also present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent were Council Members Kinder and Wicoff.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member D’Albini and seconded by Council Member Peters 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.

Donna Houser reported to the Council that the Eleanor was completed at the Iola Cemetery. A plaque will be placed on the site to recognize the historic building. City Clerk Hutton noted that Jim Smith deserves the Council’s appreciation for volunteering his help on the project.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **May 9, 2022, Council Meeting**

- B. Appropriations Approval**

- C. Community Corrections & Juvenile Service Advisory Board -**

D. City Treasurer Appointment - Kathy Green

Mayor French inquired about the Appropriation for ACARF. He asked how many of the animals were picked up by the owner for the city to recoup some of the money spent on boarding. City Clerk Hutton noted that although she didn't know the actual percentage of the animals claimed, it was a large majority of those impounded.

Mayor French stated that many cats are roaming in his neighborhood. He wondered if there were any grants for a catch, spay, or neuter and release program.

Mayor French asked about the appropriation for mowing green space and wondered if there was something that the city could do with some of those properties to cut down on the expense of mowing the properties.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that the property is restricted from use since it was a flood buyout property. The city can use the land to grow native grasses, such as a butterfly or bee garden. There are restrictions from building on the property due to the FEMA buyout restrictions.

Council Member Peters noted that if native grasses are allowed, staff should specify species of grass that would be allowed so that individuals can grow it on their lawns.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that it would be designated for only specific green spaces, not for individual residents. The residents would have to keep their grass mowed below the allowed twelve inches.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Gas Rate Adjustment - Ordinance #3507 - On May 9, 2022, Council Meeting, the Council discussed the Gas Rate adjustment, and it determined that a rate increase was necessary.

Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to approve general ordinance 3507 setting a new rate structure for natural gas customers and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Skateboard Park - Discussion - Council Member Lohman had received a request from a resident to change the restriction on the skateboard park for bicycles.

Mayor French stated that Matt Skahan had contacted him about the chain on the gate that would not allow him to enter with his son, who uses a wheelchair.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the insurance would increase from \$380 to \$500 if the City were to remove the no bicycle signs and allow them access to the park.

Motion made by Council Member Lohman and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to remove the No Bicycle signs at the skateboard park and allow access to the park. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUND TABLE

A. U.S. 54 Highway Project Discussions - Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that the previous sales tax revenue designated for the hospital in the last years could be used to pay the bond payment for this project.

Mike Carroll from Burns & McDonnell reviewed the slide show presentation in the packet. He noted that the road's cores and analysis showed that the road needed complete depth removal and restoration were required.

Mr. Carroll stated that public engagement showed that citizens want the road to be safe for all users, including vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. It was also a priority among the citizens to ensure that shoppers' access was maintained to the businesses during construction and the widening of existing and additional sidewalks.

Mr. Carroll noted that the proposal would provide a three-lane section of roadway with a bike/pedestrian and parking within the current right of way.

Maggie Doll from Burns & McDonnell discussed the KDOT Cost Share for Local Projects. She noted that the applications are due in September and awarded in January 2023. Public support letters are essential, with individual personal letters having a more significant impact than several mass-produced letters. The grant requires a 20% local match, with a higher match given preference. KDOT will look favorably on projects progressing through design.

Council Member Lohman asked if there were federal funds that would qualify for this particular project. Ms. Doll noted that while there may be some federal funding for the bike and walking paths, those funds would require more steps with possible increased costs for design and construction costs.

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Council Member Peterson asked who would write the grant? Ms. Doll stated that it would be up to the City. Ms. Doll noted that the application for the KDOT Cost Share is pretty minimal and wouldn't require a grant writer to complete.

Mayor French noted that when the Council decided to do partial remediation of the project, it was determined that the road would last 4-6 years. That was two years ago. It needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Administrator Rehder stated that is why staff determined that after seeing the geological studies recommend a complete depth restoration.

Mr. Carroll gave a brief overview of the Progressive Design-build system that is being recommended and used on many projects. It is based on the designer and the contractor working collaboratively during the project to determine the most cost-effective and quickest delivery of the product.

Council Member D'Albini asked what the average cost savings were to go this route versus the more common design of the project and then construct it. Mr. Carroll noted that while cost is not the driver to going this route, teamwork creates flexibility and a progressive design.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the elementary school project was done through this system and seemed to have been beneficial to the project.

Council Member Slaugh asked what the time frame for the final design and what the price change in the last year has shown.

Mr. Carroll stated that the time frame to start construction on the project is about two years following the public interactions.

Council Member Slaugh voiced his concerns about funding the project. He wondered if it would be beneficial to the City to do sections paying for them as we go instead of all at one time.

Council Member Slaugh noted that he didn't want to get into the City's situation when the City constructed the water plant with no funding mechanism.

Council Member Peterson stated that she understood we would bond the project using collected sales tax money to pay the bond payments.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the city could pay the bond payment from the Sales tax fund. He has transferred funds from the Sales Tax Fund to the Special Street Fund over the last few years to begin engineering this project.

Council Member Shallah stated concerns about the downtown businesses suffering from the road not being accessible during the project.

Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that previous public engagements were held, and the business owners had the opportunity to discuss their concerns. Parking options will be made available for shoppers.

Administrator Rehder stated that he feels that the next step in the process would be to have Bond Counsel come to a council meeting and discuss the funding.

Council Member Shallah thinks it is time to address the issue and move forward with the project.

Mayor French agreed with Council Member Shallah.

Administrator Rehder would like to skip the RFP for the project's design since Burns and McDonnell are invested in the task following all of their work to date.

Motion made by Council Member Shallah and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to have staff move forward with the project using Burns and McDonnell as the consulting firm. Council Voting against the motion was Council Member Slauch. Motion passed by majority vote.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters had nothing to report.

B. Council Member Lohman—

- Council Member Lohman had nothing to report.

C. Council Member D'Albini—

- Council Member D'Albini congratulated the employees listed receiving service awards.

D. Council Member Peterson—

- Council Member Peterson thanked the crews for repairing Washington Street.

E. Council Member Wicoff-

- Council Member Wicoff was absent.

F. Council Member Slaugh–

- Council Member Slaugh had nothing to report.

G. Council Member Shallah –

- Council Member Shallah thanked Council Member Slaugh for his insight on the road project.
- Council Member Shallah asked about the bike rodeo that used to take place during spring break; This event taught children bicycle safety and road rules. After almost witnessing an accident with children darting into traffic on their bicycles. She is going to visit with Chief Warner about bringing this event back.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder was absent.

I. Mayor French

- Mayor French complemented the crews from different departments working together to repair Washington Street.
- Mayor French informed the Council that he had received a thank you letter from the Ford's about changing the rules for girls to play t-ball at the same age as the boys. Her granddaughter is playing and enjoying it.

J. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder reported that City of Iola employee Ryan Latta is on the coaching staff for the Iola Mustang Baseball team. He congratulated their success this year.
- Administrator Rehder also acknowledged the members of the Mustang Track Team that have qualified for the State Track Meet.

K. Assistant Administrator Schinstock

- Assistant Administrator Schinstock had nothing to report.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2022

7:45 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 13th day of June 2022.

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Mayor Steven French



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton