

CITY OF IOLA

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06/26/2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on June 26, 2023, 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 and Council Members Shallah, Peterson, D'Albini, Peters, Slaugh, Wicoff, Kinder, 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 Peterson, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to approve the agenda adding as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Persons wishing to address the City Council regarding items on the agenda may do so as they are called. Persons wishing to address the City Council regarding items not 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 noted that the Council can be heard when they speak into their microphone. Mrs. Houser mentioned that the Pool is great and the lifeguards are doing a great job. Mrs. Houser noted that the mural on the side of the Chamber building looks awesome. Max Grundy and his family are making it look great.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **June 12, 2023, Special Called Council Meeting**
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. Board Appointment - Convention and Tourism**
- D. Swim Meet - Vendor Approval**
- E. Fire Engine CDBG Grant - Resolution 2023-17**

Council Member D'Albini asked if the City had already approved the items mentioned in item E and if this was just an update to make citizens aware of their rights. City Clerk

Hutton stated that, yes, the City had adopted the items, and as part of the CDBG grant, the items would be made available to the public.

Council Member Slaugh motioned to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Council Member Lohman. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Convention & Tourism Fund Disbursements - City Clerk Hutton presented the Convention and Tourism Committee recommendations for the current year's distribution.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Lohman to approve the distribution of funds as recommended by the Convention and Tourism Committee. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Sanitation Rate Adjustment - Ordinance #3516 - Administrator Rehder noted that at the previous council meeting, the Council Members stated that they would prefer an increase in the sanitation charges would be a better choice over a larger mill levy increase.

The \$3.00 increase would make the rate \$15.00 for each residential customer within city limits. Not having a mill increase at all would require a \$6.00 increase in the sanitation rates.

Council Member Slaugh noted that he would prefer a no-mill rate increase, increase the sanitation rate by \$3.00, and then cut the budget to make up the remainder of the needed funding to support the budget.

Administrator Rehder stated that five mills would bring in \$162,000 for the General Fund. With a 1.3 mill increase, 87% of the homes in Iola would have less of a monthly increase than with the sanitation monthly increase.

Council Member Slaugh stated that it is common practice for utility fund transfers to subsidize the general fund to keep the mill levy lower.

Administrator Rehder noted that is true; however, after transferring utility revenue over and over, those funds will eventually need rate increases to support the transfers.

Administrator Rehder noted that staff feels the increased property evaluation will only continue at a small amount this year. The funding will have to come from either mill levy increases of a larger amount or large increases within the utility funds.

Council Member Slaugh stated that the Fire Department transfers to Equipment Reserve can be cut as they have in years past due to the ability of that department to obtain grants to purchase equipment. Administrator Rehder stated that doesn't always happen when the equipment is needed, and there is also a larger pool of those applying for the grants.

Administrator Rehder noted that the ladder truck would need to be replaced sooner than later. There are currently no funds set aside to replace the truck or even to have matching funds for a grant if awarded.

Council Member Kinder noted that a mill levy only affects property owners, while a sanitation rate increase affects all residents.

Council Member Wicoff noted that he is against raising the mill levy. He understands raising rates to cover the sanitation fund expenses, including transfers. The rates are also less than the average of cities around us.

Council Member Lohman stated that he could see both sides, especially since a rate increase would cost more to residents than a mill increase. However, a \$6.00 increase in the sanitation fund would still be lower than those around us. It was noted that the city also provides a twice-a-year city-wide clean-up, twice-a-week solid waste pickup, and a reserve truck for free.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Wicoff to approve Ordinance #3516 setting a new residential solid waste collection fee and authorizing the necessary signatures. Council Members Slaugh, Wicoff, Lohman, and Peters voted in favor of the motion. Voting against the motion were Kinder, D'albini, Peterson, and Shallah. The motion failed for lack of a majority vote.

C. Water Infrastructure Mapping Project - Assistant Administrator Schinstock presented the Council with a proposal from the current survey and mapping company that the city uses for infrastructure mapping. He noted that when the GIS Company updated the mapping, the existing CAD drawings were converted into the new GIS system. Since the conversion, it has become apparent that the water mapping, in particular, could be more accurate and should be improved.

Gas, Water, and Wastewater Superintendent Mitch Phillips stated that some lines are far from the existing water lines.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to accept the proposal from Survey and Mapping, LLC (SAM) to provide water and GIS mapping improvements for an amount not to exceed \$33,840.00 and approve staff to sign the necessary documents. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUND TABLE

A. 2024 Budget Presentations

Electric Generation - Mike Phillips

Electric Distribution - Jim Baker

Water Production & Wastewater Treatment - Toby Ross

Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection & Gas Distribution - Mitch Phillips

Recreation - Jason Bauer

Discussion during the budget: Mike Phillips noted that there was little change within his 2024 budget from the previous budget. He said that the current projects his staff is working on would help the city be prepared to generate from a cold start and generate during the full year instead of just during the summer.

Jim Baker stated that his budget also remained relatively the same. His staff is currently replacing older poles when the needed products are available. He noted that getting supplies and equipment is more difficult and requires a longer time frame.

Toby Ross stated that projects are being reviewed and scheduled for when the water bond will be paid off. Projects have been put on hold due to the lack of funding and will have to be done soon to maintain the current equipment. With the water plant nearing an age of 25 years, it does require more maintenance as well as replacement of parts that have become obsolete. Mr. Ross stated that KDHE has yet to give any direction regarding the current lagoon system and the requirements in the future. Currently, the attention is on removing more ammonia before releasing back into the river.

Mitch Phillips noted that while he has been able to put off equipment purchases for a few years, this does also create more vehicle maintenance expense than in prior years. He noted that the city currently has a certain budgeted amount for Gas Steel Main replacement. A project is done to make these replacements every year. Mitch Phillips also noted that with the requirements to determine and locate all lead and copper pipes within the water service area, he is currently looking into a boring tool that will make this job easier and create less damage to the site.

Jason Bauer stated that his department is funded by utility transfers, which only allows a little extra spending money to make necessary repairs. The soccer fields need new sod and a watering plan to make them more user-friendly.

Council asked staff to bring back some choices on mill increases and rate increases to make utility transfers in lieu or conjunction with a mil increase.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters reported that Code Enforcement Officer Hutton had told him about the East Carpenter building. The building is tied up in bankruptcy, and the owners were contacted about the current condition of the building. He appreciates the follow-up from Code Officer Hutton.
- With the State Park coming soon, the city should consider putting a bike lane on South Washington, giving individuals an easy route to downtown Iola. Bringing these individuals into town will generate more revenue for the city.

B. Council Member Lohman--

- Council Member Lohman reminded pet owners to clean up after their animals. Others should not have to deal with dog and cat waste in public areas. Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that signs and waste bags for pets are in the cemetery in hopes that this will cut down on some of the problems.

C. Council Member D'Albini--

- Council Member D'Albini had nothing to report.

D. Council Member Peterson--

- Council Member Peterson congratulated the long-term employees on the anniversary list. We appreciate those employees who have made their careers in the city.

E. Council Member Wicoff-

- Council Member Wicoff had nothing to report.

F. Council Member Slaugh--

- Council Member Slaugh asked Administrator Rehder if he had heard back on the grant for electric charging stations. He noted that more applications were received than expected, which is taking longer. Council Member Slaugh said he would like to see the item back on the agenda.

G. Council Member Shallah --

- Council Member Shallah congratulated the employees on their longevity.
- Council member Shallah congratulated Gary Kimball on his retirement. Giving that many years of service to the fire department is commendable.

- Council Member Shallah wanted to show appreciation for Police Officers Ford and Reeves. They removed a dog from a garage that belonged to an elderly client of hers.
- Council Member Shallah stated that Council Member Peterson, Max and Candace Grundy, and herself have met about the city flag. They believe they have four options that they will bring to a future meeting.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder had nothing to report.

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 reminded the Council that a retirement reception would be held at the Iola Fire Department on Friday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

L. City Clerk Hutton

- City Clerk Hutton had nothing to report.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023, North Community Building

7:46 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Shallah 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 10th day of July 2023.





Mayor Steven French



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton