

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on July 10, 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, and Kinder, were present. Also present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Council Member Lohman was present via Zoom.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh, seconded by Council Member Kinder, to approve the agenda 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.

John Booth stated that he had purchased the property previously owned by Rick Michael in the Cedarbrook Addition. He wondered if the City would be willing to pay ½ for a fence to separate the property line.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **June 26, 2023,**
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. Board Appointment - Iola Housing Authority Board**
- D. ACARF Second Chance Request**
- E. Allen County Fair Beer Garden - Resolution**

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Riverside Park Lift Station Project - Bid Acceptance - Gas/Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mitch Phillips informed the Council that four bids were received for the project. Mr. Phillips noted that an Environmental & Process Systems representative came to Iola and looked at the lift station to determine the necessary work.

Motion made by Council Member D'Albini and seconded by Council Member Peterson to accept the low bid from Environmental & Process Systems Inc. from Lenexa, Kansas, in the amount of \$89,7701 for the Riverside Park Entrance Lift Station Replacement Project. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Dangerous / Unsafe Structure Removal - Bid Acceptance - Code Enforcement Officer Gregg Hutton informed the Council that he solicited bids for demolishing the dangerous and unsafe properties that the city council had voted on at a previous meeting.

One bid was received from Ray's Metal Depot for \$11,150 for all four properties.

Motion made by Council Member Kinder and seconded by Council Member Slaugh to approve the bids submitted by Ray's Metal Depot for a total project cost of \$11,150 and proceed to demolish the structures and clear the properties based on Section 8-501 of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUND TABLE

A. Allen County Recycling Update - Janie Works- Ms. Works informed the Council that the group has been running on all volunteers, and they are at the point where they just can not continue to keep up.

Ms. Works noted that 24 totes are dropped off at businesses, and the full ones are picked up each day of the week. The committee requests that Allen County and the City of Iola commit one employee every five days a week for four hours per day to pick this cardboard up and drop off a new tote and then bale the cardboard picked up for a ninety-day trial period.

Council Member Kinder stated that currently, volunteers are completing the tasks. If City and or County employees take over the jobs, there will need to be a cost associated with it. Will the businesses be willing to pay for the service?

Lohman stated that no one is against recycling. It would be great to have it as an option for individuals. It would be great to have it as an option for individuals. It will take money, which must be found in the budget.

Council Member Shallah wondered about using jail inmates to do the necessary tasks. She asked if the other cities in Allen County were asked to participate in the efforts.

Ms. Works stated that Humboldt has their own program where volunteers pick up weekly totes from businesses and then haul the cardboard to B&W. B&W has a baler that they use to bundle the cardboard.

Council Member Shallah asked about the money the group has raised to date. Ms. Works stated that the group had raised about \$15,000. They use funds to make repairs to equipment and purchase equipment as needed.

Ms. Works noted that the group had sold cardboard in June of this year due to the falling prices.

Council Member Peterson asked if any businesses participating in the recycling of cardboard program are paying for participating. Ms. Works stated that no one had paid anything for the service. She noted that it has cut down on the business trash pickup.

Ms. Works said that group members wondered if the City of Iola could go to trash pickup on one day and recycling on a second day.

Council Members noted that to follow that cycle; a separate truck would need to be used for the recycling materials so as not to contaminate them with garbage picked up previously.

B. 2024 Budget Discussions - Administrator Rehder presented the Council with three scenarios for the General Fund Budget.

Council Member Peters asked if the \$290,000 shortfall is in the General Fund and why we are looking to increase sanitation to cover the shortfall.

Administrator Rehder stated that the Council told staff that they would rather see an increase in solid waste rates and transfer funds to the General Fund instead of a larger increase in the mill levy.

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Mayor French asked the Council what they thought of these scenarios. It would be cheaper to have a mill increase than a sanitation increase for the average homeowner.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he would rather see a reduction in the expenses for the budget and not do a mill levy increase at all. Council Member Slaugh noted that the Fire Department Structure could be cut out of the budget, equipment reserve transfers for fire trucks could be cut, and grants could be sought for them; he did not want to see an increase in the Economic Development Expenditures which would prevent a mill levy increase in the Industrial Fund. He also stated that a 1 million dollar slush fund wasn't necessary.

Administrator Rehder stated that staff does not just randomly spend funds. The Budget expenditures have been cut as much as possible without cutting actual services. He also noted that the Fire Department building had been split in two years for these scenarios, and the Industrial Fund does not include a mill levy increase. The mill levy increase is only for the General Fund.

He stated that if Council wanted to cut services, they needed to tell him exactly which services to cut.

Council Member Shallah appreciated the staff's work in bringing back these options. It gives the Council a clear picture of what could be chosen.

Council Member Slaugh stated that the Water Fund needs a rate increase if it can not transfer to General Fund. He noted that the enterprise funds had supported the general fund to keep the mill levy lower.

Administrator Rehder stated that while the current water rate does not support the transfers, it currently pays the bond payment. The bond payment will be paid off in 2025, and then the Water Fund will be able to support transfers and tackle some of the capital improvement projects that need to be done.

Mayor French stated that having two increases in rates to avoid a mill levy increase sounds like it would hurt individuals harder.

Council Member Kinder noted that the wise choice would be to plan on having smaller mill levy increases yearly to avoid these more significant increases or rising rates to cover the deficit.

Council Member Wicoff stated that if the sanitation fee is lower than those in the area and could handle an increase, an addition should be made to transfer to the General Fund. A slight mill levy increase should be driven yearly to keep up with inflation.

Council Member D'Albini stated that he favored Scenario 1 or 2. He also feels that the City should look at increasing the population. An increase in the population would bring in more tax dollars and increase our service rate revenues.

Council Member Slaugh wanted to see Scenario 4, where the water fund rates are fixed to include transfers, a solid waste increase, and a slight mill increase.

It was a consensus of the Council to go with scenario 2. Staff will bring back an ordinance for a solid waste increase and adjust the budget to include a 2.5 mill increase.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters reminded everyone to stay cool.
- Council Member Peters inquired about the EV charging stations. Administrator Rehder stated he hadn't heard anything about the grant.

B. Council Member Lohman--

- Council Member Lohman had nothing to report.

C. Council Member D'Albini--

- Council Member D'Albini stated that it was nice to see such a large crowd at the retirement party for Gary Kimball.

D. Council Member Peterson--

- Council Member Peterson thanked Matt, Corey, and Roxanne for their hard work on the budget.
- Council Member Peterson asked Assistant Administrator Schinstock to explain what the city did to the steel plates located by Casey's. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the Street and Alley Crew dug the holes deeper to place deeper anchors to hold the steel plates. He said that while they make a lot of noise, they will not damage a vehicle. New ones will be installed when the Highway 54 project is done, making for a smoother ride.

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 people must remember not to leave their children or pets in the car during this hot time of the year. She said that she witnessed the city animal control removing a dog from a vehicle in the parking lot of Walmart.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder wants to see water rates on a future agenda item.

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 the next meeting will be held in the John Silas Bass Community Building because the Allen County Fair will use the current building.

L. City Clerk Hutton

- City Clerk Hutton informed the Council that she will be reporting to the County Clerk that the City of Iola will have an increase in the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Budget. Residents should start seeing postcards with hearing information on them soon.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023, John Silas Bass Building

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2023,

7:32 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Peters to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 24th day of July 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven C French".

Mayor Steven French

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roxanne Hutton".

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton