

CITY OF IOLA

Page 1

07/24/2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on July 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Dr. John Silas Bass North Community Building at 505 N Buckeye Street, 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 Lohman, were present. Others present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton were present. Council Member Kinder was absent.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh, seconded by Council Member Shallah, 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.

None was heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **July 10, 2023,**
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. Sanitation Rate Adjustment - Ordinance #3516**

Council Member Peters asked about the Iola Auto Parts bill for spark plugs that were \$400-\$500. Mike Phillips stated that those were for the Wartsilla and were large spark plugs, so the cost was so high.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Sarah Huskey Property Annexation - Resolution #2023-19 - Administrator Rehder informed the council that Ms. Husky requested this annexation to sell the property to Prairieland Partners for development and connection to City utilities.

Once the Council passes this resolution, it will be presented to the Allen County Commission for their approval. Then the Council will reconvene this meeting tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. to approve the Ordinance to complete the annexation.

Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Slaugh to approve Resolution #2023-19 to begin the annexation property of the Huskey property as requested by the homeowner. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Vacuum Excavator Purchase - Mitch Phillips - Gas, Water, and Wastewater Superintendent Mitch Phillips stated that this machine would allow crews to identify lines underground without digging with an excavator or backhoe. With the number of utilities being placed underground, it is getting where crews need help to dig without hitting these underground utilities.

Mr. Phillips stated that this machine will also allow crews to identify individual water lines if required by the State of Kansas.

The bid process was handled through Sourcewell. Sourcewell is a nationwide joint purchasing governmental cooperative.

Motion made by Council Member D'Albini and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the purchase of a Vermeer EV 150 Vacuum Excavator from Vermeer Great Plains via Sourcewell Contract #110421-VRM for \$46,486.50 and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Electric Production Breaker Project Bid Award - Mike Phillips - Power Plant Superintendent Mike Phillips reported to the Council that this is part of the breaker project he has worked on for the last couple of years.

When asked why KMEA- Mid States bid was so much lower than the other two bids received, Mr. Phillips noted that part of it was probably the traveling distance and the fact that the KMEA Mid States purchases these breakers in bulk and can offer a better cost.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Peters to accept the bid from KMEA Mid States for \$40,625 for the breaker project and authorize staff to execute the necessary documents. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Fugate Commercial Addition Plat - Gregg Hutton - Code Enforcement Officer Gregg Hutton stated that an application had been submitted from Kaw Valley Engineering representing the owner Fugate Enterprises, LLC, to request that the property located at 1606 N State Street be split into three separate lots. The property contains three buildings; the request is to make their lots.

Code Enforcement Officer Hutton stated that the Planning Commission met on July 18, 2023, to review the application and voted unanimously to approve the application.

Council Member Lohman asked if the access to the driveway was of concern. Mr. Hutton stated that the driveway on State Street gave access to all three properties and the driveway on Patterson Avenue.

Motion made by Council Member Shallah and seconded by Council Member Peterson to approve the plat change to split the more considerable lot at 1606 N State into three separate parcels. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUND TABLE

A. Iola Fire/EMS Recruiting Update - Chief Isbell- Fire Chief Isbell told the Council that Administrator Rehder, his staff, and himself started thinking outside the box on recruiting strategies. They decided to have a Firefighter / EMT Academy with an in-house instructor. This would recruit individuals who still needed official training but were interested in the position.

Deputy Chief Andy Hill went through Instructor Class and sent the class requirements and training information to the State of Kansas for approval.

When the recruits complete the eight-week class and have passed the State-administered testing, they will be certified as EMT, Firefighter 1, HazMat Ops, and Awareness.

The goal is to hire at least six individuals with a maximum of nine. Each candidate's time and class materials will be reimbursed at 95% through a FEMA grant awarded by the department. Each individual offered a position must sign a two-year employment contract with the city. If they terminate employment before the end of the two-year contract, they will be required to reimburse the city for the training.

Council Members were pleased with staff thinking out of the box and giving something new a try.

Mayor French asked where the training will take place. Chief Isbell stated that the State Street Building would be dedicated to the training for the eight-week academy. The instructors will be given uninterrupted time for teaching, while other employees, including themselves, will cover their regular shifts.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters thanked the city crews that responded to the storm event. He spoke with the line crew from Girard about doing line hookups to allow more individuals less downtime in an event like this. Staff will look at the possibility of this.

B. Council Member Lohman–

- Council Member Lohman was pleased with the city's response to the storm. All crews were out and working very quickly after the storm to repair the electric line damage, clean debris out of streets and alleys, place signs up at intersections with non-working stop lights, and emergency safety crews checking on residents for injuries.

C. Council Member D'Albini–

- Council Member D'Albini thanked all of the city crews for their response. Giving up time with their own families and working long hours throughout the night is above and beyond.
- Council Member D'Albini informed the council that over 100 college students will move into town this weekend. Expect to see extra activity around town and welcome the students you come across.
- Council Member D'Albini had been approached by some citizens who wondered if the city shouldn't put all utilities underground to prevent the destruction of electric lines during the latest storm. Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that, for one, the cost to move all of the lines underground would not be feasible, and two, the old and current utilities underground in the right of way are crowded now.
- Council Member D'Albini congratulated Jason Ellis, Mike Phillips, and Chuck Heffern for their service over 25 years to the City of Iola.

D. Council Member Peterson–

- Council Member Peterson stated that she was proud to be a Council Member of the City of Iola with great employees who responded quickly and without complaint following the storm.
- Council Member Peterson congratulated all of the employees on the anniversary list and welcomed back a couple of past employees who have come back to work for the City.

E. Council Member Wicoff-

- Council Member Wicoff stated his appreciation for all the employees who responded and worked long hours without expecting anything in return. They knew what needed to be done and just did their jobs.

F. Council Member Slauch-

- Council Member Slauch stated that the Street and Alley crews had done an excellent job this week picking up the mounds of debris.

G. Council Member Shallah –

- Council Member Shallah stated her appreciation to the City crews after the storm. At a time when they didn't even know what was happening at their own homes from the storm, they came to work and took care of the citizens.
- Council Member Shallah stated she was impressed with the street and alley crews. They are not tearing up yards while removing the storm debris. This shows that they take pride in their work.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder was absent.

I. Mayor French

- Mayor French echoed all of the remarks about the great response from the staff. He also noticed that private citizens were helping others that needed assistance.
- Mayor French congratulated the individuals celebrating their anniversaries.

J. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder thanked the Council Members for their compliments. He thanked all of the citizens that brought food for the crews.

K. Assistant Administrator Schinstock -

- Assistant Administrator Schinstock informed the council that Doug Strickler and his staff have been volunteering with the street and alley staff, picking up yard debris.

L. City Clerk Hutton

- City Clerk Hutton informed the council that the crews had communicated well with her staff during the storm recovery. She noted that, as well as the electric, street, and alley crew, other departments were helping where needed to accomplish everything.

CITY OF IOLA

Page 6

07/24/2023

6:40 p.m. The Council Meeting was suspended to Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2 W Jackson, Iola, Ks.

The meeting was reconvened at City Hall on July 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Mayor French, Council Member Peters, Peterson, D'Albini, Slaugh, and Lohman were present. Absent were Shallah, Kinder, and Wicoff. Also present were Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

Mayor French called the meeting to order.

Administrator Rehder stated that the County Commission approved the annexation of the Huskey property at their meeting this morning.

Motion made by Council Member Petters and seconded by Council Member Slaugh to approve annexation Ordinance #3517 for the Huskey property and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2023,

5:01 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Lohman to adjourn the meeting.

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 14th day of August, 2023.





Mayor Steven French



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton