

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on August 14, 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, D’Albini, Peters, Slaugh, Kinder, Wicoff, and Lohman, were present. Others present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton were present. Council Member Peterson was absent.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Kinder, seconded by Council Member Lohman, 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 24, 2023,**
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. Liberty Homeschool Alliance Request**
- D. LaHarpe VFW Request**
- E. Iola Elks #569 Request**

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Setting Public Hearings - City Clerk Hutton informed the Council that the Budget Sheet enclosed in the packet this evening would be published in the newspaper, notifying the public of the hearing. If the Council chooses to increase the budget, it will have to be republished, and another hearing will have to be held.

Motion made by Council Member D'Albini and seconded by Council Member Peters to set a public hearing for the proposed Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Budget at the City Council Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Park Community Building. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Kinder to set a public hearing for the proposed 2024 Budget at the City Council Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. following the hearing the RNR at the Riverside Park Community Building. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Electric Distribution Bucket Truck Bid Award - Jim Baker -

Electric Distribution Superintendent Jim Baker informed the council that bids were solicited for a bucket truck. Four bids were received. Two of the four bids met the bid specifications. Altec Industries was the higher of the two bids. However, the service location is closer to Iola, and the current trucks within the fleet are also from Altec. Staff would like to go with the Altec bid. The truck will not be delivered until 2025 or possibly 2026, so staff would like to order it as soon as possible.

Motion made by Council Member Kinder and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the purchase of an Electric Distribution Bucket Truck from Altec Industries of St. Joseph, Missouri, in the amount of \$296,745 and authorize staff to execute the necessary documents for the purchase. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Prairieland Partners Utility Extensions - Request - Dale Lalman, Drue Durst, John Davidson, and Steve Kaufman Representatives from Prairieland were in attendance to discuss the new building that they are planning to build on Oregon Road and request assistance from the City of Iola for the utility extension.

- Prairieland currently has 25 employees. They have outgrown their space.
- They will sell compact construction equipment but can service larger equipment in the new space.
- Council Member D'Albini stated from an economic standpoint, the city wants to keep Prairieland here and possibly grow the area around the new site.

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- Prairieland noted that they service a nine-county area around Iola. They currently have five field service vehicles and need to expand that service.
- Council Member Slaugh asked what the time frame is for the project. The holdup is currently waiting for the building, which plans to have it delivered after the first of the year. usually, a project of this size takes about 10-12 months to complete.
- Council Member Wicoff asked what it would take to get sewer to the building site. Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that it would be approximately 600 feet of line on the South Side of Oregon Road and connect at the hospital.
- Prairieland engineer stated that the cost would roughly be \$250,000-\$475,000 depending on the chosen option. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that if the City were to expand the sewer for future development other than the private line for Parieland, an engineering study would have to be completed and approved by KDHE.
- Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the Howard Lift Station was recently rebuilt and could handle the capacity. He noted that the City Crews could lay the water line the sewer would have to be done by a contractor.
- Council Member Kinder stated that he would like to see more information on the sewer options and the cost of each option before he could decide on a partnership.
- Council Member Shallah inquired about the number of employees currently employed. With the expansion, they currently have 25 employees, possibly increasing by 10-15 additional employees. The company has to consider the possibility of growing the business to make economic sense for the expansion.
- Council Member Lohman stated that he would have a hard time committing to paying for part of the sewer project without knowing the cost to the City.
- Mayor French asked if a six-inch water line could serve the property. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that the six-inch line would be sufficient.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Wicoff to have the City of Iola absorb the labor and equipment costs for the water addition to Prairieland Partners, the City of Iola will also pay the water district the \$10,000 for the water rights with Prairieland Partners paying for the materials. Prairie Land Partners will bring back to the council options for the sewer and the costs associated with each option to discuss the City partnering with installing the sewer. Voting in favor of the motion were: Council Members Lohman, Wicoff, Slaugh, and Shallah. Voting against the motion were Council Members Peters, Kinder, and D'Albini. Motion passed by a majority vote.

ROUND TABLE

A. Myra Gleason 416 S Cottonwood - Fence Material Discussion- Resident Myra Gleason stated that following her installation of a fence on her property, she was told by Code Enforcement Officer Hutton that she did not follow the Ordinance by obtaining a

permit before installing a fence. She was also informed that she violated the ordinance by using chicken wire and t-posts as fencing material.

Ms. Gleason stated that the code did not necessarily define gardens and materials as clearly as she felt was necessary.

Ms. Gleason stated that she had seen these types of fences throughout the town, so she assumed she could use the same materials. The Code Enforcement Officer told her that those fences were erected before he became Code Enforcement Officer, and he assumes that they were done to code at the time.

Several comments were made about prior fences being grandfathered into the code before this code was put into place. City Clerk Hutton noted that an ordinance must state that a property is grandfathered at the time the ordinance is passed. What occurred on these properties is at the time of installation of these fences, it was not against the code to do so. However, the code has changed, and now the chicken wire and t-post materials can not be used.

It was noted that Ms. Gleason's current fence on her property surrounds more than just the garden. Property in the past has been allowed to erect fences around the garden area only and not on the property lines.

Administrator Rehder stated that changing these codes to fit every definition and specific would not be reasonable for staff to carry out enforcement, nor would the Zoning Board likely pass a change to the ordinance that would be so specific. He suggested that Ms. Gleason and Code Enforcement sit down and figure out common ground for both parties.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters reminded everyone that with school starting this next week, children will be walking and riding bikes to school. Be alert and careful when driving around town.

B. Council Member Lohman–

- Council Member Lohman was pleased with the city's response to the fire at Rookies Restaurant. This is part of the benefits the City of Iola has a full-time fire department. The Citizens are fortunate to have this available to them.

C. Council Member D'Albini–

- Council Member D'Albini noted that students will begin classes next week at the college. This semester, thirty-four different counties, seventeen states, Puerto Rico, and thirty-one countries are represented in the student body. He encouraged the community

to open their hearts to these students and interact with them as part of our community during this time.

- Council Member D’Albini congratulated Jim Baker on his forty years of service with the City of Iola. noting that Mr. Baker has worked for the City of Iola longer than Council Member D’Albini has been alive.

D. Council Member Peterson–

- Council Member Peterson was absent.

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 had nothing to report.

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 informed the council that they had a conference call meeting with KDEM today regarding the possibility of reimbursement of costs associated with the storm on July 14th.

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, August 28, 2023,

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023,

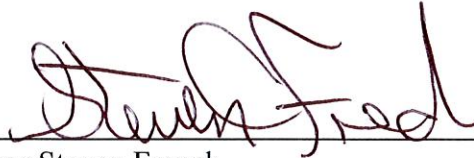
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8:04 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Kinder and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to adjourn the meeting.

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 28th day of August, 2023.



Mayor Steven French



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton