

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on October 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 6:01 p.m.

Mayor French and Council Members Shallah, Peters, Peterson, Wicoff, and Lohman were present. Others present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton were present. Council Members Kinder, Slaugh, and D'Albini were absent.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Wicoff motioned to approve the agenda, switching items 9 and 10. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. 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.*

Lee Grimes informed the Council that the city's cleanliness codes are in place. However, they are not being enforced. He said he rides his electric scooter down the alleys, and there are windows with no or broken coverings. He read off a card he had that said to be the best version of yourself. He doesn't feel like the City of Iola is being the best version of itself. He thinks there are grants out there that the city could obtain to beautify the downtown area. He believes that the jail inmates could help with the cleanup of the area as well as help with the recycling efforts.

Dan Davis, representing Iola Recycling, stated that the first recycling line is the individual home. He said that when he lived in Minden, Nebraska, the State closed the landfill because they ran out of room. He stated that the local people want a recycling program for the city and the county.

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Donna Houser stated that she has been recycling for several years, hauling her recyclables to Wichita when she would visit her daughter. She was using the local building while it was open.

Karen Gilpin stated that she spent several hours at the recycling center. She noted that they always had individuals bring things to be recycled. She said that instead of picking up twice a week, the city should pick up trash once a week, with the other day being a recycling pickup.

Myra Gleason stated that she lived for several years in Oregon, and they were given a bucket for each item of recycling. She noted that when they moved to Iola, she thought it was odd to have twice-a-week trash pickup. She was told that Iola has twice-a-week pickup because the so-called "trashy people" were not taught as children how to clean up after themselves and pick up trash on city streets and in yards. We as a city should train these individuals to recycle and make the county a better place. She wonders if that is a wise use of the city's resources. We could go to one day of trash pickup and have the other day for recycling pickup. She stated that in Oregon, individuals got fined if they put recyclables in the regular trash; possibly, Iola could go towards that process.

Marie Unruh challenged the leaders to think creatively and have discussions with the county government and all of the towns within the county to figure out a possible recycling plan.

Sharon Utley stated that she had lived in Iola for 59 years. Within the last few years, they have started recycling at their home and have seen a decrease in the amount of trash they have for pickup on trash days. We need to think about saving the land for our children.

Sharon Utley noted that as a retired county employee, using jail inmates has legal implications, and the attorneys must be involved in that decision.

Sharon Utley would like to see the City of Iola, the County, and the other cities in the county get together and develop a recycling plan that would work for all of Allen County.

Kay Walker stated she was a recycling supporter when the Rotary began picking up newspapers, and then cardboard was taken to the old Haldex building. Since the center has closed, garbage bags have increased at their home.

Aaron Kinzle stated that he had lived in other states across the country. He is sure there is a role model the city and county could use to accomplish this.

Elizabeth Wilcox stated that she is in favor of recycling.

Dan Davis mentioned that most of the cardboard from the recycling building was from local businesses. This must be addressed if the city comes up with a plan.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Minutes Approval**
  - **September 25, 2023**
- B. **Appropriations Approval**
- C. **Farm City Days Event - Resolution #2023-32**

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

## ROUNDTABLE

- A. **BIL Projects Prioritization** - Administrator Rehder prepared a project list that staff had discussed on the top five projects to pursue for city improvements. The sewer lining project is considered a low-interest loan, and the funds required to pay the loan could come from the wastewater fund without an increase in fees. The Council Members seemed interested in pursuing the projects and asked the staff to proceed with the necessary steps.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. **2024 Employee Holidays and Council Calendar Approval** - Staff presented a holiday schedule and a Council Calendar for the 2024 calendar year. The County has approved all the holidays listed, including December 31, 2024. Staff removed this date from the holiday list, leaving the 14 holidays to be supported. Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Shallah to approve the proposed holiday list for the calendar year 2024 and approve the revisions to the City Council Meetings as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

## COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- A. **Council Member Peters -**
  - Council Member Peters reported that the Fire Academy team has two weeks before they test, which will determine if they will become full-time department employees. There are currently five individuals that have made it through the academy.

- B. **Council Member Lohman—**

- Council Member Lohman reported that recycling is a complex problem to solve. There is no cost to the city to dispose of citizens' garbage at the landfill, where recycling will incur a significant additional expense. He feels strongly that the City and County should try to develop a recycling program.

**C. Council Member D'Albini—**

- Council Member D'Albini was absent from the meeting.

**D. Council Member Peterson—**

- Council Member Peterson stated that she agrees with Council Member Shallah that cameras should be installed to deter such activity in light of the vandalism at the Football Stadium for the second time this year.

**E. Council Member Wicoff-**

- Council Member Wicoff noted that if everyone gets their heads together and figures out the finances of the recycling project, it could happen.

**F. Council Member Slaugh—**

- Council Member Slaugh was absent from the meeting.

**G. Council Member Shallah –**

- Council Member Shallah stated that cameras should be installed in the area of the recent vandalism at the football stadium.

**H. Council Member Kinder -**

- Council Member Kinder was absent from the meeting.

**I. Mayor French**

- Mayor French said he favors putting recycling on a future roundtable agenda to discuss options.

**J. Administrator Rehder**

- Administrator Rehder had nothing to report.

**K. Assistant Administrator Schinstock -**

- Assistant Administrator Schinstock had nothing to report.

**L. City Clerk Hutton**

- City Clerk Hutton had nothing to report.

Mayor French declared a five-minute break.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Trade Secrets** - Motion made by Council Member Shallah to recess into Executive Session for twenty minutes under Trade Secrets, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4). The purpose of the executive session is to discuss confidential data relating to financial and operational affairs. It shall include the Mayor, Council, City administrator, and Assistant City Administrator. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 7:16 p.m.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2023,  
City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13, 2023,

7:16 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Shallah to adjourn the meeting.

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 23rd day of October, 2023.



A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Steven French", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Steven French

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roxanne Hutton", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk Roxanne Hutton