

CITY OF IOLA

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10/11/2022

A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on October 11, 2022, 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 Peters, Peterson, Shallah, Kinder, Slaugh, and Lohman were present. Also present were City Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent was Council Member D'Albini and Wicoff.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Kinder and seconded by Council Member Shallah to approve the agenda with the addition of Item D. under the Consent Agenda Beer Garden for Farm City Days. 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **September 26, 2022, Council Meeting**

- B. Appropriations Approval**

- C. Board Appointments - Library Broad**

- D. Farm City Days Beer Garden - Resolution 2022-19**

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Lohman. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Revitalization Program - Set Public Hearing -

Administrator Rehder informed the Council that the staff is presenting the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for renewal with some changes.

The minor changes proposed include updating the dates linked to the plan and various names for the participating organizations. Staff is seeking to change the plan from a three-year term to five years before readopting is necessary. Staff would like to change the current tiered rate of rebate to 100% for ten years.

Administrator Rehder stated that having the entire ten years at 100% in other cities promotes new housing.

Council Member Slauch asked if the Program spurs development. Administrator Rehder noted that in this area, it doesn't seem to be as many new buildings as it is remodeling. He hopes the ten-year plan will incentivize builders to build new housing.

Mayor French stated that a few developers had built rental houses in the recent future.

Mayor French noted that this agenda item is to set the public hearing. More questions can be addressed at the next meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Lohman and seconded by Council Member Shallah to set a public hearing for the renewal of the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan on October 24. Motion carried.

B. Municipal Court Fee Schedule - Ordinance #3513

City Clerk Hutton informed the Council that the Ordinance in the packet had been updated to remove the Television screen given to the driver because it is no longer a violation.

Motion made by Council Member Lohman and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve General Ordinance #3513, making revisions necessary to the Iola Municipal Court Standard Fine Schedule. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

- A. Splitting of EMS and Fire Services Discussion-** Mayor French asked County Commissioner David Lee if he had anything he wanted to say on the topic. Commissioner Lee stated that he was there to listen.

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Fire Chief Corey Isbell noted that it has been challenging to find dual-department employees. Staff feels like if they can present either job scenario, they might be able to draw in more employees.

Chief Isbell stated that currently, the Department is four employees short at one time, they were eight short.

Council Member Lohman stated that in the medical field, he sees physicians as more specialized and not in general practice like in the past.

Council Member Lohman asked if the split would require the EMS Director and the Fire Chief as we currently have. Chief Isbell noted that we would need two different individuals to continue with the necessary hours for staff certification as well as keep the state license current.

Council Member Lohman asked if we would need to hire for both. Would this require premium pay for both positions versus paying for only one job? Chief Isbell stated that it would remain as it is currently, with the Fire Chief over the split departments and the EMS Director taking care of the EMS requirements.

Council Member Shallah asked about the current overtime cost due to the increased number of transfers required by the contract with the county. Chief Isbell noted that hiring full staff might hopefully reduce some of the overtime.

Mayor French noted that with the increased transfers, having to call in employees to fill the voids will possibly decrease with possible paramedics on staff in the Fire Department.

Council Member Kinder asked if the District Chief and Lieutenant were required for a shift. Chief Isbell stated that each position has a designated job during a fire.

Council Member Kindeer asked if this would be the ideal time to develop a Director of Public Safety Position and restructure the Fire, EMS, and Police Department. Administrator Rehder noted that the council could discuss if they are interested in doing that.

Council Member Kinder asked if the city could offer an increase in the starting pay if the employee would be willing to perform both the fire and ems duties. Would this be more financially beneficial? Staff doesn't feel that the money is the problem.

Council Member Shallah stated that transfers are treated as immediate and not always as portrayed. The employees can concentrate on one craft rather than a jack of all trades.

Council Member Slaugh asked how many calls have increased since the new contract requires two transfers simultaneously. Chief Isbell stated that he doesn't have complex numbers on the additional transfers.

Administrator Rehder noted that if Council will need to look at what the Council would like to do to support the split financially—deciding whether to keep the service versus giving it back to the County. The council will also have to renegotiate the cost with the County or absorb the cost in-house.

Administrator Rehder stated that it would be the staff's recommendation to ask the County to renegotiate. If they come back that they do not want to increase the funding, then the council would need to go from that point.

A vote was taken to move forward with the next step to split the service. Council Members Lohman, Shallah, Peterson, and Peters voted to move forward. Voting against them were Council Members Kinder and Slaugh. Council Member Slaugh noted that he is only against moving forward until he has more definitive information on how to finance splitting the service.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters had nothing to report.

B. Council Member Lohman—

- Council Member Lohman had nothing to report.

C. Council Member D'Albini—

- Council Member D'Albini was absent.

D. Council Member Peterson—

- Council Member Peterson had nothing to report.

E. Council Member Wicoff-

- Council Member Wicoff was absent.

F. Council Member Slaugh—

- Council Member Slaugh had nothing to report.

G. Council Member Shallah –

- Council Member Shallah reminded the group that Farm City Days is this weekend and encouraged everyone to support the festivities.
- Council Member Shallah congratulated the employees on the anniversary list.

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.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

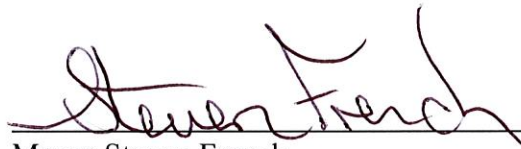
City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2022

6:50 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Shallah to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 24th day of October 2022.





Mayor Steven French



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton