

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on January 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Park Community Building, 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Wells, Council Members Ballard, Peters, French, Ford, Kinder, Slaugh, and Peterson were present. Also present was Interim City Administrator Schinstock and City Clerk, Hutton. Absent was Council Member Myrick.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Peterson to approve the agenda as posted. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Persons who wish to address the City Council regarding items on the agenda may do so as that agenda item is called. Persons who wish to address the City Council regarding items not on the agenda and under the jurisdiction of the City Council may do so when called upon by the Council President. Comments on personnel matters and matters pending in court or with other outside tribunals are not permitted. Speakers are limited to three minutes. Any presentation is for information purposes only. No action will be taken.*

None were heard.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval**

- **January 11, 2020, Council Meeting**

**B. Appropriations Approval**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Electric Vehicle Charging Station - Discussions-** Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that staff, Economic Development Director, Jonathon Goering and himself had been in discussions about installing an electric vehicle charging station.

The group looked at two possible locations for the charging station. The first site was the municipal parking lot at the old Chamber building on Madison Avenue and Walnut Street. The second site reviewed is on the downtown square located on Jefferson Avenue just south of East Street on the inside parking square.

Interim Administrator Shinstock stated that Electric Distribution Superintendent Jim Baker prepared a project estimate for installing the charging station. The estimated total is \$2,236.21 for materials and \$874.12 for labor and equipment use. The station would require two designated parking spaces.

Mayor Wells noted that there is not a current charging station easily accessible for several miles.

As a municipality, Mr. Goering stated that the City of Iola would have a rate of \$2,000 per year for the five-year maintenance contract with Chargepoint.

Mayor Wells stated that it would be possible to request the county to pay for ½ of the five-year plan. The reasoning behind installing the charging station would be to attract individuals to shop and dine in local businesses; therefore, using Convention and Tourism funds to support this program makes sense.

Council Member Slaugh asked Mr. Goering had statistics from other stations around the state. Mr. Goering noted that he did not have any statistics, but he would try to obtain them.

Council Member Peters noted that a federal mandate states that by 2030 electric cars would be expected.

Council Members Ballard and French had some concerns with locating the station on the square, taking away valuable parking for businesses, and giving certain companies priority to the individuals charging their vehicles.

Mayor Wells stated that when he discussed the topic with some of the business owners downtown, they favored the idea.

Council Member Ballard noted that the lot on the north-east corner of the square had been offered to the City in the past by the owners.

Mayor Wells noted that it was the Council's consensus to move forward with asking the County if they were interested in partnering with the City on this project.

**B. Kansas Certified Sites Program - Discussions** -Interim City Administrator Schinstock stated that this property would be a certified site by the Department of Commerce once the certification process is complete for the property making it ready for development and investment.

The Certification would be done at the estimated cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 depending on the work already done on the 80 acres west of Russell Stovers.

Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that it would take approximately one year to complete the process once the initial request has been made to Commerce.

Council Member Slaugh stated that when he was in Basehor, a group of volunteers completed a similar process on some city-owned properties; he remembered that it was quite an involved process.

Council Member Peterson asked if the process had to be created after 3-5 years? Mr. Schinstock stated that most of the work would have already been done so the process wouldn't be as involved or costly.

Council Member Kinder asked what if the City went through the process and the property doesn't qualify for the certification. Council Member Slaugh noted that once the work is done, the process is to be able to list the site as ready for industrial use. If a problem is found, it can be corrected if the city is interested in doing so.

Council Member French stated that the City has missed out on business the last few years. He wants to get the certification done and market the property to get it working for the City of Iola.

Mr. Goering noted that Humboldt is also completing the process on some industrial property. This may be helpful for the two entities working together.

The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the process.

**C. Buckeye Street Traffic Signal - Discussion-** Interim Administrator Schinstock stated that following the previous Council meeting discussion concerning the Buckeye Street traffic signal, he spoke with KDOT officials about removing the movement permanently.

KDOT noted that a process must be followed before the removal. KDOT will perform a traffic study of the area. A public input component that requires the traffic signal in question

to be in the flash mode or turned off for a period of 90-days. This allows the public to adjust to the change and provide feedback or concern with the potential difference.

Council Member Ford stated that while she was not present at the previous meeting of the Council where those present noted they favored removing the light, she is not in favor of removing the light. She also has been contacted by some residents who are not in favor of the removal.

Council Member Peterson stated that she favors installing a push-button activated walk button to replace the current light.

Donna Houser noted that the Bowlus staff did not agree with removing the light due to the high traffic flow. They would be in favor of a pedestrian light as a replacement.

Mayor Wells noted that he feels it is best to leave the light up since it is too hard for KDOT to allow another one to be erected at a later date.

The consensus of the Council is that they do not have an opinion in either direction. Mayor Wells stated to leave the light up for the current time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Street Department Dump Truck Bid Award** - The Staff solicited bids for a dump truck to replace Unit #30 that is 19 years old and shows its age. Its primary purpose is to use it as a salt spreader. With that kind of element, it has rusted the truck bed and frame.

Council Member Peterson noted that with 71,150 miles, it shouldn't be replaced. Street and Alley Superintendent Dan Leslie pointed out that the salt and chat mix have been hard on this truck. The mileage also doesn't tell the hours the truck was idle and being used.

Council Member Ballard asked how many dump trucks the city has. Interim Administrator Schinstock replied that Street & Alley has 5 with 7 in the entire fleet. Council Member Ballard wondered why so many were needed when the different departments could share.

Mr. Leslie noted that one of the trucks is the plow truck; the other ones are filled with snow and then dump. It would be a lot of wasted time waiting on one truck going back and forth to get salt or chat, emptying the snow, etc.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the purchase of a new F-750 with the Galion dump bed, Henderson salt and chip spreader, and Flink tailgate chip seal spreader from Merle Kelly Ford for the total price of

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\$132,200. Keeping old unit #30 and putting it on Gavel Roads auction site for a better price than the trade would bring. In favor of the motion were Council Members: Peters, Ford, Slaugh, and French. Voting against the motion were Council Members: Peterson, Kinder, and Ballard. Motion carried by a majority vote.

**B. Electric Distribution 1-Ton Bid Award** - The Staff solicited bids for a 2021 Ford F350 1 ton truck. Two bids were received of the five that were invited to bid.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Peters to award Twin Motors Ford the bid to purchase a 2021 Ford F-350 truck for \$45,131.25. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Ford, Peters, Peterson, Kinder, Slaugh, and French. Voting against the motion was Council Member Ballard. Motion carried by a majority vote.

**C. FEMA Grant Applications for the Iola Fire Department** - Fire Chief Chase Waggoner reported to the Council that he is planning to submit for a FEMA AFG grant funding for multiple activities. If the City were awarded all of the grant requests, the value would be \$869,300 with City matching funds of \$32,000.

Motion made by Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Kinder to authorize the Fire Chief to submit applications for FEMA AFG funding for multiple activities, with an estimated overall project value of \$869,300 and should the city be awarded the requested funds - to authorize further are receiving the expenditure of approximately \$32,000 in matching funds and the donation of surplus equipment to other area fire departments. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

**A. Council Member Peters -**

- None

**B. Council Member Ford-**

- Encouraged everyone to go by the house that the school is moving from one property to another. Her foreign exchange student was quite fascinated with it.

**C. Council Member French –**

- He has received more complaints about the semi-truck traffic on N. Kentucky.

**D. Council Member Peterson–**

- She asked if the City was going to start implementing the WSU staffing study for personnel and equipment.

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- Mayor Wells noted that the study is only for staffing and not for equipment. He stressed that Interim Administrator Schinstock does analyze each position before filling it.
- Council and Staff will look into the study more in-depth when the new Administrator gets on board.

**E. Council Member Ballard**

- I have wondered about the WSU study also.
- He has wondered about changing the Purchasing Policy on purchasing from local merchants if their bid is no more than 7% higher than the low bid. With Bettis having an office in Iola, an offer on the street project could make a considerable difference accepting the local bid versus the low bid.

**F. Council Member Slauch–**

- Noted that the 7% could be removed from the policy and Council accept the lowest bid to get the best price.
- He asked about the EMS Agreement and when Council will be working on it.
- Interim Administrator Schinstock replied that he would put an executive session on the next Council Meeting for contract negotiations.
- He asked Council Members if they were ok with him reaching out to other communities concerning economic development incentives offered to companies. Council Members gave him their blessing.

**G. Council Member Myrick–**

- Absent

**H. Council Member Kinder -**

- He asked about the IT position if and when it will be filled to assist with various things that have come up. Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that it is in the 2021 Budget, so staff will be looking at filling it soon.
- He asked about the Fleet software. Interim Administrator Schinstock stated that the Council told staff to stop using it until further notice.

**I. Mayor Wells**

- None

**J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock–**

- Shane Lamb, the LaFarge Plant owner, is asking for incentives from the installation of electricity. It will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021

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7:28 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Peterson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas, this 8th day of February 2021.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Scott P. Wells".

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Mayor Wells

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Roxanne Hutton".

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton