

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on July 13, 2020, 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 and Council Members Peters, Ford, Peterson, Myrick, Slaugh, and French were present. Also present Interim City Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent were Council Members Kinder and Ballard.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the agenda as amended. 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 that are under the jurisdiction of the City Council may do so at this time when called upon by the Mayor. 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.*

The Mayor read the above information and asked if there were any public comments;

Donna Houser informed the group that she went to the recycling site last Saturday. There were several Rotarians volunteering. She noted that it was a good project and anyone who is able should volunteer.

Donna Houser gave an update on the Football Stadium. She stated that signs for the bathrooms and painting the floors were the only thing left.

Donna Houser stated that Bob Johnson, Iola Register Reporter had his last article in Saturday's paper. He's been a great reporter over the past several years.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval**

- **June 22, 2020, Council Meeting**
- **June 29, 2020, Council Meeting**

**B. Appropriations Approval**

Motion made by Council Member Myrick to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ROUNDTABLE**

**A. Jonathon Goering - Thrive Allen County, Economic Development Manager** - Mr. Goering, the new Thrive Economic Development Manager gave a brief overview of himself and his goals. He noted that he is from the Inman, Kansas area. He attended Tabor College earning a degree in Communications. He worked several Communication jobs throughout the years. He began attending Wichita State University Public Administration and will graduate in May 2021.

Mr. Goering would like to hear the Councils' goals and expectations for Economic Development for Iola.

Some of the items he has heard that need to be addressed include: Housing, Transportation, and Diversity of businesses.

Transparency and communication are vital for this partnership to work.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Set 2021 Budget Public Hearing** - Interim Administrator Schinstock presented the proposed 2021 State Budget Forms for the City of Iola. He has included the IT individual for \$60,000 which includes salary and benefits. He noted that a public hearing will need to be set for July 27, 2020, in order to approve the budget as presented. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to set a public budget hearing for the proposed 2021 Budget at the next regular City Council Meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Park Community Building. All in favor. Motion carried.

Council Member Slaugh asked if the IT expenses included a contractual obligation for current software. Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that the court software is from Advantage Computers so a portion of the technology expenses does include this charge.

Council Member French noted that he had received some emails and phone calls from individuals that are concerned with the raises that are included in the budget. He wondered if the benefits were compared from city to city. He stated that the City of Iola had good benefits. He asked what does the budget show for future costs? Will we be able to absorb these increases within the next budget period or even onto the next one.

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Human Resources Manager Carla Brown noted that when the Electric Distribution Crew began the wage survey process benefits were compared. Noting that Iola is about average. Some cities have better benefits than others and some fewer benefits.

Interim Administrator Schinstock assured the Council Members that the funds will be able to absorb the salary increases for future budgets.

Mayor Wells noted that the General Fund has shown a \$300,000 to \$400,000 cash carryover in the past few years. This is due to the fact that individual department heads had found ways to cut or equipment purchases to hold off another year or two.

Mayor Wells noted that this is the first time since he has served on the council that he has felt comfortable with the budget.

Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that the COLA increase is not automatic. This budget contains a 1% COLA increase. If the council doesn't want to give that increase that is up to them. If the COLA comes in for less as expected then the council can decide what to do.

Council Member Peters asked about employees receiving a step increase. Mr. Schinstock stated that if the individual meets the department's expectations and if they are not topped out on the pay scale then they receive the step increase.

Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that when the Administrative Assistant position became empty last year. The staff took their time to decide exactly what would be best for the position and where to locate the position. This left the position empty for several months and therefore saved costs in the 2020 budget. Staff changed the position title and duties and moved them into the Clerk's office. Putting this position on a lower pay scale this also cut expenditures for the 2020 budget.

Council Member Ford asked about the education required for some positions. Was this taken into consideration? Human Resource Manager noted that she did not judge each position based on education. It was comparing positions to positions across the board.

Council Member Slaugh stated that when the water plant is paid off the money currently being used for the bond payments will need to be used for upgrades and maintenance on a 25-year-old water plant.

Mr. Slaugh noted that he supports the wage increases across the board.

**B. Municipal Pool Discussions** - Staff is seeking direction from the Council on opening the Municipal Pool following Governor Kelly's executive order #2052 on July 2, 2020.

Interim City Administrator Schinstock stated that the chemicals are being kept up daily and the pool is ready to go.

Concerns of staff are: masks can not be worn in the pool, will individuals social distance outside of the pool. We are currently in Phase 3 of the Governors COVID Standards; this phase allows for no more than 45 people so numbers will have to be limited.

Some surrounding cities have opened, some are needing enough staff to open the pool.

Interim City Administrator Schinstock stated that he had gotten a request from the National Guard wanting to use the pool for training on July 31.

Council Member Myrick stated that residents are going to be angry either way. Let's give the kids something to do on a hot summer day.

Recreation Director, Jason Bauer noted that Ft. Scott allows 30 people in the pool for a certain amount of time and then they must leave and the pool area is cleaned and 30 different people come in.

Council Member Slaugh asked about the pool in Chanute. Mr. Bauer noted that Chanute did open their pool on July 3rd with restrictions. Mayor Wells noted that Bourbon and Neosho County have opted out of the mandatory mask order.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he is in favor of opening the pool if there is a time limit and restricting the number of individuals in the pool.

Donna Houser noted that she renewed her W.S.I. at the Iola pool in 1966 but she even believes that not opening the pool is the right thing to do.

Council Member Peterson stated that she is in favor of opening the pool.

Council Member Peters stated that he is not in favor of opening the pool.

Council Member Slaugh stated that if we are allowing baseball and softball then we should open the pool.

Mayor Wells stated that the County Health Nurse had some concerns keeping track of individuals if a COVID positive case came up.

Following an informal vote of the council the Mayor noted that the pool will be opened, individuals will have to sign in and there should be a time limit.

Interim City Administrator Schinstock noted that staff would develop a list of rules and get the pool open no later than Wednesday.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Non-Elected Personnel** - Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peters to recess into Executive Session for ten minutes for pursuant to personnel matters of non-elected personnel, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The purpose of the executive session is to discuss an individual's employment and shall include the Mayor, Council, Interim City Administrator, and Human Resources Manager. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 6:53.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### **A. Council Member Peters -**

- Encouraged everyone to stay hydrated.

### **B. Council Member Ford—**

- Encouraged City Employees that are working out in the heat to stay hydrated and stay safe.

### **C. Council Member French --**

- None

### **D. Council Member Peterson—**

- None

### **E. Council Member Ballard**

- Absent

### **F. Council Member Slauch—**

- None

### **G. Council Member Myrick—**

- Stay safe and hydrated.
- Congratulations to all of the graduates in the area.

**H. Council Member Kinder -**

- Absent

**I. Mayor Wells**

- Found the tour of Green Cover Seed very informative. They have quite a diversity. Possibly something they can partner with the city on for the natural grass, butterfly garden.

**J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock–**

- Inquired with the Council if he could give the National Guard the go-ahead to use the pool for training. Council was ok with it.
- Noted that he is working with Bob Johnson on the Franchise and Pole Attachment agreements with Kansas Fiber Network & U.S. Cellular. He will bring them to the next Council meeting for approval.
- Will have an agreement with the new Asset Management Software at the next meeting for approval.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**


City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2020


City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020

**6:58 pm.** Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 27th day of July 2020.



  
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Mayor Wells

  
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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton