

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on January 14, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the Park Community Building, located at 600 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, Ballard, Matthew, Martin, Ford, Peterson, and Myrick were present. Also present were Administrator Fleming, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, Attorney Bob Johnson, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent was Council Member Franklin.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Wells read the following statement:

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.

Following Mayor Wells reading of the aforementioned statement, he asked members of the audience if they wished to address the Council. No one present had any comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - December 10, 2018
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. Kansas PRIDE Program - Resolution 2019-01**

Council Member Ballard inquired about the repairs to the Moran Ambulance Station. City Clerk Hutton noted that the contract states the City is held responsible for any maintenance costs of the station. Attorney Johnson stated that the City inherited the contract with the building owner when the City took over ambulance service from the County.

Council Member Ballard stated that he was under the impression that the City was no longer going to pay Thrive for economic development services.

Administrator Fleming stated that during 2019 budget discussions last year Council discussed possibly taking the support away from Thrive and the Chamber. A decision was made to approve the 2019 Budget as presented and then have a discussion on this topic at a later Council Meeting.

Mayor Wells stated that during the previous discussion it was discussed to not piecemeal the process but to look at alternative cost benefit measures.

Council Member Myrick stated that he was the one that brought it up. Stating that he personally didn't feel like the City was getting their bang for their buck

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Ballard to recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes pursuant to Attorney-client Privilege, K.S.A. 75-4319 (b) (2). The purpose of the executive session is to discuss contractual agreements and shall include the Mayor, Council, City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator, and City Attorney. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the City Council chamber at 6:27 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Johnson left following the Executive Session.

ROUND TABLE

A. Governance & Council Size Discussions - Administrator Fleming stated that he had provided the graph showing the cities within Kansas and what size of a government they have. He noted that the information does not demonstrate what governance is like in the communities. He encouraged the Council to hold a town meeting to get ideas from the citizens.

Mayor Wells stated that he agrees getting citizen input prior to changing the Charter Ordinance could prevent a contested election.

Council Member Ford stated that from comments she had heard the four-year term is a lengthy time for some individuals to commit to. She feels that having the eight member Council is a good opportunity to get more view points.

Mayor Wells stated that the benefits of a four-year term is that after two years an individual has gained the knowledge necessary to make good decisions.

Council Member Myrick stated that he has heard several pros and cons from individuals. The majority feel that eight is a good number. It offers different views from more individuals. Some individuals have stated that with the larger Council size it does not seem to get as much done. His opinion is to keep the Council the current size.

Council Member Ford agreed with keeping the current size. Decreasing the term to two years allows each individual to make the decision to run for the office again. She feels that there is a better representation with the larger size.

Council Member Ballard stated that shortening the terms would be beneficial. He would like the Council to be decreased to five-members. He also feels that paying the Council Members would make people commit to the position.

Council Member Martin stated that the wards are a problem. Someone that moves across town, or in some cases across the street have to resign because they are now in a different ward.

Council Member Ford wondered about a mix of four from each ward and then four at-large.

Mayor Wells wondered about the logistics of the four in wards and four at-large. Mayor Wells stated that he had spoken to former Mayor Shirley and he stated his biggest regret was taking away the pay for the Council.

Council Member Ford stated that she would rather have the money go towards things that might help the City instead of paying Council Members. Individuals should be willing to devote some time to their community.

Council Member Peters is in favor of having no wards.

Council Member Matthew asked how many of the current Council Members were actually appointed.

Mayor Wells explained that when he was elected as Mayor it was a given that his Council Seat would have to be filled by an appointment. Then past Council Member Shaughnessy resigned due to inability to complete his term. Mayor Wells appointed a member to that seat. When Council Members Sigg and Middleton moved out of town, their positions had to be appointed. There are currently three members of the eight member Council that were appointed.

Council Member Peterson noted that the School Board eliminated wards, she feels like the City could go away from wards also.

Donna Houser spoke to the Council stating that the citizens owe something to the community the Council should not be paid.

Mayor Wells stated that it seemed to be the consensus of the Council to take the discussion to a community event with the option of two-year terms and possibly eliminating the wards.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Iola Elks Fireworks - Request

Assistant Administrator Schinstock informed the Council that a request from Lynda Yockam of the Iola Elks Lodge #569 has been submitted for Council consideration. This request from Elks Lodge #569 is for the City to sponsor the annual Elks fireworks display at the Elks Lake.

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Martin to approve the sponsorship of the annual Elks fireworks celebration and approve staff to sign the necessary documents for the event. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. GIS - Gas System Data Collection - Midland GIS has completed or is in progress completing of the GIS System information for Water, Wastewater, and Electric Utilities. Staff has requested a quote from them to collect data for the Gas Utility System. Midland GIS will develop our Gas Utility network to include customer meters for \$31,784.

Council Member Ballard stated he would like to see the work that has been done on the Water and Wastewater projects before committing more money to the project.

Administrator Fleming noted that the money has been budgeted. He noted that Assistant Administrator Schinstock, Mitch Phillips, Eric Miller, Brian Cochran, and himself attended some training sessions last week on the GIS system.

Motion made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the Midland GIS Solutions, LLC. Professional Services Agreement for Iola, Kansas and authorize the necessary signatures. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Martin, Peters, Myrick, Matthew, Peterson, and Ford. Voting against the motion was Council Member Ballard. Motion passed with a majority vote.

C. Dangerous/Unsafe Structure Removal-

1. 330 S Kentucky Street - Resolution 2019-02

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Martin to approve Resolution 2019-02 for 330 S Kentucky setting a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501, of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. 530 S Fourth Street - Resolution 2019-03

Motion made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve Resolution 2019-03 for 530 S Fourth setting a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501, of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. 602 South Street - Resolution 2019-04

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve Resolution 2019-04 for 602 South Street setting a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501, of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried. It was noted by Code Enforcement Gregg Hutton that this property is currently occupied.

4. 623 N Cottonwood Street - Resolution 2019-05

Motion made by Council Member Peters and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve Resolution 2019-05 for 623 N Cottonwood setting a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501, of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. 701 South Street - Resolution 2019-06

Motion made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve Resolution 2019-06 for 701 South Street setting a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501, of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. 1008 East Street - Resolution 2019-07

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve Resolution 2019-07 for 1008 East Street setting a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. based on Section 8-501, of the Unified Development Code. All in favor. Motion carried.

Council Member Peters asked if the Council could get a list of houses that have been demolished either by the City or the owner from 2016 to date.

Council Member Ford inquired if there would be any funding left after these houses. Code Enforcement Officer Hutton stated that the above mentioned houses one owner may demolish his on his own and one house may request time to improve the house. Therefore, their might be some funds left in the 2019 budget.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Franklin –

- Absent

B. Council Member Myrick–

- None

C. Council Member Mathew –

- Thanked Council Member Peters for the information on local businesses.

D. Mayor Wells–

- Reminded Council that Administrator Fleming had sent out a request for the top three short-term ideas for strategic planning. He asked the Council Members to please respond to this request.

E. Council Member Ballard –

- Received another letter from an employee. Feels like Council should be getting exit interviews.

F. Council Member Peterson–

- None

G. Council Member Ford–

- Would like to have discussions on the money the city sends to Thrive for Economic Development. Would like an update on where our money is spent.

H. Council Member Peters –

- Noted that the City employees did a great job on snow removal.
- Stated that Sonic Equipment sold, and Gates is deleting a second shift for one of their lines. Concerned that the City needs to have a plan if these two industries leave the area.

I. Council Member Martin -

- None

J. Administrator Fleming—

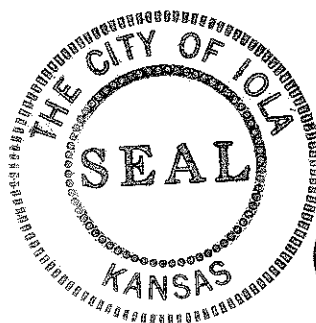
- Noted that at the January 28th meeting photos will be taken of the Council Members.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2019

7:04 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 28th day of January, 2019.



Mayor Wells

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Wells".

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxanne Hutton".