

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on March 13, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Shallah, seconded by Council Member Peters, approves the agenda as presented. 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.

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **February 27, 2023, Council Meeting**

- B. Appropriations Approval**

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. EMC Insurance Renewal - Debbie Tacilet - Ms. Tacilet from Iola Insurance Associates reviewed the policy with the Council. She informed them that EMC is the best option for the City.

Council Member Slaugh stated that EMC doesn't have any competition. Ms. Tacilet noted that no other insurance offers coverage for us. Council Member Slaugh asked if the city's deductible was adequate. Ms. Tacilet stated that the underwriter has pointed out that the deductible is in a good place. Next year's renewal may reveal that increases must be made.

Ms. Tacilet reminded the Council that with the addition of the new generators last year, the property value increased by \$14 million. This, in turn, increases the premium.

Motion made by Council member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member D'Albini to approve the renewal of the 2023-2024 insurance premium with EMC Insurance administered by Iola Insurance Associates of \$551,113.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Mayor French allowed Max Grundy to speak since he was absent when it was time for public comments.

Max Grundy informed the Council that he had noted that other towns had designed a City Flag. He presented several different options of flags that he had intended. All of them were done in blue and gold to pay tribute not only to the school colors, sky, and ground. He noted that the flag should be simple so that it can be read from a distance. Many of the options he made were interpretations of the square as well as the rolling hills and the peaceful area.

Council Member Shallah noted that while she was grateful for the work Mr. Grundy had put into the project, she stated that Iola is more than just the square. It is the community, the schools, and the history in general. Council Member Shallah noted that Wichita's City Flag is iconic, and you understand what it is when you see it.

B. Capital Improvement Projects/U.S. Highway - Resolution 2023-13 - Garth Herrmann, Bond Counsel from Gilmore & Bell, gave the council members an overview of the process for issuing bonds.

Mr. Herrmann stated that the next step in the Madison Avenue Street project process is to approve the Resolution in the packet that gives the City Council the authority to issue General Obligation Bonds to finance the project.

The plan is not to issue bonds for the project until a design is completed, which will take approximately one year. When that time comes, the Council will move forward in the process.

A public sale will be held for banks to submit bids. The City will choose the bank with the lowest interest rates via a Resolution, and a closing will occur. This process will give the City the money to finance the project during construction.

Mr. Herrmann stated that this process allows the City to commit to expenditure without having the funds. According to the State of Kansas Cash Basis Law, the Council can only commit to a project after first having the funding in the bank. This allows the City to begin a project with the funding source being a future bond issue.

This process will also preserve the city's right to reimburse us for the money we have expended on the project.

Council Member Slaugh noted that in the past, the City's credit rating was considered low.

Mr. Hermann stated that the city's credit rating would affect the interest rate. He did note that with the previous Charter Ordinance, this bond issue would not be affected by the City's debt limit of 30%. The city's ability to repay the bond is what the banks will consider.

Council Member Slaugh asked about splitting the project over two or more years. Mr. Hermann stated that while he cannot advise on financial matters, that process would create two bond issues and would not make financial sense. The City would risk increased interest rates and incur closing fees on the second bond issue.

Motion made by Council Member D'Albini and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve Resolution 2023-13 authorizing U.S. Highway 54 project financing. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Brush Fire Truck Purchase - Discussion - Assistant Administrator connected a zoom call between the council members and Fire Chief Isbell, Deputy Chief B'Hymer, and representatives from Brindlee Mountain in Alabama.

Chief Isbell went to Alabama to inspect a used brush truck for sale. The department was planning to purchase a new brush fire truck in 2025. If purchased, this truck will replace a current makeshift brush truck that is not designed as such and has not been very productive.

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Mayor French asked Chief Isbell what the life expectancy was on this truck. Chief Isbell stated that if the truck is taken care of, it should last ten or more years.

Mayor French asked what would become of the two trucks the department uses now to fight brush fires. Chief Isbell noted that they would check with Rural Fire District #2 to see if they are interested in #312 for structure fires. Unit #315, the pump would be removed by staff from the truck, and then it would be used as a utility vehicle.

Council Member Slaugh asked if RFD#2 is a separate entity. Chief Isbell noted that the city is contracted to serve the area and other locations outside the city limits when they are asked to respond.

Council Member Peterson asked if #312 couldn't be redone and put back in service. Chief Isbell noted that the vehicle is not made to be used to drive through those terrains.

Council Member Slaugh noted that this purchase is outside of the Purchasing Policy the City has in place. He spoke with Conrad about a new brush truck, and they stated they could sell a new one for \$175,000-\$250,000.

The representative for Brindlee Mountain stated that while Conrad could do a truck for less, it would have to be specced out to include all of the extras on this current vehicle which would increase the total cost, and the time frame would be two to four years. Their company is seeing that by the time they get the requested chassis to begin the build of a brush truck, the price has increased, and the customer has to pay more than the bid price. He noted that this truck is built to drive off the road and through pasture land. It offers a front sprayer that would allow the firefighters to begin fighting the fire before they exit the truck, making it safer for them.

Council Member Peterson asked if the money from the Capital Outlay line item would be used in total for this purchase, creating a shortage for other needs on this truck. Chief Isbell stated that when this truck arrives in Iola, it will be ready to fight a fire. No additional purchases will be needed to get the truck in service.

Council Member D'Albini thanked the gentlemen for visiting Alabama to look at this vehicle.

Council Member Peters asked if the hours versus the miles made a difference on a vehicle like this. Chief Isbell noted that the previous owner had used the truck for training. The truck was not used in actual firefighting.

Chief Isbell stated that the vehicle would come with a one-year warranty which is equivalent to a new build. He said that Grain Valley or Conrad Fire both sell this brand and would be able to do warranty work.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he would not be in favor since the staff did not obtain quotes for a new vehicle with the same equipment.

Motion made by Council Member Shallah to approve the purchase of a brush fire truck from Brindlee Mountain in the amount of \$279,00 from the Fire Department Capital Outlay Funds. Motion seconded by Council Member D'Albini. Voting in favor of the Motion were Council Members D'Albini, Kinder, Lohman, Peterson, Shallah, and Peters. Voting against the motion was Council Member Slaugh. Absent was Council Member Wicoff. The motion passed with a majority vote.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters had nothing to report.

B. Council Member Lohman--

- Council Member Lohman commented that two EMS employees had left the City, and two more were hired, creating the same staffing levels.

C. Council Member D'Albini--

- Council Member D'Albini noted that he and Bobbie Haviland, ACC Registrar have been working on hosting a green zone training. This training is for civilians in a community to assist veterans reentering the country following a deployment with behavioral health.

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 had nothing to report.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder had nothing to report.

- Mayor French had nothing to report.

J. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder thanked the council for approving the Fire Truck purchase this evening. It was a quick decision to take advantage of an opportunity, and he appreciates the Council supporting the need for the truck.

K. Assistant Administrator Schinstock -

- Assistant Administrator Schinstock reminded Council to get back to him regarding the 2024 budget schedule.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023

7:19 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Lohman to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 27th day of March 2023.



A handwritten signature in dark 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