

CITY OF IOLA

Page 1

03/22/2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on March 22, 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 Peters, French, Ford, Myrick, Slaugh, and Peterson were present. Also present were Administrator Matt Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent were Council Members Kinder and Ballard.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Peterson and seconded by Council Member Peters 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.

Donna Houser welcomed Administrator Rehder and commended Assistant Administrator Schinstock on a job well done while serving as Interim Administrator.

Donna Houser informed the group that the football stadium is near completion. Work is beginning on the press box.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **March 8, 2021, Council Meeting**

- B. Appropriations Approval**

- C. Library Board Appointment**
Dan Johnson - Reappointment

- D. Relay for Life - Boot Block**

Council Member, French inquired about the cost for internet and phone service through Cox Communications and wondered if we couldn't find another provider that would charge less. Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that staff would check into it. Council Member Slaugh made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Humanity House Request- Tracy Keagle, representing Humanity House, stated that the garden produced over 10,000 pounds of produce last year. This year they would like to plant some flowers and offer classes to get more individuals involved. Ms. Keagle asked about waiving the connection fees also.

Council Member Slaugh asked Ms. Keagle how many plots are rented. Ms. Keagle noted that the lots are rented out for \$25.00 each year, and while not aware of exactly how many plots are spoken for, she said that they are planning on having events to attract individuals to the garden.

Council Member French asked how many of the gardeners are those individuals that Humanity House helps. Ms. Keagle did not have an answer to that specific question.

Council Member Peterson told Ms. Keagle that after last April's Facebook Live Video where Ms. Keagle and another individual working for Humanity House demeaned the City of Iola, said horrible things about Council Members, the Mayor, and Staff of the City—questioned the integrity of City Clerk Hutton. Council Member Peterson stated that she considered Humanity Houses' actions as bullying the staff and Council Members of the City of Iola and then coming to a Council Meeting and asking for free water. She would not support the request.

Council Member Ford agreed with Council Member Peterson.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh to give the Humanity House Community Garden up to \$500 in free water for the 2021 gardening season. Motion seconded by Council Member Peters. Voting in favor of the motion was Council Members Slaugh, Peters, and French. Voting against the motion were Council Members Peterson, Ford, and Myrick. Mayor Wells voted in favor of the motion breaking the tie. Motion carried.

B. KMEA Mid-States Service Contract - Assistant Administrator Schinstock noted that the City currently has an agreement with Mid-States Energy Works to provide on-call electric engineering services for the City of Iola. In July 2020, they were purchased by KMEA.

Council Member French asked if we are a member of KMEA and if it would be cheaper to pay the non-member fees.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve the master service agreement for engineering, procurement, and construction services with KMEA Mid-State and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Kansas Forest Agreement - Fire Chief Chase Waggoner, stated the agreement with the Kansas Forest Service assists rural fire districts and municipal fire departments that cover rural areas in the form of grants, training, apparatuses, vehicle parts, and surplus equipment.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Kansas Forest Service and authorize the necessary signatures. Allow the Fire Chief to submit a 50/50 grant application for \$9,690 for personal protective equipment with the Kansas Forest Service. All In favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. Cedarbrook Greenspace Discussions - Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director Jonathan Goering, and John Castellaw were meeting to discuss the plans they have been working on with Mayor Wells and Assistant Administrator Schinstock for the Cedarbrook Greenspace.

Mr. Goering noted that the first part of the plan is to use the golf cart path as a walking trail. This will give residents in the area a place to walk and enjoy nature. Discussion about future ideas for the property included a fishing area, a dog park, outdoor games such as ping pong and chess, installing a parking area, and bathrooms.

Mr. Castellaw noted that there are grant opportunities available for outside recreation areas.

Council Member Ford had some concerns regarding patrolling the area with no vehicle access.

Council Member Peters asked who would maintain the area. Mr. Goering noted that it would be the responsibility of the City.

Mr. Goering noted that by utilizing the area as a park, the city would no longer pay property taxes.

Council Member Slaugh stated he supported the project. He does, however, have some concerns about Park Superintendent Kerr having the extra property to maintain.

Council Member French stated that he would like a wheelchair-accessible dock put in if possible. This would provide opportunities for all of the residents in Iola.

Thrive Allen County, and City staff will continue to work together to move the project along. They will continue to gain approval from the Council as things move forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Peters to recess into Executive Session for 15 minutes pursuant to contract negotiations, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3). The purpose of the executive session is to prepare for future or current contractual discussions and shall include the Mayor, Council, Administrator Rehder, and Assistant Administrator Schinstock. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 7:09 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member French to recess into Executive Session for 15 minutes pursuant to contract negotiations, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3). The purpose of the executive session is to prepare for future or current contractual discussions and shall include the Mayor, Council, Administrator Rehder, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and Chief Waggoner. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 7:24 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- None

B. Council Member Ford—

- Council Member Ford stated she was contacted by a college student about the inability of walkers to cross State Street using the Miller Road Sidewalk. She wondered if staff could look into a push-button crosswalk or another way to cross the street safely.

C. Council Member French –

- Council Member French wondered if the City of Iola could provide electricity to the County Airport. Councilmember Slaugh noted that the City would have to annex the property and extend the electricity to the airport. The property is currently outside of the City of Iola's service territory.

D. Council Member Peterson--

- None

E. Council Member Ballard

- Absent

F. Council Member Slauch--

- Council Member Slauch stated that some items had been deferred until a new City Administrator was hired; he wondered if Administrator Rehder could look into the SEMS inventory management software and either follow through with implementation or terminate the contract.

G. Council Member Myrick--

- None

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Absent

I. Mayor Wells

- Mayor Wells stated that with the longer daytime hours, motorists need to be aware of walkers and bikers in the area.

K. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder also commented that more people are out and about this time of year and encouraged everyone to be cautious of children riding bikes and walking.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021

7:30 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

It is approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, this 12th day of April 2021.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brett P. Wells", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Wells

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Roxanne Hutton", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton