

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on April 23, 2018, 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 Ford, Ballard, Middleton, Franklin, Martin and Myrick were present. Also present were Administrator Fleming, Assistant Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Absent were Council Members Peters and Shaughnessy.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Houser stated that the Rotary Dinner was nice and had a lot of great accolades for Iola.

Larry Walden stated he wanted to protest the Council raising the “taxes” or utility rates. Mr. Walden stated that the City of Iola has been making a profit for the last few years. Mr. Walden quoted balances from the Quarterly Treasurer's Reports from 2016 to present. Mr. Walden stated the City then bailed out Iola Industries by purchasing the land for \$400,000.

Mayor Wells informed Mr. Walden that he had 30 more seconds of his allotted time. Mr. Walden stated he had not been informed of a time limit. Mayor Wells stated that in the agenda that was approved by the Council a three-minute time limit is allowed and he had actually given him two minutes extra already.

Mr. Walden stated that when the Council approved the 2018 Budget they increased transfers from the Electric Fund and then at the beginning of 2018 the Council increased Electric rates.

Mayor Wells informed Mr. Walden his time was up. Council Member Franklin made a motion to make a suspension of time and allow Mr. Walden time to finish his comments. Motion was seconded by Council Member Middleton. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Franklin, Middleton, and Myrick. Voting against the motion were Council Members: Martin, Ballard, and Ford. Since the Motion required a two-thirds majority vote. The motion failed. Mr. Walden left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval

- April 9, 2018

B. Appropriations Approval – 2018-07

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

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Boy Scouts - Request** – Members of the local Boy Scout Troop 55 are requesting approval to hold a flag retirement ceremony on City property in Riverside Park. Spencer Ames and Alec Sager, Boy Scouts from Troop 55, were present to inform the Council that the flags would be destroyed in a dignified way. They will receive guidance from the Iola Parks Department and the Iola Fire Department to assure that all safety precautions have been taken. Both departments will be at the scene in case they are needed. They have obtained barrels from Ray's Metal Depot and have received permission from the Allen County Fairboard to use the Rodeo Arena, which will provide a safe ground environment as well as a safe distance for any spectators. The scouts have gathered approximately 200-300 flags from the flag collection sites they have designated.

Council Member Ballard had concerns about a possible burn ban being in effect at the time and embers that may travel over the dike.

Council Member Ford stated that the scouts may want to get in touch with Tom Nevans, from the Veterans Committee, as he was interested in having a flag ceremony also.

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Martin to authorize Boy Scout Troop 55 to hold a flag retirement ceremony on City property at a location to be determined by City staff on May 26th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Water Utility Rate - Ordinance –

- Administrator Fleming explained the proposal that is presented in Ordinance #3481 seeks to make the utility fund solvent and maintain the needs of maintenance needs of the water lines and the water plant. The key part of this proposal to pay back the Sales Tax fund so that future projects

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can be done out of the fund in the future. Budget will be discussed at the May 29th meeting.

- Council Member Ford stated that her only concern was that the community was not informed enough by the last article in the paper. We should make it effective June 1 instead of May 1 to give them more time.
- Council Member Myrick stated that a lot of people are upset about the rate increase. He told them to come to meeting and speak up. No one showed up.
- Council Member Martin asked what would be the disadvantage if we had the Ordinance go into effect on June 1 versus May 1.
- Administrator Fleming stated that there would be a loss of income for the one month we don't bill for the increase.
- Council Member Ford made a motion and Council Member Ballard seconded the motion to amend Ordinance #3481 to be effective with bills beginning June 1, 2018. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Council Member Ballard asked if staff forecasted the shortfall. Administrator Fleming stated that yes staff had forecasted during the budget process. Part of it had to do with overestimating the revenue, the budget was paired down and a rate increase was discussed during the 2018 Budget preparation.
- Administrator Fleming stated that when the Master Plan is completed it will show us what our needs are. The Oak Street Water tower has to be painted in 2019.
- Council Member Ballard stated that the equipment purchases shows we aren't making concessions.
- Mayor Wells stated that the City is still losing \$100,000 even if no transfers are made out of the Water Fund and no rate increase is made.
- Administrator Fleming stated that at a conference he attended recently companies surveyed stated that the cost of water is the 48th thing that a company considers when they are looking for a location for their business. Access to water supply is higher.
- Council Member Franklin referenced an article from the Iola Register in 2011 that stated the City was considering a 30% water rate increase. At that time an 18% increase was done. What are we doing wrong that we can't get this right.
- Administrator Fleming stated that the City has kept rates low for so long. that it has been unable to keep up with the aging infrastructure. The Water Plant is thirteen years old and it will start having things that will need to be replaced. The Master Plan will give staff an idea of what needs to be done.
- Council Member Franklin stated that it is Government's culture to ask for more money and not look for efficiencies. He feels that cuts should be done that make the staff uncomfortable.

- Administrator Fleming noted if we do the 7.5% increase in year-2 rather than 10% it would be a loss of \$45,000 per year.
- Motion made by Council Member Myrick to table this agenda item for two weeks to give members more time to gather more information. Motion failed for lack of a second.
- Donna Houser stated that the Council has been talking about this topic for three meetings now. The water lines on the square are very old and they need replaced. The staff need to money to be able to fix the things that need to be fixed. Residents will have to be able to adjust to the new rates, they will find the money by cutting things out of their spending.
- Motion made by Council Member Martin to approve Ordinance #3481 as amended and authorize the necessary signatures. Motion seconded by Council Member Middleton. Voting in favor of the Motion was Council Members: Martin, Ford, Middleton. Voting against the motion was Council Members: Ballard, Myrick and Ford. Mayor Wells voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried by a majority vote.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Franklin –

- Disappointed in Council Members not giving Mr. Walden time to speak out of respect for him.

B. Council Member Myrick–

- Prayers and thoughts to the Rhodes family.

C. Council Member Shaughnessy –

- Absent

D. Mayor Wells–

- Notified the Council that he had received a resignation letter from Council Member Shaughnessy. He will be accepting applications through May 9th and will appoint someone on May 14th. Council Member Franklin asked if the applicants could come before the Council and present the reasons why they want to be a Council Member. Mayor Wells stated he likes the way he has done it in the past and he will continue with the application process and appointing someone at the meeting.

E. Council Member Ballard –

- Thoughts and prayers for the family and coworkers of Trent Rhodes.
- He noted that the agenda had been voted on and if the Mayor has timed other individuals then the rules have to be followed.

F. Council Member Middleton –

- Condolences to the Rhodes family.

G. Council Member Ford–

- Condolences to Trent Rhode’s family.

H. Council Member Peters –

- Absent

I. Council Member Martin -

- People have contacted him about the rates going up. He has told him that this is a public meeting. Individuals need to reach out to their Council Members or come to a meeting.

J. Administrator Fleming–

- Reminded Council Members of the Washington Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Ribbon Cutting on May 5th.
- Tomorrow is an Equipment Expo with Kindergarten, First, and Second graders at the Park with City Staff.

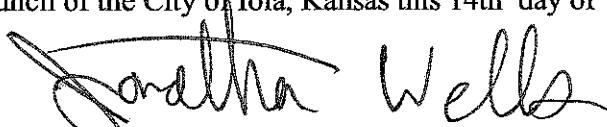
DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

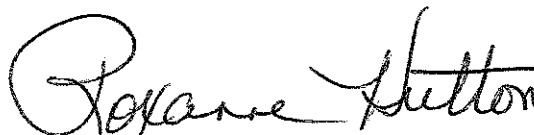
City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

7:18 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Martin to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 14th day of May, 2018.


Jonathan Wells
Mayor Wells


Roxanne Hutton
City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton

