

CITY OF IOLA

Page 1

04/27/2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on April 27, 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, Kinder, Ford, Peterson, Slaugh, Myrick, and French were present. Also present Interim City Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. and Council Member Ballard via phone. Customer Assistant, Chelsey Beasley was present to film the meeting for Facebook live, and Mike Phillips, Electric Production Supervisor.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Kinder to amend the agenda adding under item 6E Blood Drive Request from Allen County Regional Hospital. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **April 13, 2020, Council Meeting**
- B. Appropriations Approval**

Council Member Peters asked about the appropriation on page 17 payable to PEC. Interim Administrator Shinstock noted that this was a bill for part of the survey work he and Administrator Fleming had done for the Rail Trail. Motion made by Council Member Peters to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Slaugh. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Energy Action Items

- 1. Everygy Confirmation Letter Agreement** - Interim Administrator Schinstock got Scott Shreve, the City's Energy Consultant, on the phone. Mr. Shreve noted that locking in this raw power purchase price will benefit the city for ten years.

Council Member Kinder asked what the percentage of the City's power is purchased versus generated. Staff noted less than 5%. The capacity the city has

helps keep costs lower. Not economical to generate all of the time, however if needed the ability is there.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the Power Purchase Confirmation Letter with Evergy Kansas Central, Inc. and authorize Mayor Wells to sign the necessary documents.

2. Priority Power Consulting - Agreement - Council Member French asked about the increase in the consulting fee.

Mr. Shreve noted that with this contract the city will save approximately \$150,000 the agreement with Priority Power and Evergy will cost about \$110,000.

Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that the City has not had an increase since the City hired the energy consulting firm in 2006.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to approve the Priority Power Consulting Agreement and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Utility Payment - Discussions - Interim Administrator Corey Shinstock informed the Council that unless Governor Kelly extends her Order No 20-05 temporarily suspending the disconnection of services to customers for non-payment. The staff is looking for direction on shut-offs once the order is suspended.

Council Member Ford noted that there are people out there that have been affected by COVID 19, that are struggling to pay their bills. These individuals may need some more time, however; there are others that are just taking advantage of the no shut-off order to not pay their bill. It is difficult to separate these. We want to help individuals who were truly affected by COVID 19, loss of a job, loss of hours, didn't get extra funding, etc. Having kids at home now and you have to feed them is not a reason. The school district has two free meals a day for anyone under the age of 18 and the Foodbanks in the area are available also.

Mayor Wells noted that the staff is looking for direction on the number of days the Council wants to allow customers to pay their bill after the order is lifted.

Council Member Myrick noted that 30 days would be a good number.

Council Member Kinder stated that 60 days would be helpful but he is worried customers will get bogged down with what they currently owe and additional new bills.

CITY OF IOLA

Page 3

04/27/2020

Council Member Ballard noted that we have to run the city like a business. Not every citizen has been affected by the COVID 19. Several in the community received extra money with the stimulus and with unemployment. The City currently has a policy in place to allow the City Clerk to make a determination if an individual customer was affected with a job loss an extension with payment plan could be given.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he sympathizes with those individuals that were affected, however, if an individual has a debt they can go to the bank and work out the terms necessary to obtain funding. It is not the city's place to run a bank. Individuals should be given 15 days to pay their balance.

Council Member French noted it is a tough situation. Individuals that are on SSI, disability, and unemployment prior to this taking place all received their money as usual. The City is a business and we have bills to pay also. It doesn't seem wise to promote a payment plan for individuals that struggle with paying their current bills now. If the Council gives them six months to catch up they will just be more behind.

Council Member Peters noted that if they haven't attempted to make payments the last two months adding more time to pay will only force them to get more behind.

Council Member Ballard stated that 15 days with the ability to talk to the City Clerk if they need assistance is a reasonable choice.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Ballard to give a 15 day period following the termination of the Governor's order suspending utility shut-offs for individuals to pay their past-due bill in full. Voting in favor of the motion was Council Members French, Slaugh, Myrick, Kinder, Ballard, Peters, and Ford. Voting against the motion was Council Member Peterson. Motion passed by a majority vote.

C. USD #257 Property Request - Staff received a request from Superintendent of Schools, Stacey Fagar. This request is in regard to the school district acquiring two small parcels the City of Iola currently owns at the site of the new Iola Elementary School.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve Attorney Johnson to prepare a deed for the two parcels to USD #257 for the development of the new Iola Elementary School development for the amount of \$1.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Grass Clippings - Ordinance - An Ordinance was prepared by staff and reviewed by City Attorney Johnson prohibiting the depositing of grass or weed clippings in the road, street, alley, or highway.

Council Member Ballard stated that this is his profession and it is not hard to assure that when mowing grass is not pointed toward the street. It is not the city's responsibility to clean up after individuals that mow grass into the street.

Council Member Myrick stated that he didn't want it to turn into Code Enforcement and/or Police Officers hunting down violators just to give them a citation.

Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that Code Enforcement would be the ones regulating the Ordinance. They will first bring the incident to the customer's attention and request they clean up the street. If it continues for the same property a citation will be issued.

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peterson to approve Ordinance No. 3493 and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Hospital Blood Drive Request - Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that the hospital had approached him about holding a blood drive at the John Silas Bass Community Building on May 13 and 14 and waiving the fees.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Peterson to allow the hospital to use the John Silas Bass Community Building on May 13 and 14 and waive the fees for a Community Blood Drive. All in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Non - Elected Personnel - Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Kinder to recess into Executive Session 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 employee's employment and shall include the Mayor, Council, Interim City Administrator. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 6:45 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried. (Council Member Ballard disconnected from the phone prior to executive session.)

B. Executive Session - Contract Negotiations - Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to recess into Executive Session for pursuant to contract negotiations, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3). The purpose of the executive session is to prepare for future contractual discussions and shall include the Mayor, Council, and Interim City Administrator. The regular meeting will reconvene in the city council chamber at 6:55 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Noted that the budget will be starting soon. I would like to see the staff prepare a budget with needs versus wants.

B. Council Member Ford—

- The Council understands individuals are struggling. We are not trying to be heartless and mean we are trying to help residents not get even further behind. The council has to run the city and do what's best for the city as a whole.

C. Council Member French --

- Thanked Mayor Wells for recommending him for the interview panel for the next Economic Development Director at Thrive Allen County.
- Asked staff to look into solar panels and energy use of them in the community at residential homes.

D. Council Member Peterson—

- Encouraged residents to make payments on their bills.
- Tighten belt for the next budget year.

E. Council Member Ballard (gave report prior to council going into exec. session)

- Encouraged the Council to ignore individuals that don't have a voting decision on this council. We have to make decisions based on what is best for the residents as a whole. It can't allow individuals to strong-arm or waive the decisions that need to be made.

F. Council Member Slaugh—

- Keep an eye on the budget. With the Federal Government and the State Government having shortfalls that may create shortfalls on the City's budget.

G. Council Member Myrick—

- Thanked the city employees that have been working different hours during this time to keep the city running and safe at the same time.
- Encouraged everyone to be safe.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- He echoed Council Member Myrick's comments regarding the employees.
- The great thing about Iola is that everyone comes together in hard times.

I. Mayor Wells

- Thanked all of the entities that have been coming together since the COVID 19 outbreak and have worked together to keep our city safe and ready as needed.

CITY OF IOLA

Page 6

04/27/2020

- Planning on continuing limiting only the council and staff into meetings. If anyone has comments or questions please email Corey or me.

J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock–

- Noted if the Governor's stay at home order expires this weekend. The City will plan to go back to full staff. Will evaluate opening the drive-thru.
- Tom Carlson has approached him about a lot that was unbuildable due to the slop of the property, he would like to purchase it and put a shed on the property.
- I will be distributing budgets to the department heads early next week.
- Council Member Ford asked if the City will be opening the buildings to the public. He stated that it would be open in line with the Governor's orders.
- Still planning to have baseball and softball and open the pool.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

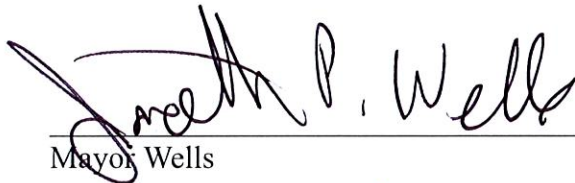
City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020

7:11 pm. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Slaugh to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 11th day of May 2020.





Mayor Wells



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton