

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on May 11, 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. Council Member Ballard was absent. Customer Assistant, Chelsey Beasley was present to film the meeting for Facebook live.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **April 27, 2020, Council Meeting**
- B. Appropriations Approval**

Council Member Kinder asked about the appropriations for technical expenses and wondered if this is something we could do in house if we had an IT person. Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that staff had been discussing hiring an IT person. Motion made by Council Member Myrick to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

A. Iola Area Chamber of Commerce - Update - Chamber Director, Jill Hartman, gave an update on the first year of her tenure with the Chamber.

Jill noted that within the last year forty new members have joined the current 80 members of the Chamber.

She has redesigned the Website.

Working on connecting individuals with businesses.

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Revising the Young Ambassador Program, with an Iola High School student doing an internship at the Chamber.

Reviving the Chamber Coffees in order to get business together to Network.

Connecting local businesses and banks for COVID 19 loans and grants.

Soon a visitor guide will be published representing the businesses within the City in full glossy color.

Miss Hartman listed her Chamber Board Members, noting how helpful and supportive they have been over the last year.

Council Member Ford noted that she has been pleased with the changes that have been made over the last year. She noted that Jill is the individual that will make the Chamber what it should be.

Council Member Myrick stated that he appreciates the work Miss Hartman has done and encouraged her to continue bringing updates to the Council.

Council Member Kinder asked what the City could do to assist businesses struggling to get through the COVID Pandemic.

Miss Hartman stated that she is currently assisting businesses in preparing for the future and reopening their businesses. She encouraged the City to keep the communication with businesses open.

Council Member French noted that adding 40 new members was an impressive feat. He noted that Miss Hoffman was the right choice for the job.

Council Member Slaugh asked Miss Hoffman if she was happy with the current office space within the Bowlus.

Miss Hartman noted that the partnership is working well. The traffic that comes through the Bowlus is exposing the Chamber to others. If the Chamber increases membership an area that will hold more employees would be needed.

Council Member Kinder asked Miss Hartman where she saw the Chamber in 3-5 years.

Miss Hartman noted that the Chamber Board had its Strategic Planning Session in February. With the Pandemic following that session changes made to the Strategic Plan. She sees increased growth in the membership and helping the current business stay strong.

B. City Administrator Search - Update - Mayor Wells gave an update on the status of the City Administrator Search from SGR.

Mayor Wells noted that the top five candidates will be given a questionnaire to fill out. Council will be able to review the answers in the Executive Session. If the Council would like to move forward with these candidates SGR will perform a video interview. If the Council wishes to move forward an in-person or Zoom interview can be held.

Council Member Slaugh asked if the process is on schedule with the search.

Mayor Wells noted that we are behind on the process mostly due in part to the COVID Pandemic

NEW BUSINESS

A. Emergency Medical Service Joint Agreement Addendum -

Interim Administrator Shinstock noted that the agreement was drawn up in order to give both sides more time to negotiate the current contract that was drawn up by City Attorney Johnson.

Mayor Wells stated that in the best interest of the county's health it would be best to approve this agreement to continue the current level of service of the EMS.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Myrick to approve the Addendum to Emergency Medical Services Joint Agreement with Allen County extending the current contract through December 31, 2021, and authorize the necessary signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Cedarbrook Lot Purchase - Request - Interim City Administrator Schinstock noted that the City had received a Letter of Intent to Purchase Real Estate from Tom Carlson of Pointe Royale Development for the lot at 4 Chambers Drive. Mr. Carlson plans to put a shed on the property to store the lawnmower and other equipment used on the properties.

Interim City Administrator Schinstock noted that the City currently pays property taxes and mows the property.

Council Member Myrick asked if the property would have to be built up quite a bit.

Interim City Administrator Schinstock stated that the shed could be put on the front of the property, therefore; the property wouldn't have to be built up as it would for a house.

Council Member French stated that Mr. Carlson would most likely keep the property aesthetically pleasing as he has with the homes in the area.

Council Member Slaugh asked if the lot had been advertised. He thought it should be per the guidelines in the Purchasing Policy.

This has not been the procedure in the past state Interim City Administrator Schinstock.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Myrick to make a counteroffer of \$2,500 with buyer paying all closing costs. Voting yes on the motion were Council Members French, Peterson, Ford, Peters, and Myrick.

Voting against the motion were Council Members Slaugh and Kinder. Motion passed by a majority vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session - Contract Negotiations - Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peters 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 6:47 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Cedarbrook Golf Course Clubhouse Property - Offer Consideration
This item was tabled.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Visited with Jim Baker, Electric Distribution Superintendent, about the recent storm. He noted that his crew had worked 30 hours straight. They are looking into the possibility of erecting steel poles in place of the broken wooden poles.
- I asked about the transformers that are sitting at the warehouse. Can they be used for the new elementary school building?
- Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that the transformer in question was purchased for the Gates Expansion Project, Gates later put a hold on the project. He didn't think that the school district would be needing something so large.

B. Council Member Ford–

- Thanked the crews that worked during the recent storm event. She had a lot of damage to her house.
- Thanked the Street and Alley Crew for picking up limbs.
- Asked for a status on the customers that have outstanding bills.
- City Clerk Hutton noted that while some had made payments there are still some individuals that haven't made payments for a couple of months.

C. Council Member French –

- Thanked City Crews for working the latest Storm Event. Individuals that didn't get out and drive around didn't realize there was so much damage.
- Applauded the citizens getting out and cleaning up the storm damage so quickly.
- I received some complaints from the neighbors of the old nursing home on North Walnut Street. Some items from the nursing home blew off in the storm and ended up in their yards. Could we check for code violations on this property?
- The Economic Development Search Committee has hired an individual that will be amazing for the job. She should be arriving sometime in mid-July.

D. Council Member Peterson–

- Encouraged everyone to be patient waiting for the limb pickup. There are a lot of limbs down, It will take a few weeks to get them all picked up.

E. Council Member Ballard

- Absent

F. Council Member Slauch–

- Asked Interim Administrator, Shinstock if the staff was adjusting to full schedules.
- Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that with the storm, staff had to jump in full force. He noted that the electric staff has worked on repairing the poles and getting power back on. The Gas, Water, and Wastewater crew were out getting limbs removed from streets and alleyways.
- He noted the street crew is picking up limbs from individual yards. They are currently on North Second Street making their way to the east side of town and then moving to the south part of town.
- I appreciate all of the crews working the storm.

G. Council Member Myrick–

- I visited with some of the crew that was out and about working on storm repairs and cleanups. Thankful they are there to help.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Echoed the others showing his appreciation for all of the City Crews for their work during the storm event.
- I asked about the possibility of acquiring new software to enable customers to select a payment date.
- City Clerk Hutton noted that the software will allow the individual to choose a date, however, having meters read in different areas of town in order to accommodate the customer as well as the mandated number of days allowed between bill issue and paid date.

I. Mayor Wells -

- Appreciate staff for the extra work done following the storm event.
- Noted that other towns don't always pick up storm debris. Electricity is not restored quickly in other municipalities due to the fact they have to wait for the commercial electric company.
- Planning on opening meetings to the public sometime during Phase II or III.
- Hoping to have the swimming pool open sometime this summer along with Recreation Baseball / Softball.

J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock—

- Reviewed Budget Meeting dates that will be in June and July.
- Will place the Rotary Recycling Update. at a future meeting.
- THRIVE Allen County will be at the next meeting to give an update on their programs.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020

7:16 pm. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peterson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 26th day of May 2020.





Mayor Wells



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton