

CITY OF IOLA

Page 1

08/19/2019

A special called meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on August 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the Riverside Park Community Building 510 Park Avenue, Iola, Kansas. The purpose of said meeting was to discuss 2020 Budget and approve the 2020 Budget.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Wells and Council Members Peters, Peterson, Ford, Mathew, Myrick, Franklin, and Ballard were present. Also present were Administrator Fleming, Assistant City Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton. Council Member Martin was in attendance via phone.

BUDGET 2020

Administrator Fleming discussed the list of proposed changes that he had dispersed last week. He then noted that the handout that was distributed at tonight's meeting shows an option to retain all employee related cuts in the budget and removing a 5% suggested cut across all funds within the General Fund Proposed Budget.

The items in red are items that would be "firm" cuts from the 2020 Budget, while the items in the mustard color would be items that would remain within the 2020 Budget but would be cut if the funding was not there. Administrator Fleming also noted that the proposed budget already included a reduction of \$135,500 that was made following the Budget Meetings that were held with Council in July.

Administrator Fleming noted that he had invited the General Fund Department Heads to tonight's meeting in case a Council Member had a question about a certain cut within one of their departments.

Mayor Wells noted that the rock for chip and seal would not be purchased in 2020 for a 2021 chip and seal project but would be washed instead to save some funding.

Dan Leslie, Street & Alley Department Head, stated that the crew feel like following the 2020 Chip and Seal Project there would be enough rock to perform this practice.

Mayor Wells asked the Council what were their thoughts on the cell phone stipend received by some of the employees and all of the Department Heads.

Council Member Ford stated that it should be at least cut in half because cell phone plans do not cost as much as it used too.

Council Member Franklin stated that he did not agree. Employees should not be forced to pay for a phone that is used for work.

It was the consensus that the cell phone stipend be decreased by half.

Mayor Wells asked the Council's opinion on the Bank Service Charges that are currently being paid by the City for credit card fees.

Council Member Peters stated that we are cutting the budget but passing it right on to the citizens.

Other Council Members were open to passing these charges onto the customer.

Council Member Ballard stated that the cuts hadn't been made.

Administrator Fleming asked Council Member Ballard what cuts he wanted. Do you want to make the decision as a council to cut services and/or levels of service. Without clear direction from Council staff is not sure what he means by "cuts".

Council Member Ballard stated that the Council is not looking forward. Budgeting 10 - 15 years down the road. Following through on the Strategic Planning items.

Mayor Wells stated that if Council Members don't attend the Strategic Planning meetings then how can they complain about things not being a part of the plan.

Mayor Wells stated that at the Budget Meetings for Council in July the direction given to Administrator Fleming by those in attendance was to keep the mill levy flat.

That was done and brought back to Council and discussed at the Third Budget meeting. Nothing was said until the August 12, 2019 Council Meeting about cutting the General Fund.

Mayor Wells stated that the Council can't sit here and say trust the department heads and then when they come to the Council and state their needs for equipment or other items necessary to do their jobs we second guess the department heads.

Council Member Ford stated that she thinks the merit and the COLA is just too much with the increase of the Health Insurance.

The majority of the Council stated they were in favor of cutting merit increases across all departments. They were in favor of keeping the 2.5% COLA increase in the budget.

Longevity pay was brought up. Employees receive longevity pay following their 10 year anniversary. The amount increases by \$50.00 each year thereafter.

The Majority of the Council stated they were in favor of cutting longevity pay since the merit increases would be cut.

Council Member Ballard asked Chief Warner if the line for Capital Outlay which state Vehicle Maintenance would eliminate all his funds for vehicle maintenance.

Chief Warner stated that the cut shown was for the purchase of a patrol car.

Council Member Franklin stated that Council shouldn't mandate the 5% cut across the General Fund. This should be a general practice for every employee to see ways they can save spending and follow through with them.

Motion made by Council member Peters to approve the published 2020 Budget with the \$232,612.17 decreases that were mentioned tonight. Motion seconded by Council Member Franklin. Voting in favor of the motion were: Council Members Peters, Ford, Peterson, Mathews, Martin, and Franklin. Voting against the motion was Council Members Myrick and Ballard. Motion passed by majority vote.

Administrator Fleming asked for clarification from the comment at the last meeting for staff to have a hiring freeze until the staffing study was completed.

Council Member Ford stated well if the position is a safety position, or is required because the department is low staffed.

Council Member Ballard stated that the hiring/firing job should come back to the Council then the Council could make the decision.

Council Member Franklin asked why this was even being discussed when the Council approved Administrator Fleming to handle these items.

Consensus was that this was an Administrative-level decision and Council is not mandating a hiring freeze.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING


City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 2019

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2019

6:42 pm. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peters to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 26th day of August 2019.





Mayor Wells



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton