

CITY OF IOLA

Page 1

08/24/2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on August 24, 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, Peterson, Ballard, Slaugh, Myrick, and Ford, were present. Also present was Interim City Administrator Schinstock and City Clerk, Hutton. Council Member French arrived at 6:30 p.m. Absent was Council Member Kinder.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Myrick 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 that are under the jurisdiction of the City Council may do so at this time when called upon by the Mayor. 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 informed the group that the Smithsonian Exhibit will be opening at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center this Saturday, August 29, 2020, and running through October 11, 2020.

Larry Walden asked the Council and Mayor to drop their masks when they speak because individuals that are hard of hearing can't hear them.

Mayor Wells noted that if he is speaking to an individual at the podium he would remove his mask but for the regular business on the agenda, he will leave his mask on.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes Approval**
  - **August 10, 2020, Council Meeting**
  
- B. Appropriations Approval**

A motion was made by Council Member Slaugh to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

**A. Allen County Regional Hospital - CEO Elmore Patterson** - Mr. Patterson was introduced by Loren Korte, Hospital Board Member, to the Mayor and Council Members and he gave a brief synopsis of his path that led to Allen County Regional Hospital.

Mr. Patterson noted that 3-D Mammography will be coming soon to the hospital. He noted that the staff at Allen County Regional Hospital is great. He thanked the Council and the citizens of Iola for voting for the CountyWide Sales Tax Initiative to benefit the hospital. The Council Members welcomed Mr. Patterson to Iola.

**B. KansasWorks Presentation - Kayla Medley** - Ms. Medley, Youth Workforce Development Coordinator, introduced herself and gave the Mayor and Council Members a presentation of the new program being offered to enhance and develop a stronger youth workforce within Allen and Neosho County communities. She noted that the pilot program she is working on is in Allen and Neosho County. They are trying to work with employers to determine the skills and training the students to need to obtain a job locally. Soft skills such as workplace etiquette, pride in the job, etc are being trained in a classroom setting. Ms. Medley invited the Mayor and Council to stop by or call her if they have any questions.

**C. Zinc Civil War Soldier Statue - Discussions** - Staff has been in discussions with the City of Aurora, Illinois regarding the Zinck Statue the City has. They are offering to restore our statue in return for them to take a mold of our statue to restore their identical statue.

Berkeley Kerr, Parks, and Cemetery Superintendent stated that in 1998 the statue was refurbished. It was paid for by the Veterans Committee and local individuals. In 2019 staff moved the statue to ACHS so that it would be out of the weather. He has reservations about sending him that far during these times of unrest. Mr. Kerr noted that to restore the statue in its current state would be about \$7,800.

Council Member Slaugh noted that the Veterans Committee has some interest in the statue, possibly they would be able to help transport it to Illinois.

Tom Nevins, Veterans Committee Member, stated that he has some reservations about the statue going that far when the restoration could be done in Topeka by the same person that restored it last time.

Interim Administrator Shinstock stated that as far as he can tell the foundry as well as the museum seem very reputable.

Council Member Ford stated that she would like to see a cost for both options.

Larry Walden stated that the statue is made of a welding Sauder and it could be repaired locally. He is against displaying it back in the cemetery due to its fragile state. He suggested that the local Museum Curator and some local artists could work with Mr. Kerr to restore the statue.

The Council was in consensus to keep the statue at the Historical Society so it is safe from the weather and safe from the elements.

Donna Houser stated that when the statue was at the cemetery people would climb on it to take pictures, which was not good for the statue. In the museum, it is safe where no one can touch it.

Mayor Wells asked staff to work on some figures for all options and bring back to the Council.

**D. Fire Engine Replacement- Discussion-** At the previous meeting Council Member Ballard requested that staff investigate the possibilities of replacing Unit #311 at the Iola Fire Department with a demonstration unit.

The staff has brought a summary of information that Chief Thyer put together for a discussion on this fire engine.

Chief Thyer and Lieutenant Isbell, presented the current prices of Demo Trucks that the Fire Department could purchase. It was difficult to find a unit that is within the 32 feet of available space at the station.

Chief Thyer stated that the vehicle that is out of service has had numerous issues with surging after coming to a stop. This also affects the water pumping during a fire. When one of these surges occurs the water pressure drops excessively which can put a fireman in danger if they are inside of a burning structure.

Council Member Peters asked about the price difference between the brands.

Chief Thyer noted that you get what you pay for. If you purchase a more expensive fire truck you are more than likely going to get a better product. The one they are looking at is a replica of the current one with a different engine. The equipment will switch from one to the other.

CITY OF IOLA

Page 4

08/24/2020

Council Member Slaugh stated that he appreciates the desire for a new truck, however, his opinion is that the department should lay back money for it before purchasing. The last one that was purchased was with funds other departments had saved for purchasing equipment for their department. This caused some frustration between the departments. He noted that the department has not had luck with any of the grants because most of those are awarded to smaller departments that cannot pay for a new unit.

Council Member Slaugh noted that the 2010 Pierce has had six recalls. Lieutenant Isbell stated that all of the recalls had been taken care of. None of them had anything to do with the issues the department has been having with the emissions system on the truck.

It was noted by Chief Thyer that the ladder truck will not be safety certified, therefore it will not be used within two years due to the age of the truck.

Council Member French noted that he spoke with some other cities that had recently purchased new vehicles. They noted that the Pierce model has been having problems and most departments have moved away from purchasing them.

Council Member French stated that he was told that the Sutphen is a good quality vehicle. It is a small family-owned business that builds the trucks by hand. When there is a problem with the vehicle Sutphen comes to the location of the truck and does the repairs there instead of making the department bring the vehicle to them.

Council Member Ballard stated that the Council needed to realize that every single fire department in the nation is applying for the grants. The chance that the IFD will receive one is slim. This truck is a safety issue and it would be poor of the Council not to take care of this issue before someone gets hurt.

Mayor Wells noted that the 2020 financials will likely come in underspending in the General Fund with the Administrator Position being empty for several months. With that and the \$125,000 transfer to the Equipment Reserve, the Council approved within the 2021 budget and the \$94,200 in Equipment Reserve dedicated to the Fire Department, some of the cost could be absorbed.

Council Member Ford asked if a deposit would be required if a new truck was ordered that had a 9-12 month build time. Chief Thyer stated that a deposit and a letter of good faith would be required.

Council Member French encouraged the department to talk to other cities that have bought new trucks recently.

Interim Administrator Shinstock stated that the Fire Department will spec out what they want and need and then solicit bids.

Council Member Peterson asked about the safety concerns and using the vehicle. Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that they are working on them and trying to get them repaired through the dealer.

Council Member Myrick stated that his feeling is the same as the Police Department as well as the Fire Department. They should have the best top-notch equipment, to prevent injuries. If a truck breaks down during a fire it could cause injuries, this is not good. The City needs to figure out where we can get the money from and purchase the equipment.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Non-Elected Personnel** - Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to recess into Executive Session for fifteen minutes 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's employment and shall include the Mayor, Council, Human Resources Manager, and the Interim City Administrator. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 7:25 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### **A. Council Member Peters -**

- School is back in session watch for kids walking and riding bikes to and from school.

### **B. Council Member Ford—**

- Be aware of school kids and college kids out and about. If you see a student looking lost see if you can assist them.

### **C. Council Member French –**

- None

### **D. Council Member Peterson—**

- None

### **E. Council Member Ballard**

- None

**F. Council Member Slaugh–**

- None

**G. Council Member Myrick–**

- Asked about the status of the Kwik Kom franchise fees. He stated that they should be required to pay a late fee. Interim Administrator Schinstock replied that they will have to pay a late fee as per the Franchise Agreement. He will have an update for the September 14th meeting.

**H. Council Member Kinder -**

- Absent

**I. Mayor Wells**

- He noticed that the new street sweeper is picking up the chip and seal rocks very well. The Street and Alley Department are reusing this rock which is saving the City money on the project.
- Watch out for kids walking to and from school.

**J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock–**

- Informed the Council that a Public Forum has been scheduled to discuss the 54 projects. Burns and McDonald will be available to speak to those in attendance and answer questions. The forum is being held on Thursday, August 28 from 4-6 p.m. at the Recreation Community Building in Riverside Park.
- Still meeting with those involved in the elementary school project about the heavy equipment damaging the roads and who will repair them.
- Finishing up compiling all of the receipts to submit for the Federal Funds Exchange Program will reimburse up to 90% of the expenses.
- Scott Shreve will be here at the next meeting to discuss the solar project.
- Informed the Council that Health Insurance showed a 16% increase with a budget of only 8%. Carla Brown, Human Resource Officer, and the BCBS Representative are working on a possible change in the plan to make it affordable.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2020

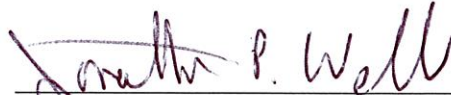
**7:35 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

CITY OF IOLA

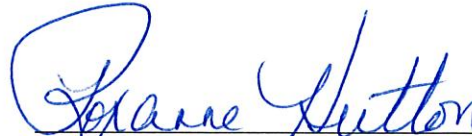
Page 7

08/24/2020

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 14th day of September 2020.

  
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Mayor Wells



  
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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton