

A regular meeting of the City Council of Iola was held on August 13, 2021, 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 Myrick, Slaugh, Peterson, Ford, Peters, Ballard, Kinder, and French were present. Also present were Administrator Matt Rehder, Assistant City Administrator Schinstock, and City Clerk Hutton.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve the agenda as presented. 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 under the jurisdiction of the City Council may do so when called upon by the Council President. 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.

Mayor Wells read the above statement.

No public comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **August 23, 2021, Council Meeting**
- B. Appropriations Approval**
- C. GAAP Waiver**
- D. STO/UPOC Ordinance**

E. Farm City Days Event Request

Council Member Ballard inquired about the payment to Allen County Ambulance for prisoner care. City Clerk Hutton informed him that if an individual is arrested by the Iola Police Department, they are considered in their care; therefore, if they require an ambulance run for medical care, the City must pay for that service.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Audit Presentation - Sean Gordon, Gordon P.A. presented a brief overview of the 2020 Audit previously distributed to the Council Members.

Mr. Gordon noted no issues with the audit, and the report shows the highest review possible with no recommendations made. He said that this reflects the City Clerk and her staff for doing their job well.

The motion was made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Ford to accept the audit report for the 2020 fiscal year. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. CDBG CV-3 Funds Disbursement - Becky Voorhies of Thrive Allen County informed the Council that three businesses submitted a complete application and qualified for funds. One company did not meet the qualifications.

Council Member Ballard asked what the balance of the funding was. Ms. Voorhies stated there is \$123,000 left in the budget.

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve the disbursement of CV-3 grant funds and authorize the Mayor and staff to sign the necessary documents for the businesses mentioned above. All in Favor. Motion carried.

C. Super 8 Trash Enclosure - Agreement - Assistant Administrator Schinstock stated that representatives of Vishnu Corporation owners of Super 8 Motel in Iola are requesting a supplement to a Utility Easement Agreement that was initially signed back in 2004 between the City of Iola and the previous owner of the Super 8, Allen County Lodging, LLC.

Mr. Shinstock noted that City Attorney Johnson approved the agreement.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Myrick to approve the supplement to the utility agreement between the City of Iola and Vishnu Corporation allowing the trash enclosure to be on an existing utility easement. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Fire/EMS City Service - Mayor Wells noted that staff had come up with some numbers to run EMS service for the City of Iola.

A motion was made by Council Member Kinder and seconded by Council Member Myrick to table this agenda item to accommodate the Auditor who had arrived late due to traffic. All in favor. Motion carried.

Michael Burnett told the Council that he had checked into some EMS billing services and found one in Kansas to charge 8% of revenue collected.

Mayor Wells noted that he just couldn't support privatizing health care. The County has chosen to use a private EMS service. He's disappointed after the City and County had entered into a partnership with each other several years ago. The County treated the City as though we had just been in a contract business with them and didn't consider the partnership of the City and County EMS service.

Council Member Myrick stated that he was surprised how low the numbers to run city-wide ambulance service was.

Administrator Rehder noted that staff was conservative with the numbers used. It will more than likely take a couple of years to have an actual cost of the service.

Council Member Ford asked how many full-time employees would be needed for the service and how we would get to that number. Administrator Rehder stated that currently, the department is staffed with 24 and 22 employees are required to run the city-wide EMS and Fire service. The department would be decreased through attrition.

Council Member Kinder noted that if the City wanted to get aggressive with transfers, purchasing two ambulances for the purpose, the service could pay for itself and the new ambulances.

Michael Burnett noted that there isn't money to be made in the EMS business. Private companies get into other industries, including helicopter transfers and other forms of generating income.

Council Member Ballard noted that having staff make transfers regularly causes burnout and poor morale among the employees.

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Council Member Slaugh asked Mr. Burnett the cost of running the County EMS Service in 2013 when he ran the service for the County. Mr. Burnett noted that the actual price for the service was \$1.65 million.

Council Member Myrick stated that while he had nothing against Roxanne Hutton, City Clerk, or her department doing the ambulance billing, he felt it would be best to have an outside party do the billing. Administrator Rehder stated that the plan is to have an outside company do the billing.

Council Member Slaugh noted that the existing ambulances are 1995 and 1996. He feels that the City should go back to the county and ask them to subsidize the county-wide ambulance. He hates to see Iola citizens having another three mills levied on their taxes.

Council Member Peters noted that he received some calls from concerned citizens who don't want to be double taxed.

Council Member French stated that he would like to receive more community involvement. We know that our employees offer quality service to our citizens and will continue to do so.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he prefers to continue providing county-wide EMS service so that Iola citizens will not see rate increases.

Motion made by Council Member Ballard and seconded by Council Member Myrick to move forward with steps to provide City-Wide EMS service to the Iola area. Council Members Peterson, French, Ford, Myrick, Kinder, and Ballard voted in favor of the motion. Voting against the motion were Council Members Slaugh and Peters. Motion carried with a majority vote.

Mayor Wells brought up the topic of appointing an interim Fire Chief. Council Member Ballard feels that it is best to have one person making decisions and being aware of what is going on for all shifts. Council Member Ford stated that staff should move forward on hiring a new Fire Chief. Council Member Kinder likes the idea of having a Director of Public Safety over the Police and Fire Departments.

Staff will move forward with advertising for a Fire Chief.

E. Assistance to Firefighter Grant - Acceptance- Eric B'Hymer, IFD Lieutenant, informed the Council that the Iola Fire Department was awarded a grant from FEMA/AFG for \$58,057.14 with a local match of \$2,902.86. This grant will be used for training purposes.

Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Myrick to accept the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and authorize staff to notify FEMA of acceptance of the grant. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- Council Member Peters commented that the street lights around the square are looking good.
- Council Member Peters read a paragraph in the latest edition of Time Magazine. Iola was mentioned for using prisoners to work at the Russell Stovers plant.

B. Council Member Ford—

- Council Member Ford stated that the mosquito spraying should be done after dusk to save the bees.
- Council Member Ford noted that the ditch on NorthWestern needs to be mowed. The weeds are high.
- Council Member Ford recognized the longevity of the employees on the Administrators list.

C. Council Member French —

- None

D. Council Member Peterson—

- Council Member Peterson asked if a structural engineer had cleared the buildings adjacent to Westco. Administrator Rehder noted that they had received a report on the buildings. They cleared the adjoining property to be safe.
- The rock used for the new water line on S. Washington Street is getting very dusty and needs to be swept.

E. Council Member Ballard

- Council Member Ballard stated that the street sweeper light on the back makes it look easier to see.
- Council Member Ballard informed the Council that he had received a call from Terry Sparks regarding the parking limits around the square in front of his rentals. With the current parking limits, his guests are unable to park in front of their rentals. Would like to see this on a future agenda to be discussed by the Council.
- Council Member Ballard stated that he had been approached by Jim Talkington regarding the parking around his building. Residents in the apartment building are using his parking lot since they can not park on the street.

F. Council Member Slaugh–

- None

G. Council Member Myrick–

- None

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Council Member Kinder stated that he had some more concerns about flooding on the south side of town.
- Council Member Kinder had received a call about pets picked up by police officers and they were not scanned for a chip. The animal that is picked up on the weekend has to stay in the shelter until Monday because the impound fee can not be paid through the utility office. He wondered if something could be set up to pay the fee online or through ACARF.

I. Mayor Wells

- Mayor Wells thanked all of the first responders and those that came out for the Memorial walk on September 11th. He noted that he was honored to speak at the event. He thanked Iola Reads for organizing the event and keeping those that lost their lives in the attacks.

J. Administrator Rehder

- Administrator Rehder reminded the Council that the City Employee picnic is tomorrow evening in the Recreation Building.

DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2021

7:02 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried

It was approved by the City Council of Iola, Kansas, on the 27th day of September 2021.



Joseph P. Wells

Mayor Wells

Roxanne Hutton

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton