

CITY OF IOLA

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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on September 14, 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, Slaugh, Myrick, French, Kinder and Ford, were present. Council Member Ballard was present via phone. Also present was Interim City Administrator Schinstock and City Clerk, Hutton.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peterson 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 commented on the Fire Department's September 11th memorial. She appreciates the street chip and seal and the new water and gas lines the crew has installed.

Donna Houser informed the group that the bathrooms at the football stadium are finished.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes Approval**
 - **August 24, 2020, Council Meeting**

- B. Appropriations Approval**

- C. Farm City Days - Request**

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

ROUNDTABLE

A. CDBG Grant - Unit 311 Replacement - Staff has been working with Jonathon Goering and Becky Vorhees at Thrive Allen County regarding a grant opportunity to help fund the replacement of fire engine #311.

Jonathan Goering and Becky Vorhees from Thrive informed the Council that they will apply for the grant on behalf of the City. If they are successful with the grant award a fee of \$10,000 will be paid to Thrive Allen County to administer the grant.

Council Member Ballard stated that fire departments all over the nation apply for these grants. The City shouldn't count on getting this grant.

Council Member French stated that if the grant is available and Thrive is willing to help the City apply for the grant then we should take advantage of it.

Council Member Slauch asked Ms. Vorhees if the LMI was not within the required levels the City was allowed to survey certain areas.

Ms. Vorhees stated that currently, the LMI for Iola is 60.19, therefore the City is eligible based upon the LMI.

The consensus of the Council was to have Thrive apply for the grant and show a 50% match from the City.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Revitalization Extension - 902 E Douglas Street - Vaughn and Kay Walker have requested to consider an extension of participation with their application in the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan tax rebate program.

The Walkers completed a building permit application for a residential remodel on March 9, 2020. An NRP application was given to them at that time with the instructions that the application must be submitted within 60 days. The NRP Application was returned on August 20, 2020.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve the request for application extension of the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate Plan for 902 E Douglas Street. All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Industrial Facility Incentive Package - Thrive Allen County and City staff have been working with industry to develop an incentive package to bring them to Iola.

Lisse Regher of Thrive Allen County presented the following incentive package the industry would like to have in writing from the City of Iola.

The incentive package includes the following:

1. The City of Iola will provide a 50% tax abatement for ten years. This will be contingent upon the industry meeting the employment hiring targets set forth by year five. Should they not meet these employment targets by year five the tax abatement for years five through ten will not be abated.
2. The City of Iola will grant \$125,000 to the industry to assist with costs for upgrading the facility, creating jobs, job training, adding technology infrastructure, and other essential items for business growth.
3. The industry will also be eligible for the normal neighborhood revitalization program offered by the City of Iola.

Ms. Regher noted that Peerless has stated that they will be putting millions of dollars remodeling the building and bringing in new equipment. The company has stated that its employees will be paid a starting wage between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

Ms. Regher stated that this Incentive Package request does not make this a done deal. It does not commit Peerless to come to Iola.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve the proposed incentive package and authorize the necessary signatures on the contract documents when finalized by City Attorney Johnson. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. 2020-2021 Health Insurance Renewal - Human Resources Manager, Carla Brown, presented the renewal insurance with the grandfathered plan unchanged, with a higher premium allowed by the Affordable Care Act, and two additional plans that move away from the grandfathered plan, which is more affordable to the City.

Council Member Myrick asked about the increase in premiums last year. Ms. Brown noted the 5% increase in the premiums using the 2010 premium cost each year.

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Council Member Ford stated that the pool of money that the city has i.e. the Employee Benefits Program why can't that be used for the extra cost in the health insurance instead of using it for the raises.

Council Member Slauch noted that keeping the plan currently being used would be best for the employees. He is in favor of a 1% increase in the employee's share of the premiums.

Council Member Ballard stated he is not in favor of getting rid of the grandfathered plan. With the employees sharing in the cost of the premiums at 5%.

James Snavely, Electric Distribution Lineman, spoke for those employees in attendance. He noted that the employees want to keep the Grandfathered Plan. They are willing to pay more for the premium and are happy with the current plan. He noted that the workforce is younger and would possibly not have larger claims.

Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that BCBS has notified staff that two large claims will fall into the 2021 policy year that could facilitate a premium increase next year.

Council Member Peters stated he would be in favor of a 3% increase in premiums for the employees. Staff needs to find ways to make up for the almost \$40,000 shortfall.

Council Member Ford stated that Department Heads need to prepare for a large increase next year. Possibilities may include decreasing the uniform stipend, stopping the cell phone allowance.

Council Member Kinder asked Human Resources Manager, Carla Brown if this increase was due to actual claims or more of an increase from BCBS because the plan is so desirable.

Human Resources Manager, Carla Brown stated that she didn't know what BCBS considered when presenting the plan at such a large increase.

Ms. Brown did note that claims history was a part of the decision for the increase. Having 12 large claims this past policy year was a big hit on the policy cost.

Ms. Brown stated that she was given the following information on the city's usage for the policy year.

61 individuals on the plan did not use it at all.

31 individuals on the plan had claims up to \$1,000

15 individuals on the plan had claimed \$1,001 up to \$10,000

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11 individuals on the plan had claims of \$10,001 up to \$50,000.

1 individual on the plan had claimed over \$100,000.

Mayor Wells took a poll of the CouncilMembers on what kind of increase in employee's premiums were in favor of.

Myrick - 2.5%

Kinder - 5.0%

Peters - 2.5%

Ford -2.5%

French - Appreciated the support of the employees willing to show up to be heard. 2.5%

Peterson - 2.5%

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Peters to remain with the Option 1 Grandfathered Plan with an increase to both the single and family employee contribution of the premium increasing by 2.5% of the premium set in 2010. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Cooling Tower Project 2020 - During the 2019 budget development and approval process, the Council allocated \$250,000 for the replacement of the four existing Marley cooling towers on the two Wartsila units in Power Plant 1.

Electric Production Superintendent, Mike Phillips, informed the Council that everything is prepared. The old ones would be removed and the new ones installed by City staff.

Motion made by Council Member French and seconded by Council Member Ford to accept the quote from Midwest Machinery for \$198,600 for replacement cooling towers for the Wartsila generating units. All in favor. Motion carried.

E. MoPac Trail - Property Acquisition - Interim Administrator Schinstock informed the Council that staff has been working with the property owners Gary and Vicki Curry regarding an easement or the purchase of some property at 308 N First.

The property is a location that Code Enforcement just went through with a condemnation process to remove a dangerous/unsafe structure.

With the City acquiring this property it should be all of the property necessary to complete the trail project to the new elementary school site.

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Motion made by Council Member Ford and seconded by Council Member Kinder to approve the purchase of Lot 3 of Wilson's Addition to Iola in the amount of \$1,500 from Gary and Vicki Curry for the MoPac Trail Project. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

A. Council Member Peters -

- None.

B. Council Member Ford—

- None

C. Council Member French –

- Still receiving complaints from area residents concerning delivery trucks driving on streets marked No Truck Traffic.
- Asked for an update on the erosion on Cedarbrook Estates. Interim Administrator, Schinstock noted that staff is aware of the issue and will put some ditch liner in the area when time permits.
- Would like to see the lined sewer lines to see how they are holding up.

D. Council Member Peterson—

- None

E. Council Member Ballard

- None

F. Council Member Slauch—

- Wondered when the Waste Water Project will be completed. Interim Administrator, Schinstock stated that the project should be wrapping up within the month. A report will be brought to the Council for recommendations and findings.

G. Council Member Myrick—

- Asked about a call he received from a resident about a tree that the resident had always assumed has been on her property and a City Employee told the neighbor that the tree is on the neighbor's property. He has some concerns with City Employees telling residents where the property lines are located.
- Interim Administrator Schinstock noted that most of the time staff pull the GIS map from the County website and can pinpoint it pretty accurately, however, we always tell the landowners that they will need a land survey to get the actual property lines.

H. Council Member Kinder -

- Had some more complaints about the lack of stop signs in the South end of town.

I. Mayor Wells

- He informed the Council Members that the Administrator Search went better this time around. Twenty-Four applications were received, of those Ten meet the A Tier. If the Council agrees will move to the next step for the ten A Tier applicants.

J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock-

- Informed the Council that staff members met with those individuals involved in the school project about utilities, roads, etc. Have heard rumors that the site plan may be changing due to cost-cutting.
- Still meeting with those involved in the elementary school project about the heavy equipment damaging the roads and who will repair them.

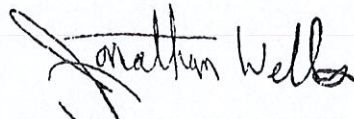
DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

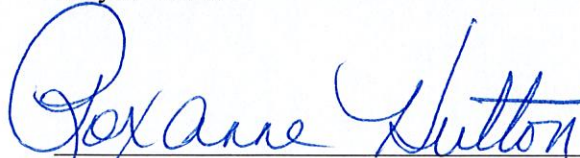
City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020

7:22 p.m. 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 28th day of September 2020.



Mayor Wells



City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton

