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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on October 26, 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, Myrick, Ford, Slaugh, Peterson, and Kinder, were present. Also present was Interim City Administrator Schinstock and City Clerk, Hutton. Absent was Council Members Ballard, and French,.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peters 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.*

None were heard.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes Approval**

- **October 13, 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 Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ROUNDTABLE**

**A. Community Building Rental Discussions -** Following October 13, 2020, Council Meeting staff visited with City Attorney Johnson regarding a potential waiver for renting city facilities with regard to COVID 19.

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Staff also contacted other agencies that typically rent meeting room facilities in Allen County and at this point, none are allowing rentals due to COVID.

Park Superintendent Berkley Kerr was at the meeting for questions.

Council Member Myrick asked Mr. Kerr if he had received a lot of calls from individuals interested in renting the buildings.

Mr. Kerr replied that he hasn't really received requests to rent the buildings. He has received several cancellations.

Council Member Slaugh stated that if the individual is willing to sign a waiver concerning COVID we should open them up for rental.

Mayor Wells stated that if we are requesting them to sign a waiver it's like we know the risk and aren't following the Governor's Orders.

Council Member Myrick stated that he noticed while attending the Farm City Days Event there were not very many individuals wearing masks. He has concerns about putting a large group in one of our buildings without assuring that masks and social distancing are being followed.

Council Member Kinder noted that the groups will gather anyway we might as well recoup some of the building rental we have lost since March.

Council Member Peters stated that he was not in favor of allowing the public to gather in one of the buildings.

Council Member Ford stated that she didn't feel like it was worth the risk to allow large groups in the buildings.

Council Member Peterson stated that we should allow groups to utilize the buildings.

Mayor Wells noted that the Council is in favor of leaving the rental requests to the discretion of staff.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. COLA Discussion-** Interim Administrator, Schinstock presented the 2020 Social Security Administration cost of living adjustment of 1.3% to the Council. Mr. Schinstock

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also presented the history of the COLA given to City Employees over the past several years. Mr. Schinstock stated that his concern with not adjusting the pay scale according to the COLA will set it back. He noted that the cost of the extra .3% on top of the 1% that is built into the 2021 budget will cost approximately \$21,000.

Council Member Peters stated that he would be in favor of a 1% not the 1.3%.

Council Member Kinder noted that he would also support a 1% increase. Noting that with the raises that were just approved and the increase in health insurance this would just add more to the amount of money not planned for.

Mayor Wells noted that with the deficit due to the increase in premiums for health insurance he would suggest decreasing to .7% to help make up for the deficit created from the increase of employee health insurance.

Council Member Slaugh stated that he was in favor of following the COLA to attempt keeping the pay scale at the mid level.

Council Member Myrick stated that he would like to give the entire COLA to attempt to keep good employees at the City.

Council Member Peterson stated that she would be in favor of the entire 1.3%.

Council Member Ford noted that she would be interested in giving the 1% to help make up for the extra cost on health insurance.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Myrick to approve the COLA increase for the employee pay plan at 1.3% for the 2021 payroll period. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Slaugh, Myrick and Peterson. Voting against the motion were Council Members Ford, Peters and Kinder. The Mayor casted a vote in favor of the motion breaking the tie and passing the motion.

**B. Common Use Agreement - USD 257 -** Interim Administrator Schinstock presented to the Council a common use agreement between the School District and the City of Iola. The architects have requested to install the private water service and the fire line within the public right-of-way at the new STEM building.

Council Member Myrick asked Interim Administrator Schinstock if he knew what the school planned to do about the agreement. Mr. Schinstock stated that it would be presented at tonight's School Board meeting and would more than likely be approved.

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Council Member Kinder asked what the difference between the right-of-way and the private property.

Mr. Schinstock stated that from the meter to the structure is the owner's responsibility. The right-of-way is the area the city and its franchisees use for main line facilities. This agreement will also require Unified School District 257 to become a member of the Kansas One-Call system.

Motion made by Council Member Slaugh and seconded by Council Member Ford to approve the common use agreement with the Unified School District 257 allowing private utility lines in the public right-of-way and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary documents. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Non-Elected Personnel** - Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Ford to recess into Executive Session for 10 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 employee's employment and shall include the Mayor, Council, Interim City Administrator, and Human Resources Manager. The regular meeting shall reconvene in the city council chamber at 6:28 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

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

- Encouraged all of the employees and community members to stay safe and warm during this weather conditions.

### **B. Council Member Ford-**

- Be safe and warm.

### **C. Council Member French -**

- Absent

### **D. Council Member Peterson-**

- Inquired about the status of the agreement between the school and the city regarding the road around the new Elementary School. Mr. Schinstock noted that he is waiting for Attorney Johnson to draw up the agreement.

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

- Absent

**F. Council Member Slaugh–**

- Informed the group that the Veteran’s Day Committee made the decision to cancel this year's Veterans Day events. The committee is going to spruce up the wall and are asking the public for pictures of Veterans and information to go with it. They would like to have members that are on the wall, however anyone that is a Veteran can submit the photo and information.

**G. Council Member Myrick–**

- Stay safe and warm.

**H. Council Member Kinder -**

- Noted that he had heard from some individuals that political signs were being enforced too stringent. He reminded the public that if they have a complaint concerning an ordinance that is being enforced by an employee the individual needs to come to a Council meeting and not yell and degrade city employees. Those employees are just following the Ordinances set forth by the Council.

**I. Mayor Wells**

- Noted that during an election is not the time to look at a possible change of the Ordinance on political signs. He cautioned the Council Members that if the Ordinance is changed it is for all individuals in the City Limits. Staff will be brought back to Council after the first of the year to review.

**J. Interim City Administrator Schinstock–**

- Burns and Macdonald will be at the November 9th Council Meeting to give a brief overview of the preliminary engineering study for the U.S. Highway 54 project..
- Will have the first round of Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) Licenses at the November 9th meeting.
- Updated the Council on the status of the Civil War Statue.

**DATE / TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020

City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2020

**6:38 p.m.** Motion made by Council Member Myrick and seconded by Council Member Peters to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.


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Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 9th day of November 2020.



  
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Jonathan P. Wells  
Mayor Wells

  
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Roxanne Hutton  
City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton