

Minutes
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA
July 11, 2022 6:30 p.m.

Mayor and Town Council met in regular session this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Paul Hesse; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Assistant Town Clerk Kim Guillory; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 6 citizens. Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett communicated by telephone. Absent: Council Member Daniel Hennigan.

Invocation by Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting June 13, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walt Jessen came forward and reported on Water Line Looping thru Iowa City Park Project. He made the recommendation to accept Project No. I-2021-192 as substantially complete. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2022-11. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11

A RESOLUTION accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2021-192, Water Line Looping thru Iowa City Park for the Town of Iowa, LA, and authorizing the advertising of the lien period.

WHEREAS, Blake D. Hines, Inc. has substantially completed its contract with the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, for Project No. I-2021-192, Water Line Looping thru Iowa City Park, Town of Iowa, LA,

WHEREAS, D. W. Jessen & Associates, LLC has informed the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that Blake D. Hines, Inc has substantially completed its contract and that the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, should accept the said improvements as substantially complete from the said contractor and assume the maintenance of the same;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION I: All of the above and foregoing provisions are hereby made a part of this resolatory provision; and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, the governing authority of the said Town, does hereby accept from the said Blake D. Hines, Inc. as substantially completed, the heretofore described substantial completion of Project No. I-2021-192, Water Line Looping thru Iowa City Park, and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby accept said improvements for maintenance.

SECTION 2: The Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby authorize the running of a legal advertisement notifying lien holders affected, that the final payment will be made at the end of the lien period of forty-five (45) days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this the 11th day of July, 2022.

PAUL HESSE, MAYOR
TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE TOWN OF IOWA

Mr. Jessen reported on Southland Estates Asphalt Paving project and recommended accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2021-193. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Resolution 2022-12. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

A RESOLUTION accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2021-193, Southland Estates Asphalt Paving for the Town of Iowa, LA, and authorizing the advertising of the lien period.

WHEREAS, R.C. Paving, Inc. has substantially completed its contract with the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, for Project No. I-2021-193, Southland Estates Asphalt Paving, Town of Iowa, LA,

WHEREAS, D. W. Jessen & Associates, LLC has informed the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that R.C. Paving, Inc. has substantially completed its contract and that the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, should accept the said improvements as substantially complete from the said contractor and assume the maintenance of the same;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION I: All of the above and foregoing provisions are hereby made a part of this resolatory provision; and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, the governing authority of the said Town, does hereby accept from the said R.C. Paving, Inc. as substantially completed, the heretofore described substantial completion of Project No. I-2021-193, Southland Estates Asphalt Paving, Town of Iowa, LA, and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby accept said improvements for maintenance.

SECTION 2: The Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby authorize the running of a legal advertisement notifying lien holders affected, that the final payment will be made at the end of the lien period of forty-five (45) days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this the 11TH day of July, 2022.

PAUL HESSE, MAYOR
TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE TOWN OF IOWA

Mr. Jeff Kudla came forward and reported on the progress of the buddy ball fields. He said he was working on Phase II. Mayor told them to include the concession in the design. Mr. Kudla asked for the Council's confirmation of the two designed back baseball fields being at 225 feet each. Council confirmed.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve payment #4 from K&J Development of SWLA in the amount of \$165,794.95 for the Water Works Building. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve payment to Kudla Architecture, LLC for professional Services from Hurricane Laura damages in the amount of \$2,947.65. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve payment to Kudla Architecture, LLC for professional services for HVAC upgrades in the amount of \$8,148.35. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was needed or taken on the approval for the draft drawing of the baseball fields as presented. There was discussion about when the contractor will start on the HVAC project. Mr. Kudla reported it should be soon and he would check on it.

Mr. James Hardy, Sewer Superintendent, came forward and reported on the activities of Sewer Department for the month of June.

Mr. Pat Thibodeaux, Public Works Director, came forward and reported on the activities of the public works department. Julie Fontenot asked if they could edge the sidewalks throughout town. Mr. Thibodeaux said he would take care of it. Mayor Hesse asked if anyone had any questions or wanted to comment on anything. Ms. Vickie Byrd came forward and asked if there was an ordinance about picking up the trash cans after they are emptied. Mayor Hesse asked Cindy Mallett to find out if the town has an ordinance that addressed this. Officer Crooks said that she is referring to an issue she has with her neighbor. It was discussed and Cindy said she would research it.

Fire Chief Sonny Coffey came forward and reported on the fire department's activities for the month of June. Julie Fontenot asked about the progress of rebuilding the fire station. Chief Coffey gave an update of where they were with trying to rebuild it. Mayor Hesse reported that the fire department needs to replace a pumper truck. He said the cost is about \$465,000.00 and will take one year to receive it after it is ordered. He said that at this time the fire district can't fund it all. After discussion of cost and the town's financial ability, the Mayor suggested the town help them with this purchase for the well being of the town, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Iowa Fire District Protection#1 Ward 8 to assist in the purchase of a new fire truck in the amount of \$300,000.00 with the stipulation that the fire district use their cash in the CD'S to pay the rest of the cost. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Crooks came forward to report on condemnation of 616 N Lightner. He reported that the owner, Jesse Broussard, was not responding to the letters sent. He said that he notified him in person. Officer Crooks said that the structure was torn down last weekend, but debris is piled up and not hauled off yet. He stated that the debris is fenced in which in the ordinance if concealed behind a fence it can remain. The mayor talked about it possibly being a health board issue and we may want to call them. There was discussion about persons living in travel trailers and Mayor Hesse said it may be time to address the permits that were given to displaced property owners after the hurricane. He said possibly by October of this year.

Chief of Police, Keith Vincent came forward and reported police department's updates and activity for the month of June. Upon Chief Vincent's recommendation, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve promotion of Laura Talbot to Assistant communications supervisor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse asked Cindy to talk about the request from Conterra Networks for any permits necessary by the Town of Iowa. Cindy and Mr. Bouquet spoke about the project Conterra will be doing and how they plan to run their fiber optics along state right-of-way. Cindy said that there was only one section that we need to look at, near the outlet mall to see if that may be the town's right-of-way. Mayor Hesse asked that a motion be made to grant permit, contingent on Mr. Bouquet's review. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to grant permit contingent on Mr. Bouquet's review. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse stated that at a previous meeting the council voted to purchase the property at 413 S Stockwell Street, he said a resolution will be needed authorizing him to execute the documents for the purchase. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Resolution 2022-13. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Gerald Guidry and duly resolved:

RESOLUTION 2022-13

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR HESSE TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS FOR
THE PURCHASE OF LAND

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Iowa, governing authority of Iowa, Louisiana, that they do hereby authorize Mayor Hesse to enter into an Agreement with the heirs of parcel Number 00728551, Lee Ray Prejean et al, for the purchase of property located at 413 S Stockwell Street for the appraised value of \$35,500.00 and execute all documents necessary for the purchase of said property.

Passed unanimously and approved at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, on this
11th day of July, 2022

PAUL HESSE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLETT
TOWN CLERK

Mayor Hesse said this resolution is about the same thing as the other one except it is for 412 Philbrick. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Resolution 2022-14. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Julie Fontenot seconded by Gerald Guidry and duly resolved:

RESOLUTION 2022-14

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR HESSE TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Iowa, governing authority of Iowa, Louisiana, that they do hereby authorize Mayor Hesse to enter into an Agreement with Iowa Tesla Properties, LLC Et al, parcel Number 00724459, for the purchase of property located at 412 Philbrick Avenue for the appraised value of \$88,000.00 and execute all documents necessary for the purchase of said property.

Passed unanimously and approved at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, on this
11th day of July, 2022

PAUL HESSE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLETT
TOWN CLERK

Mayor Hesse read the next item on the agenda and explained it is the first payment request of the Serenity Park Project. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve payment #1 to Empire Dirtworks in the amount of \$29,260.00 for the progress of Iowa Serenity Park. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse read the next item on the agenda and explained the need for the town to amend the personnel policy to include the Motor Vehicle Use Policy as required by Internal Revenue Service. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Resolution 2022-15. The motion pass unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-15

A RESOLUTION REGARDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND BENEFITS FOR TOWN OF IOWA EMPLOYEES AND SUPERSEDES ANY AND ALL OTHER POLICY EDITION, MEMORANDA, OR OTHER TOWN OF IOWA POLICIES WHETHER WRITTEN OR ORAL

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has a need to revise the present Personnel Policies

and Procedures adopted January 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the revised Personnel Policy will help prevent misunderstanding and problems, and to ensure that all employees know what is expected of them; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Policy has been prepared as a guide and reference for employees. Nothing in this Policy creates an express or implied contract or promise concerning the Town of Iowa's policies or practices, including policies or practices it will implement in the future. The Town of Iowa retains the right to establish, change, and abolish these policies, practices, rules and regulations at will and as it sees fit; and

WHEREAS, nothing in the Personnel Policy is intended to violate the law. Any provision violating the law shall be deemed automatically reformed to be consistent with applicable law. Also, should any provision in this Policy be found to be unenforceable, invalid, or violate of law, such finding does not invalidate the entire Town of Iowa Personnel Policy, but only that particular provision.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Iowa Town Council, Iowa, Louisiana as follows:

The Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said personnel policies, a copy of which is attached hereto and by this reference made part hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of July, 2022.

Paul Hesse, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Hesse gave the financial report.

Mayor Hesse announced that he was moving item 17 up to item 15. He invited anyone to come and ask questions, make requests, or comments. Mr. Darrel Friddle came forward and asked about a streetlight and abandoned trailers. Mayor Hesse asked Mr. Thibodeaux to check into the street light request and told then referred him to Officer Crooks on the issue with abandoned trailers.

Mayor Hesse asked for a motion to recess meeting and go into executive session as stated on the agenda. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was recessed at 7:31 pm.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to close executive session and re-open public meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting reopened at 8:08 pm

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to retain an attorney recommended by Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet based on his determination in relation with the hurricane insurance claims. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse wanted everyone to be aware that qualifications is coming up and candidates will need to make an appointment to sign up. He also announced that the LMA Convention is coming up at the end of the month.

With no further business it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

ATTEST:

Paul Hesse, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC