

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
Iowa, La
April 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: Mayor Paul Hesse; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, and Joe Becnel; [quorum present]; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; and about 8 citizens. Absent was Julie Fontenot and Daniel Hennigan.

Invocation by Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

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

It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve March 14, 2022 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSSINESS:

Mayor Hesse addressed the request from citizens living on N. Kinney to make it a one-way street. The flow of traffic for the nearby church would be affected so the one-way would begin after Scott Street and continue until David Street. Mayor Hesse said that an ordinance will be prepared for introduction at next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Architect, Jeff Kudla, came forward and reported the progress of construction of the Water Works building. Mr. Kudla offered change order#1 with multiple items for the Town of Iowa Public Works Storage Building & Breakroom Hurricane Reconstruction in the amount of \$59,795.00. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve change order #1 in the amount of \$59,795.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kudla presented a request for approval of Payment #2 for the Public Storage and Break Room Building Project to K & J Development SWLA in the amount of \$25,143.65. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Pay Request #2 as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

It was Discussed that a parcel of property near the park/ballfields was available for purchase and if the town would buy it then the ballfields could be re-platted to make two fields 300 feet with one field being a little smaller. Mr. Kudla gave a report on the progress of the Buddy Ball Field and the Love Louisiana Grant. Discussion was made on a stand-alone project for the lighting of all baseball fields.

Engineer, Walt Jessen, came forward. Upon his recommendations the following motions were made:

- a. It was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Pay Request #2 to Blake D. Hines, Inc. for Water Line Looping project in the amount of \$95,311.80. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Pay Request #1 to D.W. Jessen & Associates, LLC for Water Line Looping project in the amount of \$10,870.59. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. There was a discussion for application to Calcasieu Parish Road and Drainage Trust Fund Project for year 2022. Three areas of town was discussed; back part of David Street, Sherman and 2nd Street, and from Hwy 90 to City Limits South. After consideration of the severity of flooding and where the improvements would be most beneficial, it was decided to apply for funding for Sherman and 2nd Street Drainage project.

Ms. Debbie Sills came forward to request a variance on Ordinance 2019-07 Section 1.4.2, mobile home age. She said the mobile home is a 2016 which is one year older than the ordinance allows. She presented pictures, proof of age, and wind zone. She said it will be located at 304 S. Stockwell Street. It was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Vernessa receive, to grant a variance as requested and issue a moving permit. The motion passed unanimously.

Elsie Lane, employee for the Town of Iowa and project manager for the Serenity Park, came before the Mayor and Council to present a report of progress of the new Serenity Park. She requested the Council approve a variance for driveway width for the park culverts. She explained 108 feet of culvert installation is needed for parking. It was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to grant variance as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Clayton Aymond reported the March activities for the Street and Maintenance Department.

James Hardy gave a report on March activities for the Sewer Department.

Charles Ramour gave a report on March activities for the Water Department.

Chief Keith Vincent came before the Mayor and Council and reported the activities for the month of March for the Police Department. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to hire Tracie Dillehay and Chloe Bergeron as Part-time Dispatcher effective March 3, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Sonny Coffey, Fire Chief, reported the March activities of the Fire Department.

The appraisal reports ordered for 412 S. Philbrick Avenue and 413 S. Stockwell Street are still pending.

Mayor Hesse announced that Mr. Cary R. McKee has offered the Town of Iowa to purchase a parcel of land he owns. He said it would be beneficial for parking for the park baseball fields because of the location to the park. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve an order of appraisal for the property located on the corner of Railroad Avenue and N. Storer Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hesse read the title of Resolution 2022-04 and spoke about all the projects the town has been able to do because of the CDBG program. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2022-04, A resolution recognizing the importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program. The motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Joe Becnel and unanimously carried:

RESOLUTION 2022-04

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the week of April 11- April 15, 2022 has been designated as National Community Development Week, Town of Iowa has been a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which

funds public infrastructure, economic development, and housing programs in this community, and

WHEREAS, in this community and communities throughout the nation, forty-seven years of Community Development Block Grant Program funding has developed a strong relationship between this local government and its residents, principally those of low-to moderate income, and

WHEREAS, this community recognizes that the Community Development Block Grant Program is a partnership of federal, state, and local government and community and business efforts, and that the services funded by the CDBG Program relies heavily on the dedication and good will of our combined efforts,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that during National Community Development Week 2022, this community will give special thanks and recognition to all participants whose hard work and devotion to the neighborhoods and their low- and moderate-income residents help ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this community, along with the service providers and others whose names are appended to this resolution, hereby petition the U.S. Congress and Administration to recognize the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the community Development block Grant Program, and of its vital importance to the community and to the people who live in its lower income neighborhoods, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the appropriate elected and appointed officials of the federal government and tha this community’s name be added to the roll of those committed to the preservation and full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program and maintenance of its essential features over the course of the next session of Congress.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was duly adopted.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Mallett, MMC, Clerk of the Town of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Town Council, on April 11, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, MMC
TOWN OF IOWA

Mayor Hesse explained that the Town of Iowa has used Minvielle & Associates, Inc. for the purpose of grant writing and administration of grants for a long time and has been very helpful. He recommended the Council to approve the agreement with Minvielle & Associates, Inc. for the purpose of LGAP and CWF applications. It was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve contract with and between the Town of Iowa and Minvielle & Associates, Inc. for the services provided on the Local Government Assistance Program and the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program and to authorize Mayor Hesse to execute said contract. The motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2022-03, A resolution requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Fund Program. The motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory and duly resolved:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

**UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AND
COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) and Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Assistance Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for a wide range of projects to improve public health, public safety, living conditions and for economic development purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for rehabilitation, improvements and new construction projects for community potable water systems; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and proper to submit applications to the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and also the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa that Mayor Paul Hesse is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Mallett, MMC, Town Clerk of the Town of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa on April 11, 2022 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, MMC
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF IOWA

Mayor Hesse told the Council Members that the town needed to upgrade the accounting software. He said Caselle would still be our software provider but it would be supported by Caselle, Inc. directly. Support would no longer go through a third party because we were not getting the support that was needed. He requested they approve the contract with Caselle, Inc. for the upgrade and support. It was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve contract with and between Caselle, Inc. and Town of Iowa.

Mayor Hesse provided the Council with a proposed preliminary budget for 2022-2023. He said a budget hearing would be scheduled soon.

Mayor Hesse gave a report of the financials.

Mayor Hesse asked if there was anything anyone else wanted to discuss. Council Member Vernessa Guillory expressed thanks to Mr. Pat Thibodeaux for helping with an issue in her district. With no further business, it was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

ATTEST:

Paul Hesse, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

