

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson**  
**Iowa, LA 70647**  
**February 14, 2022 6:30p.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: Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry, and Julie Fontenot; [quorum present]; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and Assistant Town Clerk Kim Guillory; and about 16 citizens.

Invocation by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

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

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

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve minutes as submitted for January 10, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jeff Kudla, Architect, was not present to give an update on projects. Mayor Hesse reported that the demolition and rebuilding of the hurricane damaged waterworks buildings is underway. Mayor Hesse talked about the insurance reimbursement, FEMA payments, and repairs to the ballpark

Mr. Walt Jessen, Engineer, came forward and reported that the contractors for the N Storer Street project is moving along. Mr. Jessen recommended the Council approve payment of invoice #3 from McManus Construction, LLC in the amount of \$184,172.70. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve recommended payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jessen requested the invoice from D.W. Jessen and Associates also be approved for payment in the amount of \$13,012.69. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve the payment to D.W. Jessen and Associates. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jessen said the project should be complete in about a month. Mr. Jessen reported the advertisement for bids on repairs to the wastewater oxidation pond was out and will be receiving the bids on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that on March 10<sup>th</sup> he will be receiving bids for the Southland Estate paving project. Mr. Jessen reported the pre-construction meeting was held for the water loop project in the park.

Mayor Hesse announced that a request was made from some citizens on N Kinney Street and asked Council Member Julie Fontenot to explain. She presented a signed petition from the residents on N. Kinney requesting the Town of Iowa make N. Kinney Street a one way from the car wash and end at David Street. She said the request is because the road is too narrow and if there are two vehicles opposite each other, one has to pull over onto the grass for the other to pass. Mayor Hesse asked Chief Vincent if he knew of any safety concerns making this a one-way street. Chief Vincent said he didn't see any safety concerns. There were discussions concerning the impact on Scott Street and streets around this area. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to table the item of making N. Kinney a one-way street until next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tom Holiman, representative of Vertical Bridge LLC, came forward. He explained that his company builds cell towers, and they were enlisted by AT&T to help some broadband areas, such as Iowa. He said Iowa is one of the areas that have poor broadband coverage. He said AT&T desires to provide service to

Iowa. He said the area they have chosen to build the cell tower, land on Eli Road owned by Sallie Daughenbaugh, would benefit Iowa. He said they have a couple of challenges with the town's ordinance. He said there is a provision in the ordinance that requires getting written permission from residents within a 1000-foot radius. Also, the height of the monopole does not meet the height required by the ordinance. He asked how they could move forward so they could build this tower. Mayor Hesse asked how they would run the fiber optic? Mayor Hesse said nobody asked about permission to run this on the town's right of way. Mr. Bouquet asked Mr. Holiman if he could provide ordinances from other cities he has worked with. Mayor Hesse asked the Council Members what their wishes were. Mr. Bouquet suggested that a public hearing be held for the purpose of a variance to the ordinance and then a vote by the Council will be taken. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to publish a notice for a public hearing on a variance of the cell tower ordinance and place on the agenda for a decision. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hesse read the 5<sup>th</sup> item on the agenda. Mr. John Monceaux, realtor representing an investor of property, came forward and requested that the duplex on Welty Street, 412-418 Welty, remain and that a fourplex be placed on the two lots with the parking area in front as the presented site plan shows. Mayor Hesse gave his opinion and said they needed to be consistent on the town's ordinance. Mayor Hesse said this is the Council's decision. Questions from the Council was asked of Mr. Monceaux. There was discussion among the Council, Mr. Bouquet, and Mr. Monceaux. Mayor Hesse said they would look at the ordinance, get an opinion from Mr. Bouquet of what could legally be done, and address it at the next council meeting.

Mayor Hesse announced the next item on the agenda are the condemnations. He asked Officer Crooks to begin. Officer Crooks announced the first address, 410 Sherman Avenue. The owner of 410 Sherman Avenue came forward. She explained that they are in a situation with a contractor that didn't complete the job but has left and will not be in contact with them. She said they haven't come to a decision of repairing it or tearing it down. She said by next month they will have a decision. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to defer discussion of 410 S. Sherman until next month. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Crooks announced the address of 500 and 502 Railroad Avenue, owned by Mr. Wilford Miller, was not present. Officer Crooks gave the history of the process of condemning this property and the conversations he has had with Mr. Miller. Officer Crooks explained that he was using the structure for storage. Mr. Bouquet said a vote by the Council is needed to provide notice to property owner to proceed for condemnation. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to provide notice to Mr. Miller for condemnation of 500 and 502 Railroad Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Crooks announced 110 N. Thomson, owned by CJ Scheufens. Mr. Scheufens was not present. Officer Crooks said that the building has fallen, and Mr. Scheufens has done a lot of cleaning up and organized the lot. Officer Crooks said at this point it isn't a condemnation, it would be an order to clean it up. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to close out the condemnation process on 110 N. Thomson Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Crooks announced 506 W. First Street. Office Crooks said it was owned by a management company and he knows they have received the notices sent. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to proceed with condemnation of 506 W. First Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Clayton Aymond, Street and Maintenance Department reported the activity for the month of January.

Pat Thibodeaux, quality control, reported the activity for the water and sewer department for the month of January. He also reported the progress on the demolition of the newly purchased property on HWY 90, the lights at the ball field, and other ongoing projects.

Chief Vincent came forward and recommended Council to approve the transfer of Laura Talbot from part-time to full-time dispatcher effective 1-14-2022. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve transfer. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Vincent reported the activity of Police Department for the month of January.

Fire Chief Sonny Coffey came forward and reported Fire Department's activity for the month of January. He reported the outcome of the fire hydrant inspection. There was discussion of the Fire District's joint service agreement with the Town of Iowa. Mr. Bouquet would like to modify the agreement before a vote of the Council.

Iowa Recreation, John Bailey came forward and discussed some minor issues with the baseball fields. He asked if it would be ok for the volunteers to make repairs needed to some of the ball fields. Mr. Bouquet said to give a proposal of what they want to do, and he would review it. Mr. Bailey said that the fence needs to be repaired, cut limbs, or remove a tree, and talked about a concession stand. Mayor Hesse said the town would make the repairs and cut the tree. Mr. Bailey said that they needed an operating concession stand because the revenue is what they use to pay the umpires. Mayor Hesse said the town would rent a building for the concession stand and pay the rent on the port-a-lets.

Mayor Hesse gave the financial report and the presentation of 2020-2021 Audit Report.

Mayor Hesse brought up a request from the Lions Club wanting to do a garage sale in the park and charge a fee for certain space rental. There was discussion concerning how this could be done. Mr. Bouquet stated that he would look into this.

Mr. Carlton Smith came forward after Mayor Hesse asked if there was anyone else that would like to address the Council. He asked if he could get some help from the Town of Iowa. He stated that where he lives, falls out of our jurisdiction and Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Department takes too long to get to his house. Mayor asked what he was asking for. Mr. Smith requested if the Iowa Police Department could get police jurisdiction at his place of residence. Chief Vincent and Mr. Bouquet discussed with Mr. Smith some options. Mayor Hesse stated that the town would consider extending the city limits to his residence if possible.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adjourn meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

ATTEST:

---

Paul Hesse, Mayor

---

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

