

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
City Hall Meeting Room
February 8, 2021
6:30p.m.

Mayor Paul Hesse 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, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 20 citizens.

Invocation by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse announced a quorum was present and 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 Joe Becnel, to approve January 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as written, not read. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Troy Romero came forward to thank the Mayor and Council Members for their work during and after the hurricane. He announced Calcasieu Parish Police Jury secured grant funds to help municipalities recover from Hurricane Laura. The Parish will distribute these funds among the municipalities in Calcasieu Parish. He said Iowa is set to receive \$90,000.00 to assist them in hurricane recovery costs. He also talked about the upcoming legislative session. He discussed the plans of D.O.T.D. for Iowa's I-10 exit turn-about. Mayor thanked Mr. Romero for coming.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Hesse discussed designing a culvert program for the Town of Iowa. He requested the Council approve approximately \$100,000.00 be allocated toward this project. He stated that he is committed to planning the project and will present a complete plan. A record vote was not taken but it was agreed for the Mayor to begin the initial plan.

Chief Vincent came before the Mayor and Council to report he found four properties that could be used as the location of a Police and Fire Emergency Center. He stated the Price, location, and size of all properties. Chief Vincent said the one parcel that was the best location to fit the needs of the Town of Iowa was the one located on Barkley Street and Highway 165 for a total of 2.7 acres and asking price of \$99,000.00. He asked the Council for a motion to authorize the Mayor to move forward by requesting an appraisal of the stated 2.7 acres. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to authorize Mayor Paul Hesse to order an appraisal for the parcel of land located at Barkley Street and Highway 165. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Hesse read the first item on the agenda. He asked Caitlin Guillory of McElroy, Quirk, and Burch to come forward. Mrs. Guillory reported that they conducted the audit for FY 2019-2020 and stated that the Town of Iowa had a clean opinion with no issues. She reported there were no requirements by Legislative Auditor for the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) this year because of COVID-19 but Mayor Hesse requested the AUP be done so that when it is required again there won't be any slippage. Mayor Hesse asked if the Council had any questions or comments. There were questions or comments. Mayor thanked Caitlin for coming. Mayor announced the next item on the agenda was engineer's report. Mr. Walt Jessen came forward and gave an update on Sewer line Rehabilitation and Asphalt Project. He also reported they were beginning the plans for the N. Storer Drainage Project.

Mayor announced the nest item is an update from Mr. Kudla. Mr. Kudla came forward and reported the plans for the storm damage repairs. He said they got the quotes for the Community Center repairs out and

they are expecting them in not this Friday, but next. He said they were developing the scope of work for the ballfield.

Mr. Allen Cross came forward to request approval of FEMA Park Permit in an existing Mobile Home Park located on Hardy Street. Mayor Hesse asked Town Attorney, Eugene Bouquet his recommendation. Mr. Bouquet reported to the Council that he would need to research the specifics of the activity of the existing trailer park. It was reported that there were 18 spaces available. Mayor asked Mr. Cross to bring information as to his plans for the FEMA trailer park. Citizens present spoke against having the FEMA trailer park in the Town of Iowa. Mrs. Leonard spoke for it. Some citizens asked questions about the persons allowed in it. Mr. Cross assured that there will be new trailers, and persons will be chosen with caution. Council member Julie Fontenot read a letter from Town of Iowa Housing Authority opposing the FEMA trailer park. Mayor, Council, and Mr. Bouquet discussed the proposal and the legality of this trailer park be used for a FEMA trailer park.

Col. Zachary Miller, US Army Corp. was not present to discuss approval of a group site for FEMA trailers within Town of Iowa.

Clayton Aymond, Street and Maintenance Department gave his monthly report of activity.

James Hardy, Utility Department was not present. A report was given to Mayor and Council. Mayor gave a brief report of the written report.

Chief of Police gave a report for the month of January and requested a motion to promote Justin Trahan from Patrolman to Patrolman First Class. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to promote Justin Trahan from Patrolman to Patrolman First Class. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Vincent asked Ordinance Officer Crooks to come forward and report buildings that are in need of condemnation. Officer Crooks referred to the information given to the Mayor and Council Members prior to the meeting, on 16 properties. There was discussion of the process for condemnation. It was agreed to hold separate special meetings for the hearings with the property owners for the condemnation of these properties.

Fire Chief Joseph Lewis was not present to report his monthly Activities.

Mayor asked if Mr. Prudhomme was present, as previously requested to speak at the meeting. Mr. Prudhomme was not present.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Resolution 2021-01. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2021-01

Be It Resolved, that the Town of Iowa informs the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken by Town Council Members.

1. Resolved the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for January 2020-December 2020 which is attached to this resolution.
2. Resolve to set forth the following actions necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, Number LA0043656.
 - A. To continue being good environmental stewards by maintaining our wastewater treatment plant and continuing required analytical analysis in accordance with our current LDEQ permit, including monthly monitoring of influent CBOD.

Passed by a majority/unanimous vote of the Town Council on this 8th day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty-one.

Mayor Paul Hesse

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, Town Clerk

Mayor Hesse read item #12 and asked the person requesting the beer and liquor permit for LaRumba of Iowa, LLC at the location of 716 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA to come forward. He came forward and was questioned by the Council as to the location of the purposed business. It was discovered, the address supplied by the applicant was not the correct location of the business. He was informed that he needed to resubmit his application to the State of Louisiana and re-advertise, then he could request a permit with the Town of Iowa.

Mayor announced that two bids for replacement, and replacement with improvements, of the communication tower were received and reviewed.

1. Louisiana Radio Communications, Inc. -Replacement \$12,050.00 Replacement w/Improvements \$45,250.00.
2. Daley Tower Service, Inc. – Replacement 13,080.00 Replacement w/ Improvements \$48, 080.00

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to accept the bid from Louisiana Radio Communications, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse read Resolution 2021-02. A resolution for Surplus Sale. He explained to the Council that this surplus sale is for old water meters that do not operate and they are no longer needed. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2021-02. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF IOWA BOARD OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN TO BE SURPLUS TO THE TOWN’S NEEDS AND DIRECTING DISPOSAL OF SAME.

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has identified various items of town-owned property as being surplus to the needs of the town and has determined it to be in the public interest to offer them for sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE IOWA TOWN COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Property declared surplus to the needs of the Town of Iowa. The following described property is hereby declared to be of low value and surplus to the needs of the town.

Item	Description	value
303 Water Meters	¾” whole meters approx. 3-6 years old	\$5.00 per meter
1 whole Water Meter	2” Meter	10.00
180 Shell Water Meters	Brass bottom only	\$1.00 per shell

2. In compliance with the State of Louisiana, RS 33:4712 (F) Surplus Property, the Town of Iowa is hereby directed to sell the surplus items enumerated in Section 1 of this Resolution. If the items do not sell, it is of the Attorney General’s Opinion, 05-0450, that it is deemed to have no value and may be discarded as junk.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana on this 8th day of February, 2021.

Paul Hesse, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, Municipal Clerk

Mayor read the Public Notice as stated below:

NOTICE is hereby given in compliance with La. R.S. 42:19.1, that the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, will meet in open and public session on the 8th day of march, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at Town of Iowa, Louisiana, on October 9, 2021, to consider renewal in perpetuity of a one-half percent (1/2%) sales and use tax dedicated and used for flood control maintenance and flood control improvements; economic development activities; capital improvements and maintenance to the Town Hall and Town Park situated in the Town of Iowa. He explained this will be a renewal of a present tax with the only change is that it would not expire.

Mayor Hesse asked the Council to approve Resolution 2021-03, a resolution to approve a lease-purchase of a police truck and a maintenance truck. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2021-03. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA (“TOWN”) TO APPROVE A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ONE POLICE VEHICLE FROM COURTESY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP THROUGH FORD MOTOR MUNICIPAL CREDIT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO PERFORM ALL ADDITIONAL AND NECESSARY ACTS TO PERFECT A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa (“Town”), under the authority of Article VII, Section 14 (c) of the State of Louisiana, desires to enter into a Lease Purchase-Agreement (“Agreement”) with Ford Motor Credit Company, based on the terms and conditions recited in the agreement attached hereto for the lease-purchase of movable property, to wit: One (1) 2021 Ford Police F-150 and to acquire said property from a vendor, Courtesy Automotive Group, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana consistent with the terms described in the lease, attached hereto, and **not to exceed** \$40,006.25 and **not to exceed** 5.99% annual percentage rate, and not to exceed 48 months.; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the Town in performing all necessary acts and in executing the necessary Agreements to facilitate the described lease-purchase; and

WHEREAS, in satisfaction of the requirements of Title 71, Section 1101 et seq., the Town submits the foregoing Resolution, a copy of its current budget, a certificate of compliance, along with copies of the pertinent agreements evidencing the lease purchase of the movable that is the subject of the proposed transaction.

WHEREAS, the Town hereby states that if for any reason, the Town of Iowa fails to appropriate or make available funds to meet this obligation under the Lease purchase agreement during any fiscal year, the agreement may be terminated, without penalty. This contract is funded on a fiscal year to fiscal year basis and involves only currently appropriated revenue, and does not, therefore, incur indebtedness.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Iowa hereby authorizes the Mayor of the Town of Iowa, acting in the name and under the authority of the Town, to perform such acts and to execute such agreements to the full extent necessary to affect the lease-purchase of the

described equipment from Courtesy Automotive Group, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana through Ford Motor Credit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Town makes the following declarations, in satisfaction of the requirements of Title 71, Section 1101 et seq. of the Louisiana Administrative Code:

THUS DONE AND READ IN FULL, AND CONSIDERED SECTION BY SECTION AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Councilmen of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana on this 8th day of February, 2021 by a vote:

Yeas: Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, and Vernessa Guillory

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Daniel Hennigan

Paul Heese, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Hesse gave the monthly financial report.

Mayor Hesse asked if any of the Council Members had questions or comments. Council Member Julie Fontenot asked for an update on the status of debris pickup. Mayor Hesse said that the debris pickup will be finishing by the end of the week. Council Member Vernessa Guillory asked about Entergy replacing bulbs in streetlights. She said they have been making the request for months and have not gotten any replaced.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Paul Hesse, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC