

Town of Iowa

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Neal Watkins
Mayor

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Julie Fontenot
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Gerald Guidry

Monthly Mayors Report

December 2023

THE UGLY

Cyber Attack: Regrettably, the world we live in today has nefarious actors who derive pleasure from stealing, both in physical and virtual realms. Virtually, our town suffered such an attack recently and we have been both repairing the damage as well as attempting to mitigate any future hacks of our servers. Nothing is 100% even though we are striving to make sure this doesn't happen again, we are vigilantly training and learning so that we can stay one step ahead of these types of individuals. All residents of the Town of Iowa will receive Breach of Data disclosure, those will be mailed out on 12/17/2023.

Maintenance: We as a town continue to operate shorthanded, which means we have a lot of items that need to be tended. As our progress allows, we will be working on additional problem areas. Additionally, we are anticipating being able to repair pot holes during the month of January that we have notated over the past few months. We are also hoping we can get back to the process of cleaning out culverts.

THE BAD

Decline in Revenue's: We are continuing to see a decline in revenue, which in turn hampers our ability to operate with a full staff. We are hoping that by the end of February or March this will not be the case.

THE GOOD

Ash Ridge: As of this report the major repairs to the drains in Ash Ridge have been taken care of and completed. As a reminder fresh dirt might be higher than you expect it to be but is necessary as loose dirt needs to settle requiring rain to do so. Over the few months we will keep an eye on these newly disturbed areas to see if we need more dirt added. If not, then we will dress the ground and add seeds for grass. Once again, we thank those affected for your patience during this time.

REMINDER - IOWA FARMERS MARKET: Gumbo cook off - \$500 1st place, \$250 2nd place, and \$100 for 3rd place. Just \$5 will allow you to try all the gumbo for the cook off. If you want to participate in the cook-off, call and ask for Roxanne @ 337 582 3535 Hope to see you there!

Last month we had the largest number of vendors, we anticipate we will have most of the vendors back as well as the Cajun jam session for the music. Remember always have free popcorn. Farmers Market is every first Saturday of the month.

ADMINISTRATION

Help our economy here at home and shop locally!

Baseball Field: We received some good news as we are anticipating the new poles and lighting will be here nearly 4 weeks earlier than anticipated. We have also cured our issue with the concession stand for the park and we will no longer need to pay for a portable building for the baseball season. In addition, the new movable food trailer will be part of the town's hurricane preparation package and can be used for town events in the park.

We have a couple of trouble spots on our streets that need "patching", and we are hoping to have this done within the next couple of months. If you observe an issue with a street- pothole, signage, etc. Please do not hesitate to call town hall and ask for Kim and give her the information.

I would like to thank those residents that are attending the council meetings, as they have been made aware firsthand of the matters that affect our town. Those few will no longer have to speculate or rely on incorrect information disseminated on Facebook. All residents are welcome to attend, if you are inclined to know the facts.

Mayor's Chat: As a reminder, prior to each council meeting, I am making myself available for open conversations starting at 5:30, ending at 6:30 pm. I simply request that we have respectful conversations, regardless of the topic.

Mayor Watkins