

**Minutes  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA  
September 12, 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: Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Fire Chief Sonny Coffey; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 8 citizens.

Invocation was led by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

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

Upon the request by Mayor Hesse, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to amend agenda to add Discussion on H&Z Spa., The motion passed unanimously.

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

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting August 8, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jeff Kudla, Architect, came forward to report project updates. Upon the recommendation of Jeff Kudla, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to accept Town of Iowa Public Works Storage Building and Breakroom from Hurricane Reconstruction as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Jeff Kudla, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve payment #6 to K&J Development of SWLA in the amount of \$42,758.72. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Jeff Kudla, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve payment of invoice #2022-053 to Kudla Architecture, LLC for Design and Drafting of Ballpark Improvements Phase I in the amount of \$64,476.01. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse asked Mr. Kudla when they could schedule the groundbreaking for the new ball field. Mr. Kudla said it could be next week. Mr. Kudla reported that the advertisement for bids on the two back fields would be ready in about six weeks.

Mr. Walt Jessen came forward to report project updates.

Upon the recommendation of Wall Jessen, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve final pay request, Pay Estimate #2, from R.C. Paving, Inc. on the Southland Estates Asphalt Paving project #I-2021-193. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the request by Walt Jessen, it was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to pay the invoice for engineering services for construction of the Southland Estates Asphalt Paving project #I-2021-193. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to authorize advertisement of paving project for 1<sup>st</sup> and West Alley Street, and Sherman Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse announced that he received the notice for application from Calcasieu Parish Road and Drainage Trust fund for the grant year 2023-2024. He asked the council to think about what project they would like to do for this funding year.

Mr. Warren Siles came forward to request the Mayor and Council permit him to excavate and tap into the main sewer line located at 304 Stockwell Street. He informed the Mayor and Council that it would save

him money based on the quote of \$7500.00 from a contractor. He also said that he is a contractor and has done this type of excavation work and is competent in excavating and shoring. Fire Chief Coffey asked Mr. Siles several questions about what safety equipment he has and proposed certain examples of what could happen and what would be required for these emergencies. Mr. Bouquet inquired about who would be doing the work and Mr. Siles answered, himself and one employee. Mr. Bouquet talked about the liability involved and that a liability policy and worker's compensation policy be purchased with the Town of Iowa named as insured. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to permit Mr. Siles to excavate and tap into the sewer line contingent on notifying Iowa Fire Department, purchase a liability policy for no less than \$500,000.00 coverage, purchase a workers compensation policy and name the Town of Iowa as insured on both policies, and follow the seven factors listed in Section 41-38 of the Iowa Municipal Code of Ordinances. The motion passed with the following votes:

Yeas: Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, and Vernessa Guillory

Nays: None

Abstain: Julie Fontenot

Absent: None

Mr. Max Hoyt, representative of Pro Quarters, LLC came forward to report positive news since the lease on the Iowa Mall Property was transferred. He said they have hired a real estate company, CPRE, to help fill the building with businesses. He stated the number of repairs they made to the building. He said the main reason he was here was to present a Letter of Intent from a national retail gasoline company. They are offering 1.5 million dollars for four acres of land. He said they needed a response by September 19, 2022. Since Pro Quarters can't sell the land and the town can't sell the land without Pro Quarters forfeiting the lease, they will forfeit the lease on 4 acres for 1/3 of the purchase price of the sale. He also stated that he has been in contact with D.O.T.D. about a study on Miller Street and Thomson Avenue. He reported to the Council the plans discussed with D.O.T.D., what wishes they have for traffic improvement. Mr. Bouquet said that the town will need to read the letter of intent and get an appraisal of the property before considering the offer. Mayor Hesse said the agenda would have to be amended to entertain or consider the letter of intent. Council Member Daniel Hennigan said that he didn't mind making a motion to add it to the agenda, but he will be a no vote for this request. There was no motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Hoyt wanted to know if he has another prospect should he come back or is he wasting his time? Mayor Hesse explained that if he had another kind of business and they would know who it is they may consider it, but they didn't want another truck stop business in town.

Mr. James Hardy, Sewer Superintendent, came forward and reported on the Sewer Department's August activities.

Mr. Pat Thibodeaux, Public Works Director, came forward and reported on the activities of the public works department and gave updates on projects for the coming month.

Fire Chief Sonny Coffey came forward and reported on Fire Department activities for the month of August. Mayor informed the Council that they will be purchasing a new pickup truck for the Fire Chief.

Police Chief Keith Vincent came forward and reported on the Police Department's activities for the month of August. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to hire Corey Henry as full-time police patrolman effective August 24, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda, A motion to approve agreement with Utility Associates, Inc and authorize Mayor Hesse to execute said agreement, was discussed. Mayor Hesse and Chief Vincent explained why this video & communications system company would be more beneficial for the police department in comparison to the present company, WatchGuard. Mr. Bouquet told Chief Vincent that he had reviewed the agreement and there was an indemnification and liability clause in the agreement referring to the laws of the State of Georgia, and any suit relating to this agreement would be brought to Dekalb County, Georgia. Chief Vincent, after hearing this, withdrew the request for the motion. Chief Vincent said he will look into it and may request it at another meeting.

Mayor Hesse gave an update on the progress of the Serenity Park Project. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve contractor, Empire DirtWorks, invoice in the amount of \$79,763.90. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse read the next item on the agenda and noted a change of his cell phone number for the Compliance Questionnaire. Mr. Bouquet noted a correction to his address that needed to be made. Town Clerk said she would make these changes before submitting it. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2022-18. The motion passed unanimously.

### **LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

#### **RESOLUTION 2022 - 18**

##### **A resolution to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire was received from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, and was properly completed by the Clerk of the Town of Iowa and presented to the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa in the same as hereby approved and adopted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of said Compliance Questionnaire be filed in the records of the Town of Iowa and further, that a completed copy of the Resolution be forwarded to McElroy, Quirk, & Burch, the auditing firm engaged by the Town of Iowa to test the accuracy of the answers to questionnaire and submit to the Town of Iowa and the Legislative Auditor their opinion and validity of the answers therein contained.

This Resolution is declared adopted on this 12<sup>h</sup> day of September, 2022.

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Paul Hesse, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Hesse read the next item on the agenda and asked the Council to approve an increase in rates for Town Attorney and Court Magistrate. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-19**

##### **A Resolution fixing Compensation of Town Attorney and Town Magistrate**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that the monthly salary of the Town Attorney, for legal services, be fixed at Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per month, and for extraordinary duties of Town Prosecutor, be fixed at One Hundred Five Dollars (105.00) per hour.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that the monthly salary of the Town Magistrate be fixed at Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per month.

This resolution is declared adopted and effective on this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2022

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Paul Hesse, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC  
Town Clerk

Mayor Hesse announced that the town will be applying for fiscal year 2022-2023 LGAP and CWF Grants and needed the following resolution approved. It was moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot to approve Resolution 2022-20. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot and duly resolved:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-20**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA  
UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
AND  
COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) and Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWF) 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 2022-2023 Local Government Assistance Program and also the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded.

**THEREUPON**, the above resolution was declared adopted.

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**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 September 12, 2022 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

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CYNTHIA MALLET, MMC  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF IOWA

Mayor Hesse invited Ms. Jessica Pousson, engineer with Fenstermaker, to come forward. Mayor talked about the initial idea of trying to determine another corridor to ease traffic and for use in emergencies. Ms. Pousson gave the Council information on ECORTS and Capital Outlay Process and how it could benefit the town to construct this corridor. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2022-21. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot and duly resolved:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-21  
A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUEST**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Legislature will appropriate funding for certain Capital Outlay Projects, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Iowa is in need of assistance in funding a proposed corridor to relieve traffic congestion, provide emergency exits, and plan for future growth of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, it is deemed necessary and proper to submit request to the State of Louisiana, Fiscal Year 2023-2024, by way of ECORTS (Capital Outlay Report Tracking System).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa that Mayor Paul Hesse is hereby authorized to request, by ECORTS, to the State of Louisiana, and also execute any and all documents should this request for funding be granted.

**THEREUPON**, the above resolution was declared adopted.

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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 September 12, 2022 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CYNTHIA MALLET, MMC  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF IOWA

Ms. Pousson also gave information on the town requesting ECORTS funds for the purpose of GIS water and sewer mapping. She said the deadline for the request is November 1, 2022. Mayor Hesse asked, if the Council chooses to request funds for GIS mapping, could it be done at the October meeting. She said yes. Mayor Hesse said they would address it at that time.

Mayor Hesse read the title to proposed Ordinance No. 2022-054, An ordinance establishing Access Management to Maintain Traffic Control. He said this is an ordinance that was recommended by an engineer at D.O.T.D. to help relieve traffic on main highways.

Mayor Hesse talked about H&Z Spa, a business in Iowa that is not licensed with the Louisiana Board of massage therapy and does not have a permit with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal. He said some of the other businesses in town do not have a permit with the Fire Marshal. It was stated that this is a state requirement, and we need to communicate that to all businesses. Mayor Hesse talked about the nuisance abatement ordinance that the City of Lake Charles has and asked the Council to look at it to see if it should be adopted for the Town of Iowa. Chief Vincent came forward and said that he will get some of the ordinances used with the City of Lake Charles for the Council's review.

Mayor Hesse gave the financial report.

Council Member Gerald Guidry talked about the problem of some of the garbage customers not picking up their trash can after garbage pickup and want to see what the town could do to require them to get it off the side of the road.

Mayor Hesse announced that a company has been contacted and will be coming in to repair damaged sidewalks.

Mayor Hesse asked if anyone else had anything to bring up to the Council. Chief Vincent came forward and asked if the Mayor or Council would be opposed to paying employees, that work the night shift, an incentive of \$1.00 per hour. The Council did not oppose this request.

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 8:18 pm.

ATTEST:

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Paul Hesse, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, will meet on October 10, 2022 at six thirty (6:30) o'clock p.m., at its regular meeting place, Iowa City Hall Meeting Room, 115 N. Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the below introduced ordinances:

##### Ordinance No. 2022-05

An Ordinance Establishing Access Management to Maintain Traffic Control

All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Handicapped persons needing assistance or aid should contact City Hall, 337-582-3535 before the meeting.

Published in Lake Charles American Press.

