

Minutes
Town of Iowa
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson
December 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Mayor and Council met in regular session this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice.

Present: Mayor Carol Ponthieux; Council Members: Julie Fontenot, Larry Hardy, Thomas Talbot, Errol Marshall, Gerald Guidry (quorum present) Absent: none

Invocation given by Mayor Ponthieux; followed by Pledge.

Talbot motioned to approve the minutes of November 14, 2016 as written; seconded.
Motion carried.

Agenda Items

1. FY15-16 Audit – presentation - Caitlin Guillory, MQB presented annual budget audit. Clean opinion for the audit was given. She reviewed audit by funds. Findings: the only findings are the two which are findings for a municipality of our size that being segregation of duties and hiring an outside source to do financial reporting in the audit. She thanked Council and Staff.
2. David Brossett, Architect – Mayor gave an update as Mr. Brossett was not able to attend meeting.
 - a. progress on walking path and Veterans’ Memorial - Proposed changes to walking path are on a drawing in Council chamber.
 - b. reminder park restroom bids to open Dec. 15th
3. Fire Department report – not present
4. Annexation request – Garren’s Subdivision – Mayor read the title and introduced the ordinance dealing with this request for annexation of a certain parcel of land.
 - a. Ordinance 17-01 -- introduction and reading of the title – Mayor introduced the ordinance and read the title.

ORDINANCE 2017-01

An ordinance annexing certain property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, title 33, Section 172, following the petition of Arnold and Yvette Natali

A public hearing and action on this ordinance will take place Jan. 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Iowa Town Hall, 115 N. Thomson, Iowa.

5. Engineer – reports, updates, recommendations -
 - a. recommend partial pay estimate #1 to Asphalt & Assoc. for West Miller Ave. sidewalk project in the amount of \$19,757.48. Marshall motioned to approve; Talbot seconded. Motion carried. Recommends payment for partial pay estimate #3 for \$96,623.10 to R.D. Spell, Inc. for N. Kinney drainage project. Talbot motioned to approve; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

b. Drainage Improvements Northwest corner of W. Reed & N. Knapp – received five bids and recommend acceptance of \$17,528.00 by Asphalt & Assoc. be accepted as low bidder. Talbot motioned to accept bid by Asphalt & Assoc.; Hardy seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Jessen thanked Council for opportunity to work with the Town.

6. Garbage fee - Resolution 2016-20 – Mayor presented the resolution for the Council to set the monthly garbage fee. Accepted initial bid by SSW is \$14.95. Comptroller Paul Hesse reviewed with Council his report breaking down the actual costs/charges for all utilities including garbage now. This will be the overhead for all the utilities. If you want to recover all your costs associated with garbage, it comes to about \$3 per account. I am giving you the numbers showing the reasonable costs. This same formula will have to be used when we do the sewer loan application. Next year it will be budgeted in. Mayor requested this breakdown from Paul so Council could see a more accurate costs. Talbot asked what the breakeven amount is: \$14.95 plus \$2.96 which equals \$17.91. Council can either set at breakeven costs, set a lower cost or remain at same amount. Hardy motioned to set rate at \$17.90; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried. [3 yeas 2 nays]
- Marshall commented he wants to clarify his nay vote was not against setting a rate but that we finished with a positive audit and he had wanted to pass more of a savings onto customers. Hesse addressed Lapearous’s inquiry about the enterprise fund. Hesse replied Capital costs are now moved to those sales taxes set appropriately. What has happened in the past is capital costs were set in that fund/enterprise. Which should have more appropriately been placed as a capital outlay project.
- Talbot reminded Mr. Lapearous that two council members, he and Mr. Marshall, voted for RFP earlier. He feels we should give a little more back to the public.

RESOLUTION 2016-20

**A RESOLUTION SETTING THE TOWN OF IOWA
MONTHLY GARBAGE RATE**

- WHEREAS,** The Town of Iowa sought solid waste proposals for garbage disposal; and
- WHEREAS,** The Town Council having received, reviewed, and accepted a proposal for services from Southern Solid Waste [SSW] now sets the established monthly garbage fee at \$17.90.
- WHEREAS,** the following garbage rate of \$17.90 per month is established effective January 1, 2017.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council Members for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in regular session this date does hereby set the Town’s Garbage Rate.

The following Council Members voted:

YEA: Hardy, Fontenot, Guidry
NAY: Marshall, Talbot
ABSENT: none
ABSTAIN: none

WHEREAS, this resolution was declared adopted on this the 12th day of December, 2016.

7. Police Department – updates, reminder, reports, and recommendations - Chief Vincent presents department stats and informed Council department purchased vests on police jury grant received.

Roundtable:

Hardy – went to school to speak about people who spoke French and raised speaking French. He had a good experience with the students and was amazed at how quickly they responded. School was S.J. Welsh.

Marshall – wish everybody Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. He also wants it known he was sorry he could not present a solution to garbage fee.

Talbot gave holiday wishes and get out and support our youth.

Guidry – new sidewalks on W. Miller need to be assessed as when heavy rains sidewalks flood.

Wants to see about raising the sidewalk areas where they flood. Wants to see what we could do.

Brad Bebee says he will look into a solution.

Happy Holidays

Mayor – thanks citizens for passing the change of the Sales Tax wording. Thanks Women’s League for the Christmas in the park activity. And thanks Fire Dept. for invitation to their party.

Mayor hopes everyone has a safe holiday.

There being no further business, Talbot motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately at 8:15 p.m.; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Sandra Turley, CMC

Carol Ponthieux, Mayor