

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson**  
**February 11, 2019**  
**Iowa, La**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

Present: Paul Hesse, Mayor; Council Members: Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry [quorum present]; Also Present: Eugene Bouquet, Town Attorney; H. Keith Vincent, Police Chief; Fire Chief Lewis; Engineer Walt Jessen; Cynthia Mallett, Town Clerk; and about 17 citizens

Invocation by Mayor Hesse; followed by Pledge.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve minutes, as written not read, for January 12, 2019 meeting. Passed Unanimously

Guest, Mr. Mark Abraham, candidate for Louisiana Senate District 25 was present and came before the Mayor and Council to introduce himself and ask for their support. Mayor and Council thanked him for coming.

**Agenda Items**

1. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to amend Agenda to Add-Motion to Approve Resolution, Accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2018-151, Harper Street Reconstruction from Hwy 165 North to Dead End; Marion Street Reconstruction from Harper Street to Barkley Street and Ash Street Reconstruction from Woodland Street South to Cul-de-Sac, Town of Iowa, LA, and authorizing the advertising of the lien period. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to amend Agenda to Add- Motion to Approve Resolution, Accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2018-156, Sewer Pipe Bursting on Second Street and Fairview Street between Kinney Avenue and East Parkway and Second Street at Thomson Avenue, Town of Iowa, LA and authorizing the advertising of the lien period. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to amend Agenda to Add- Discussion on Utility Charges, Late/Reconnection/Disconnection Fees. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to grant variance and approve Ramzan Ali /dba Silver Stores Holdings, LLC/d/b/a Gas Track located at 617 N. Thomson Avenue, Iowa, LA, for class B, low and high alcohol liquor license, with limitations in Ordinance 2003-07, when there are not any dances or sporting activities sponsored by Iowa High School or organizations associated with Iowa High School. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to reject bids opened January 14, 2019 - Project No. 1-2017-148 Installation of Water Meters at Various Locations because the qualified bid came in over the town's budget for this project. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor explained that the town could install the meters with town crew.
6. Engineer, Mr. Walt Jessen made the following recommendations to the Mayor and Council:

- a. PPEst#2 Project I-2018-156 Sewer Pipe Bursting on Second Street and Fairview Street for \$196,345.00 to Horseshoe Construction, Inc. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve recommended payment. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Recommend for payment Project I-2018-156, Sewer Pipe Bursting – engineer’s Est. #2 to Jessen & Assoc. for \$13,089.73. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Dainiel Hennegan to approve recommended payment. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Upon the recommendation by Mr. Jessen, **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Resolution, Accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2018-156, Sewer Pipe Bursting on Second Street and Fairview Street between Kinney Avenue and East Parkway and Second Street at Thomson Avenue, Town of Iowa, LA and authorizing the advertising of the lien period. Council Member Gerald Guidry requested Horseshoe Construction, Inc. make repairs to K.C. yard.
  8. Mr. Jessen reported a change order is necessary on Project #I-2018-151, for additional topsoil and asphalt, for a total of \$448.43 increase. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Change Order #2 for \$448.43. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jessen made the following recommendations:
    - a. PPEst#2 Project I-2018-151 Reconstruction of Harper Street, Marion Street and Ash Street for #220,552.72 to R.C. Paving, Inc.. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve recommended payment. Motion passed unanimously.
    - b. Engineer’s Estimate No. 2 Payment, Project #I-2018-151 for \$14,703.51. **Moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve recommended payment. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Jessen, **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve resolution, accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2018-151, Harper Street Reconstruction from Hwy 165 North to Dead End; Marion Street Reconstruction from Harper Street to Barkley Street and Ash Street Reconstruction from Woodland Street South to Cul-de-Sac, Town of Iowa, LA, and authorizing the advertising of the lien period. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennegen to approve Resolution - Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for January 2018-December 2018. Motion passed unanimously.
10. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to Designate Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett as records officer. Motion passed unanimously.
11. **Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to amend the Town of Iowa procedure for individual comments at Town Council Meetings - to eliminate Request to Appear forms and adhere to RS 42:14D. Motion passed unanimously.
12. Thaddeus Dugas came before the Mayor and Council to present pictures of the mobile home he is requesting to move into corporate limits. Council asked questions of Mr. Dugas of the condition, and the wind zone capability of the mobile home. Mr. Bouquet suggested the Fire Marshall inspect mobile home for permit pertaining to wind zone. Upon discussion of lifting prior moratorium, **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve variance based on the condition of Fire Marshall permitting mobile home. Motion passed unanimously.  
 Mayor Hesse reported- Mr. Dugas has a second mobile home he wishes to apply for a moving permit in which he is having difficulty with proof of ownership. Mr. Bouquet will check on the proof needed, because it being a non-moveable. Mr. Dugas said he would do whatever necessary to present proof.
13. Ordinance 2019-01, An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article III Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; Providing for the fixing of the salary of Clerk was introduced.
14. Ordinance 2019-02, An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; Providing for the fixing of the salary of Chief of Police was introduced.
15. Fire Dept. – report/updates – Chief Lewis presented fire report.
16. Mayor gave a report on the progress of the commercial water meters and the timeframe of sending the mock billing out with the month of April being closer to actual amount. A citizen asked if the town would have qualified personnel to read the meters. The Mayor assured him that they will be.

17. Police Department – updates, reminders, reports, recommendations

- a. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to hire Kathy Mallett and Mika McCauley as part-time Dispatcher. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Upon the request of Chief Vincent, **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to grant Officer Ralph Picard carry-over of employee benefits from 5 years of part-time status. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennegan to promote PTN Nicholas Sherman to PFC. Motion passed unanimously.
18. Mayor gave a financial summary for the month of January. Mayor explained the overage on the police budget as not being actual as to date and when it becomes more than 5% over the Chief will present a letter to the Council. He reported on the progress of hiring a comptroller.
19. Mayor discussed utility rates and looking into the process to determine the need to increase these rates. Mayor Hesse announced that the town has been absorbing the cost of customers using their credit cards to pay their water bills. Mayor Hesse explained with this new contract the customer would pay their bill with credit/debit card and the customer would pay the convenience fee. Upon Mayor Hesse's recommendation, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** David Hennegan to enter into a contract with and between Pay Star and Town of Iowa and authorize Mayor to execute said contract on the condition of Mr. Bouquet's approval of contract. The motion passed unanimously.
20. Mayor Hesse gave a report status of outstanding audits with DHH and GOSHEP and the steps taken to rectify the findings.
21. Mayor introduced James Hardy as Water and Sewer Superintendent, Kim Guillory as Revenue Supervisor, Clayton Aymond as Maintenance Supervisor, Susan Aymond as Court Clerk.
22. Mayor announced he received an email from a man in Arizona, in which he explained they came across artwork that came from a citizen that lived in Iowa years ago, Ms. Firestone, and he wanted to donate it back to the town. Mayor Hesse presented the artwork and said that it would hang in City Hall.
23. Council Comments: Vernessa Guillory requested a grass cutting notice issued to the owner of property next to Market Basket.  
Public Comments: Mr. Earl Guillory announced he expects great things from this Council and he would like to see everyone in uniform. Mr. Rufus Romero asked about the progress of digging ditches around town.
- Moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m

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Paul Hesse, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, Town Clerk