

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
April 8, 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: Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennegan, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot [quorum present]; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Fire Chief Lewis; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett

Invocation by Mayor Hesse; followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse called the meeting to order.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as written not read. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Ms. Marion Fox, Candidate for District 37, State Representative, came before the Mayor and Council to ask for their support in the upcoming election. Ms. Fox spoke about her accomplishments and expanded on her experience working with many Parishes throughout the State of Louisiana. Ms. Fox thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak.

OLD BUSINESS:

A proposed agreement by and between Acadian Total Security and Town of Iowa for the purpose of GPS Tracking on town vehicles was discussed. Mayor talked about the need for this service. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **Seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve the proposed agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Janice Ackley, representative of Smoke Free Workplaces and Public Places came forward and addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained why she was present and introduced other persons with her. A presentation on smoke free living was presented by three high school students, Healthier Air for All Campaign. Ms. Ackley said she supplied a model ordinance that she would like to have the Council introduce. Council Member Julie Fontenot suggested that businesses be made aware that the Council is considering this ordinance. Council Member Julie Fontenot said she would do a survey of the businesses this month. Mayor thanked them for coming.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennegan to approve and enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and the Town of Iowa for the purpose of providing a Summer Food Service Program. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve resolution to authorize signer on a governmental account. The motion passed unanimously

RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZED SIGNERS
ON A GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa needs to close the Town of Iowa Payroll account at Capital One Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has a need to open a checking account at a local bank that has the capabilities of payroll direct deposits; and

WHEREAS, JD Bank at 414 S. Kinney Avenue, Iowa, LA offers and maintains ACH capabilities for this service;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana in regular session convened this 8th day of April, 2019, that they hereby authorize the following signatures on the account of:

Town of Iowa Payroll Account Account Number: **30002014 -**

To be held at:

JD Bank
414 S. Kinney Ave.
Iowa, LA 70647

1. **Paul Hesse**
2. **Joe Becnel**
3. **Vernessa Guillory**
4. **Daniel Hennigan**
5. **Julie Fontenot**
6. **Gerald Guidry**

The resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Julie Fontenot< Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, and Daniel Hennigan

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The above resolution was unanimously approved and adopted in a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

PAUL HESSE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

An addendum to InfiniSource Benefit Service Contract was introduced. Mayor Hesse explained that it was necessary to approve the addendum to better serve the employees initial benefit application and yearly renewal of benefits. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennagen to approve addendum to InfiniSource

Benefit Service Contract and authorize the Mayor to execute, condition upon Town Attorney's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor informed the Council that the Town of Iowa Mayor's Court has increased in work load for the Town Attorney and Town Magistrate. The Mayor recommended an increase in monthly fees from \$400.00 to \$500.00. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to increase Town Attorney and Town Magistrate monthly fees as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Fontenot, representing Fontenot Rentals, LLC; Luke Fontenot; and Ethan Fontenot, came forward to request a Mobile Home Permit. Council Members asked questions as to the over view of the plan and ordinance regulations. A hand out was given to each member and explanations were given. Some of the process was not complete at time of meeting. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennegan to defer decision of permit until next regular council meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Sandra Turley, CMC, came forward and suggested that if the council decides to amend the ordinance for the mobile home rental park that the homeowners in that area be made aware. Mr. Kenneth Landry, Town of Iowa citizen, came forward and expressed his opposition of the mobile home park. Mr. Johnny Guillory, mobile home mover, came forward and talked about how over time mobile homes have been revolutionized and he didn't see an issue with having mobile home parks.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Daniel Hennegan to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT TRANSFERS THE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF LOCAL SALES & USE TAXES TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana grants local governments the right to levy and collect local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS, there are several constitutional amendments and bills introduced in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session that would transfer collection responsibility of local sales and use tax levies to the state Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, local taxing authorities possess the best knowledge and experience to properly collect its own taxes and have a proven record of proactive advancements in the areas of enforcement, audit coverage, dispute resolution, reporting technology and successful litigation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana's budget issues do not offer prospects for the Department of Revenue to have sufficient resources to provide the necessary taxpayer assistance, enforcement programs and training of its employees on the specific application or local sales and use tax ordinances without significant cost contributions from local governments, thereby resulting in the direct and indirect loss of local tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, many local taxing authorities have issued bonded indebtedness guaranteed by the passage locally adopted sales and use tax levies, collection of said levies the direct generate legal challenges and jeopardize future bond issues; and

WHEREAS, the central local collector in each parish is directly responsible to the local taxing authorities and their elected officials for the performance of local tax administration, and the Secretary Revenue being an appointee of the Governor of the state, uncertainty exist as to performance of such critical local tax administration,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Iowa of Calcasieu Parish as a local taxing authority and governing body, that each member of the legislative delegation for the Parish of Calcasieu is urged to vigorously oppose any and all proposed legislation that transfers the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to said legislators so that they will be made aware of our position on this matter.

The resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Joe Becnel, Daniel Hennegan, Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, and Vernessa Guillory

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The above resolution was unanimously approved and adopted in a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

PAUL HESSE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

The Mayor announced that damage was done to the newly installed walking track in the park. A proposal was submitted from Gunter Construction to make the needed repairs. It was reported that part of the damage was done by a vendor doing work in the park. After discussion, it was decided that an investigation and a letter, prepared by, Town Attorney, Eugene Bouquet, be sent to the vendor requesting damages be paid before making repairs.

Fire Chief Lewis presented reports and updates on the Iowa Volunteer Fire Department for the month of March. Mayor announced that the independent fire fighters are waiting on the Fire District's Attorney to give opinion if they are truly contract laborers or employees.

Mr. Jessen, Engineer, presented the final request for payment on Project I-2018-156, Sewer Pipe Bursting and final request for payment on Project I-2018-151, Asphalt Paving. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennegan to pay final request on project I-2018-156. The motion passed unanimously. It was **moved by** Joe

Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to pay final payment on project I-2018-151. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief of Police Vincent came forward and presented March's report of activities. Upon recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennegan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to hire the following persons: Errik Stelly –Full-Time Patrol effective 03/13/2019; Mary Trahan- Full-Time Dispatcher effective 03/20/2019; Heather Pringle –Full-Time Dispatcher effective 03/29/2019. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Vincent also requested the council approve contracts with National Networks, Quick-PD, Watch Guard, and DigiTicket for the capability of switching the operation of writing tickets from manual to digital. Mr. Bouquet explained the wording on the contracts/agreement/leases and said that they were in order. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve contract with National Networks and authorize the Mayor to execute said contract. The motion passed unanimously. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Watch Guard Contract and authorize the Mayor to execute said contract. The motion passed unanimously. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve contract with Digticket and authorize the Mayor to execute said contract. The motion passed unanimously. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve contract with Quick-PD and authorize the Mayor to execute said contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Open for Mayor and Council- Mayor asked if there were any comments from citizens.

- a. Mr. Earl Guillory came forward and requested that more than one area be set aside for sand and sandbags in case of emergency. The Mayor thanked him for his suggestion.
- b. Mr. Kenneth Landry asked if we would contact the Railroad and request repairs be made to the railroad and road.
- c. Mayor Hesse gave a report on the monthly financials. He said revenue is more than the budgeted amount and gave a report on the increase in water and sewer revenue because of the new commercial meters.
- d. Mayor also announced that he is looking into assistance for low income persons and how the town could legally do this. He stated that the City of Sulphur has a program and he would like to copy it.
- e. Mayor announced that D.O.T.D. is preparing a study for the reduction of speed limit on E. Miller Road.
- f. Council Members Julie Fontenot and Daniel Hennegan reiterated the suggestion that Mrs. Sandra Turley made concerning the Mobile Home Park.

With no further business to come before the council, it was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

ATTEST:

Paul Hesse, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC