

**Minutes
Town of Iowa
Regular Council Meeting
115 N. Thomson
March 12, 2018
7:00 PM**

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

Present: Council Members: Julie Fontenot, Tommy Talbot, Errol Marshall, Gerald Guidry, Larry Hardy (quorum present).

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor.

Talbot motioned to approve the minutes of February 12, 2018 as written, Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

1. Josh Guillory – Political Candidate for Congressional seat – announcing candidacy. Mr. Guillory stated that he is running for the third Congressional seat. He spoke of his background and presented his agenda if elected.
2. IVFD Chief Joseph “Scooter” Lewis presents report, updates.
Fire Chief Lewis informed the Council that the Fire Department responded to 28 calls since the last Council meeting. Their total training hours for month of February was 24 hours. There are now two people that have completed the EMS program and are now EMT’s. By the time everyone has completed the course, we will have five people qualified as EMT’s.
Fire Chief Lewis let the Council know that he was interviewed by KPLC multiple times during the last month to pitch for volunteers not only for here but also for everywhere. They are trying to bolster the numbers to get more firefighters on staff. Mayor asked to call the Council’s attention that taking this EMT course takes many hours of classroom time and having to pass the test. Mayor informed the council that this is a nationally registered EMT test.
3. David Brossett – Updates, recommendation
 - a. Recommend Payment #2 to Gunter Construction for Walking Path/Veterans Memorial for \$24,040. Fontenot motioned to pay payment #2 in the amount of \$24,040, Hardy seconded. Motion carried. Public comment: Jerry Lapearous spoke.
 - b. Iowa Town Hall Upgrade – 30-day extension granted – discuss project whether to move forward. Brossett reminded the Council that Gunter Construction had extended their bid last council meeting for an additional 30 days and asked the Council what their decision was on moving forward with the upgrade. Talbot stated his concern was that we did not know about Capital Ones purchase. Mayor explained we had recently heard from the company stating that they went with another bidder. Guidry motioned we accept the base bid [Gunter Construction] only, Hardy seconded. Motion carried. Public comment: Jerry Lapearous
4. Cary McKee – subdividing of property on Railroad into six lots. Mr. McKee explained the dimensions of his property and how he will be selling the lots to individuals. Mayor stated that there might be some variances on width size. Guidry asked should this not be a subdivision request per the Ordinances. Bouquet asks if Jessen received anything on the right of ways. Bouquet explained how the right of ways needed to be part of the subdivision plat. Jessen recommends that Mr. McKee looks at Municode [Town’s Subdivision Ordinance] to help him better understand what he needs for the Council. Jessen informs the Council there is an old force sewer main that runs in the middle of the property. It is suggested that Mr. McKee gets with Jessen’s office to proceed with the subdividing of this property and return to the next council meeting with a completed set of plans for the subdividing of this property. Bouquet states that the

drawings that the council was presented is Mr. McKee's conceptual plans and we can proceed with acceptance. Talbot motioned to accept Mr. McKee's conceptual plans, Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

5. Engineer's Report – recommendations.

Jessen informs the Council that the sewer pipe bursting has started. Jessen states that there are 97 feet of steel pipe that goes under Thomson Ave. that this company cannot handle. He will be recommending, later to defer this part of the project to another company that can handle steel pipe. Jessen will be checking more into this problem. Fontenot inquired how far east will this project go and when do we plan on moving further east. Jessen stated that it goes 300 feet past South Kinney and we are waiting on the loan to proceed. Marshall spoke of his concerns on how the contractors are dumping in the parking lot of Zion Baptist Church. Mayor advised she was aware of this and instructed Brad go take pictures and contact Fritz, with Jessen's office, to handle the situation.

Jessen has completed the review of Celebration Estates. Jessen asks the Council to approve to ask the subject to take care of the items he has recommended to the construction plan. Jessen's main concern is the detention pond was asked to be maintained by the Town. Guidry stated the owner should be the one that maintains the pond, Talbot, Hardy, and Fontenot agrees. Bouquet states that we need to address that the Town will not accept the responsibility of the detention ponds. It needs to say the developer needs to take care of the ponds. Guidry motioned to not accept/approve the plans as submitted, Fontenot seconded. Motion carried. Public comment: Jerry Lapearous

Asphalt and paving of streets prioritized by need. Harper and Marion Streets chosen as high priority streets to complete first. The cost of fixing these streets will be at/or around \$275,000. Hardy stated we budgeted \$400,000 to do the streets and recommends we do them. Mayor states at that cost we will have at/or around \$100,000 to pay for engineering fees and unexpected issues. Marshall asks, "Are we taking this project on an annual basis?" Mayor responding "yes, we will". Guidry motioned to have Harper and Marion Street repaved, Talbot seconded. Motion Carried

6. Request for annexation – petition by Tracey Winfrey on behalf of Walter C. Grout Estate, LLC

a. Introduction of annexation ordinance if approved – Ord. 2018-01 reading of Title

Mayor read title: An ordinance annexing certain property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statues of the State of Louisiana, title 33, Section 172, following the petition of Walter C Grout, LLC. A public hearing to be held at the April 9, 2018 regular meeting at 115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA at 7:00 p.m.

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

a. Capital One Building – updates from CPPJ

Police Chief Vincent informed the Council that CPPJ offered assistance to help build a new Police Department. Vincent then presented the stats for the dates of February 4, 2018 – March 9, 2018. Total offenses – 88, Number of calls completed – 241. Public comment: Jerry Lapearous

There being no further business, Hardy motioned to adjourn, Talbot seconded. Motion carried.

Sign checks: Talbot

ATTEST:

Elsie Lane, Asst. Clerk

Carol Ponthieux, Mayor