

Minutes  
Town of Iowa  
Regular Meeting  
115 N. Thomson  
November 13, 2017  
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, Errol Marshall, Thomas Talbot, Gerald Guidry (quorum present)

Absent: Larry Hardy

Invocation given by Mayor Ponthieux; followed by Pledge.

Marshall motioned to approve minutes of October 9, 2017 as written; Talbot seconded. Motion carried.

**Agenda Items**

1. Condemnation actions

a. Mrs. Hebert – update on 308, 310 Hwy. 90 West properties being considered for condemnation – Mrs. Hebert updated Council stating 308 address has been demolished and currently working on 310 to make it more presentable. Cannot guarantee it being brought up to code. Talbot and Marshall are ok with the condition of the property as is. Dismiss any further action on Hebert properties. Talbot motioned to abolish the condemnation proceedings; Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

b. consideration of starting condemnation process for 506 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street – owner shown as Darrel Bourque – Talbot commented it is boarded up with building in fair condition, overgrown grass. Need to get in touch with owner as to his intentions with the property. Marshall motioned to proceed with condemnation process; Talbot seconded. Motion carried.

2. Citgo/Gas Track request for high alcohol liquor license - owner requesting approval for 617 N. Thomson – Burt Parham representing the Zia's request for application for liquor license [high alcohol]. Measurement done. Zia's celebrated being in business for 14 years in Iowa. The distance measured is at 175 ft. from school to store front. They are requesting Town to grant approval even though they fall short of the 300 ft. required distance. Mr. Parham states it is not wrong as the Council governs the Town not the State. Marshall read the ordinance. Bouquet states Council can consider modifying current ordinance wording. Zia's Counsel, Mr. Van Norman, spoke to Council about granting of previous license. Council controls its ordinances and if it wants to waive and grant a variance, it can do so. Bouquet suggests we do this in uniform action with previous limitations as to hours of operations. Talbot motioned to amend ordinance 2003-07 to allow higher alcohol content with same limitations; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried. Talbot motioned to grant a variance for Super Choice, LLC dba Gas Track for higher alcohol content package only with same limitations in Ordinance 2003-07; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried. Public comments: Lapearous spoke.

3. IVFD – Chief Lewis to present fire department report, updates, recommendations – Chief Lewis presented his report to the Council. Chief attended a training session at Texas A&M Fire School at College Station. Brought very informative information back to pass along and implement with our fire volunteers/fire department. Gained two members this month. Thanked Sulphur Fire Dept. for donating gear to us. Chief Lewis offered congratulations to LeDoux as having obtained all certification and is now recognized as a fire fighter.

4. Architect David Brossett – to present and update Council -

a. Walking Path & Veterans Memorial discussion and action by Council – Town received bids at last meeting with Gunter having lowest bid. Brossett presented his recommendation. Marshall states his understanding in order to reject the bids we have to state no funds or have to postpone for a period of 12 months and cannot rebid for 12 months. Mayor states this project is funded budget. Talbot asked if we still have funds to do our drainage

projects as budgeted. Talbot motioned to approve Gunter as the low bid for walking path/veterans memorial project; Marshall seconded. [\$398,000 was low bid]. Motion carried.  
Public comment: Lapearous commented.

b. updates on Town projects (current or future) – park restroom completed, small punch list with some minor items. Retainage still held until clear lien obtained. Town Hall upgrade –Brossett asked to provide any confirmed estimates. He still feels about \$250,000. He was asked to split out the drive through to be a separate item. He is to bring estimates at next meeting. [Mayor stopped meeting for about 4 minutes for a brief break] Meeting resumed at 7:42 p.m.

c. recommendation for payment - none requested

5. Shane Cormier – request to subdivide property located at 403 S. Knapp – want to turn and make it 90 x 120 for each lot. One lot off Knapp and the other off Third. There are currently no structures on address of 403 S. Knapp. Easement needs to be defined. Mayor recommends easements be investigated and brought back as more information is needed. Jessen stated we know there is a sewer line on eastern. Where is the service line that serves the existing home? The newly created lot needs sewer easement and right of access. If the sewer line falls on the house pad, then this must be addressed. Place item back on the agenda for next month or let us know if you need additional time. Check with Mr. Jessen or Brad Bebee on what information to provide. Item to be placed on December meeting agenda.

6. Drainage – discuss plans and budgeting for – Marshall stated he requested item because other projects were being held up. Having taken steps on item 4 I still think we need to know where we’re going – the dollar amount. Marshall recognized PJ Latour as to any input he might have. LaTour working with Myers and Associates to see what volume it [later ] takes in. Mallett to possibly donate the ponds to the gravity drainage board. Potential ponds locations are 13 acre north of I-10 and 4 acres by Dogwood. Funding for more engineering on piping to ponds. LaTour stated he will do what he can but wants to see how much the Town can assist. Marshall wants to see the Town move forward on projects especially drainage.  
Public comment: Lapearous spoke

7. Engineer – updates, reports, recommendations on Town projects

a. approve PPE#1 and final on Proj.I-2017-146 2” water line at Knapp Ave. & Lat. 14  
Abandonment of 2" Water Main at Knapp Avenue and Lateral L-14 and Connections of Existing Water Services to Existing 8" Water Main Along Eli Road – recommend payment. Talbot motioned to approve payment to Asphalt Assoc., Inc. in the amount of \$9,885; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried. Project underran by about \$2,000.

b. I-2017-136 Sewer Siphon Relocation at Lateral L-14 at Knapp Street to Facilitate Channel Improvements - recommend payment to E.B. Feucht & Son. Talbot motioned to approve payment for \$31,942.70; Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

c. State authorized advertisement of pipe bursting project – this is CDBG grant for sewer project. Between Lambert and Second St. CDBG grant of \$325,000. Engineer’s opinion of cost of about \$575,000. Will receive bids at next Council meeting/Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. Marshall motioned to approve bid advertisement; Talbot seconded. Motion carried.

8. Ordinance 2017-11 amending Sec.41-33

a. Public hearing – Mayor adjourned regular meeting at 8:40 p.m. for a public hearing on this ordinance. Mayor read the additional wording added to this section. Question regarding mailboxes in right of way would have to be replaced by property owner. There being no further comments regular meeting resumed at 8:44 p.m.

b. Action/vote - Talbot motioned to approve; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried.

#### **ORDINANCE 2017-11**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 41 ARTICLE 2 - Obstructions and Excavations SECTION 41-33 OF THE TOWN OF IOWA CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that Chapter 41

Article 2 – Obstructions and Excavations – Section 41-33 of the Town of Iowa, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Additional wording to Sec. 41-33 Same-Placing or leaving objects.

**41-33 A**

Bushes, shrubs, or flowers planted in any Town Public Right of Way (strip of ground between the sidewalk and the street) shall not be more than 24 inches tall nor 24 inches wide and shall not extend onto the street or the sidewalk. Any bushes, shrubs or flowers that need removing for maintenance purposes in the Town right-of-way can be replaced by the owner of the plants on said area at the owner's expense.

Any mailboxes in the Town right-of-way are to be 43-48 inches from the ground as per U.S. Postal Service requirements and the same dimensions of shrubs and flowers shall apply surrounding these structures. In the case of needed maintenance, the same rule will apply. If mailboxes are removed for maintenance, any replacement is at the owner's expense.

The above and foregoing addition to the Code of Ordinances, Town of Iowa, Louisiana, has been read and adopted and is only intended as an addition to said Ordinances and the remaining Ordinances and the past enacted Ordinances are still in full force and effect.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered as a whole. A vote thereon was called for, with the following results:

**YEAS:** Fontenot, Marshall, Talbot, Guidry

**NAYS:** none

**ABSENT:** Hardy

**ABSTAIN:** none

The Mayor then declared the ordinance adopted on November 13, 2017.

9. Transferring accounts to The Bank from closing of Capital One branch – Talbot motioned to approve transfer of accounts from Capital One to The Bank; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried.

10. Police Department – Reports, Recommendations, Updates - Chief presented his monthly report to Council.

a. approval of new hire Nicholas Sherman as FT patrol officer effective 08/17/17 – Talbot motioned to approve hiring of Nicholas Sherman; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

Chief encouraged all citizens to please make sure your vehicles and homes are secured.

Financials presented to Council.

There being no further business Talbot motioned to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.; Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

Sign checks – Talbot

ATTEST:

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Sandra Turley, CMC

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Carol Ponthieux, Mayor