

**Regular Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
October 9, 2017
7:00 PM**

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

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

Invocation given by Mayor Ponthieux, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Hardy.

Marshall motioned to approve the minutes of September 11, 2017 as written, Hardy seconded.
Motion carried.

AGENDA

1. David Brossett – discuss Town projects, park updates on projects, and recommendations.

a. Open Bids- Town Park Walking Path and Veterans Memorial.

Architect David Brossett opened the bids.

Gunter Construction – License 41469: Bid \$398,000

Pat Williams Construction – License 21023: Bid \$498,000

R.D Spell – License 2794: Bid \$523,000

Marshall asked if this price was with consideration for bricks to be purchased by the public. Mr. Brossett responded that it was.

Fontenot inquired about the project time period of 150 days with no extensions and the liquidation damages. David Brossett explained that if the project were not complete on time a certain amount would be charged to the contractor each day until finished.

Talbot spoke of having concerns about spending this money when we have drainage issues. He commented to the Town Council “We need to look long and hard before making a vote on spending this money. Talbot asked the question “Do we have money to spend on drainage if we spend this money?” \$400,000 is a lot of money to spend. Talbot also voiced he has reservations on the retentions ponds.

Marshall agrees with Talbot. Marshall wanted to contact Mr. Latour on the statement he made about \$150,000 for improvements in the park for a splash pad. Can we contact him to see if that money is available to allocate to the Veterans Memorial and Walking Path project.

Mayor Ponthieux advised she would contact Mr. Latour about allocating this money to drainage

Council will take this item into advisement with no action.

Jerry Lapearous spoke against this subject.

b. Park restroom – David Brossett advised the Town Council that the weather change order #2 was completed on September 24, 2017. The contractor has 45 days after this date to finish the punch list. The Park bathroom project is complete. Mr. Brossett recommends payment to Gunter Construction for \$19,219.50.

Errol Marshall motioned to accept punch list and pay Gunter Construction, Talbot seconded.
Motion carried.

Jerry Lapearous inquired as to price.

c. Town Hall upgrades – general update of project.

Mr. Brossett informed the Town Council he is still developing the package. He will be finished with complete package by next meeting.

Jerry Lapearous spoke.

Fontenot asked if that is for both hall and drive thru. Mr. David Brossett answered, “That is correct”.

2. Citgo/Gas Track request for high content liquor license – owner requesting approval for 617 N. Thomson

Burt Parham spoke for the Mr. and Mrs. Zia. He stated he is a professional commercial license consultant. Mr. Parham inquired as to whether the Town Council handled Mr. Waseem’s request with a waiver of distance or has the ordinance been altered?” The Town Attorney Mr. Bouquet answered that was by a waiver.

Marshall stated that he asked for the waiver because Mr. Waseem’s establishment is more than 300’ if we would have measured by the way the Town’s ordinance reads. Mr. Parham spoke to Agent Le and that he stated the measurement is straight across. Mr. Parham believes the waiver given to Mr. Waseem should be granted across the board. Marshall is more compelled to discuss it because the Town of Iowa is getting ready to expand with development and is worried the school will grow. Marshall is not prepared to vote tonight.

Parham spoke of his experience with Mr. Waseem. He also stated the Zia’s have made notice in the paper and someone has already received a waiver for the low alcohol.

Gene Bouquet inquired whether the license had been issued. Mr. Parham stated the intent to the State has been made.

Mayor Ponthieux suggested contacting Agent Le to do a formal measurement. Mayor recommended putting this item on next meeting’s agenda.

Mr. Parham stated that your measurement would not be over 300’, if a liquor license were granted it would have to be done with a variance of distance. If the Town of Iowa grants this variance, the Zia’s will follow the same rules set as the last business.

Talbot asked if the Town could get a measurement for both places. He stated that he would like to see the measurements of both businesses. He would also like to see the ordinance for the Liquor Mart.

Marshall motioned to table until next meeting, Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Lapearous had no comment.

3. Condemnation hearing for 308 and 310 W. Hwy. 90 – Mrs. Hebert to appear.

Mrs. Hebert is the recipient of the condemnation letter.

Mrs. Hebert addressed the Town Council stating she understands that one of the buildings is in bad shape. She spoke of how she wants it torn down but cannot find anyone.

Mayor Ponthieux suggests we can make inquiries for her to demolish. Mayor suggest that she can call City Hall and the clerks would help her.

Jim Vanover spoke stating he was the real estate agent. He gave his phone number, 337-370-1115, to the Town Council.

Talbot motioned to table this item until next council meeting, Hardy seconded.

Motion carried. 4 yeas, 1 abstain [Marshall requested that for the record he would like to recuse himself from this item and abstain from any vote].

4. Monroe Thompson to discuss enlarging RV Park to W. Miller- James Geishler spoke for Monroe Thompson. They are proposing to expand up to W. Miller Ave., which will include 50 additional

sites fully fenced in. This will be for residents and visitors only. They have been in contact with DOTD. DOTD has asked them to look at the drainage issues.

Mayor Ponthieux stated that was her only concern. She stated that the closeness of the concrete pads on the western edge near the fence line is where our water easement is.

Ben Clark stated that the Town Engineer had the same concerns.

Brad Bebee stated that what the town did was, they installed the water tap on W. Miller and ran a 2 in. line to the corner where the current fence is. Which is the S.W. corner. There are two meters there that he would like to see moved near W. Miller Ave. out of the fenced in area. He also stated that the relocation of these meters be at Mr. Thompson's expense.

Mr. Thomson stated that they could put the meters wherever the Town needs them.

Mayor Ponthieux asked how many hydrants were in place now. Mr. Thompson answered there is one hydrant. Mayor Ponthieux asked to speak to Chief Lewis about the fire hydrant placement. Fire Chief Lewis stated that a minimum of two (2) hydrants are needed.

Talbot inquired of what kind of mains the Town has to the east of this location. Brad Bebee stated there are no mains. Brad Bebee stated that they would need a 6" line to feed a hydrant and all that is there now is a 2" line. Talbot stated that we would need to move those lines for the hydrants.

Mayor Ponthieux asked Mr. Geishler to meet with herself, Brad, and Mr. Jessen before the next council meeting. Mr. Geishler agreed.

Mr. Geisler inquired if the council would vote on this project as an allowable use for the town.

Talbot motioned to accept this expansion pending accommodations to the Town of Iowa concerns according to engineer and maintenance department; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry spoke for this subject.

5. IVFD – Chief Lewis to present fire department report and recommendations.

Fire Chief Lewis presented stats for the month of September. Chief Lewis informed the Town Council this is fire prevention month. There were eight (8) calls. Training hour totals were thirty-six (36). They are currently continuing with EMS classes. Nothing major for the month of September. Chief Lewis reported that Iowa Volunteer Firefighters assisted the Iowa Elementary School with cleaning the playground area up for the schoolchildren. He mentioned this was not presented at the August Council meeting.

Brad wanted to thank the fire department for jetting out culverts.

6. Engineer - updates, reports, and recommendations on Town projects.

Ben Clark presenting.

a. Project I-2016-131 Drainage improvements W. Reed & N. Knapp. Request for partial pay estimate No 1 and final for work completed by Asphalt & Associates, Inc. recommendation to pay \$19,736.60. Marshall motioned to approve payment; Talbot seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Lapearous spoke.

b. Project I-2017-136 Sewer Siphon relocation at Lateral 14 at Knapp St. anticipation of improvements of lateral. E.B. Feucht drilled new pipe will be in service tomorrow 10/10/17. They will take out old pipe. Just an advisement, no action needed.

c. Project I-2017-144 Sewer pipe bursting – Lambert Ave. from Hwy 90 North to Second St. and Second St. from Lambert Ave. East to Lightner Ave. – LCDBG project. Plans due by today in Baton Rouge. Jessen mailed September 26, 2017. Jessen's office heard from the Baton Rouge office they wanted a sign erected showing the cost of the project with the breakdown. Jessen's office will take care of the sign. Ben Clark stated that 8" pipes will be

- upgraded to 12” pipes and the 12” will be upgraded to 15 “for greater capacity. Just an advisement, no action needed.
- d. Project I-2017-146 Abandonment 2” water main at Knapp Ave. and Lateral L-14 and connections of existing water services to existing 8” water main along Eli. Engineer is anticipating the homes along drainage lateral will be transferred to a newer line. Asphalt and Associates may start tomorrow, 10/10/17.
Jerry Lapearous spoke.
7. Ordinance 2017-11 amending Sec. 41-33 – Introduction and title. Mayor read.

ORDINANCE 2017-11

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

8. Police Department – Updates, reminders, reports, and recommendations.
Police Chief Vincent presented the stats for the month of September. Offenses totaled 30. Traffic Citations totaled 399, Traffic Accidents – 2. The Iowa Police Department responded to 240 calls with 4 arrests. Chief Vincent inquired when Halloween would take place. Mayor Carol Ponthieux informed that Halloween would take place Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 5pm – 7pm

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

Sign checks: Hardy

ATTEST:

Elsie Lane, Asst. Town Clerk

Carol Ponthieux, Mayor