

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson  
April 11, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

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

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

Invocation given by Mayor Ponthieux followed by the Pledge. Pledge led by Girl Scouts.

The Town was privileged to be led in Pledge by Girl Scout Troop 142. It was delight to see all the young ladies.

Approval of March 14, 2016 minutes: Marshall motioned to accept/approve minutes as written; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

**Agenda Items**

Mayor requested to move item 10 to top as speaker needs to leave early.

10. Introduction of Cheri Soileau as new IMCAL/MPO Executive Director – she introduced herself and gave a brief update as to how IMCAL can assist members and mentions all the new improvements being implemented. Stated she is available and to contact her at any time with any questions or concerns. IMCAL wants to help the Town achieve what it wants to be.

Public comments were made by J. Lapearous and C. Caesar. Lapearous made suggestion regarding mall and Caesar inquired of Ms. Soileau about federal monies.

Mayor mentioned how IMCAL and the Alliance are working to help us with getting a new owner for the former Walmart location. Ms. Soileau will be returning in a couple of weeks to present a few items.

1. Liquor License approval – Cajun Kwik Mart applied for Town license approval. Hardy motioned to accept; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

2. Shalon LaTour, Calcasieu Police Juror - discussion relative to Recreation District. Mr. LaTour appeared before the Town Council and presented members of the Recreation Board Ward 8. LaTour says he wants all to work together. LaTour did request a percentage of the Town's half cent sales tax to fund this proposed Recreation District. LaTour indicated Recreation District Board would also manage the park and manage the funds.

Guidry asked how long this Board has been in existence because he was not aware of it. LaTour responded with two spots on the Board are open and suggests the Town appoint one board member. Guidry said Town should have been contacted prior in reference to appointing board members and the composition. LaTour says this recreation request is all about families. LaTour gave an overview of the proposal he is making. He says they would like to have a percentage of the Town of Iowa's half cent

sales tax. He will also seek to get on the ballot for a vote to have the voters approve a property tax millage to fund this recreation district. Dialogue then followed between Council Members and Mr. LaTour.

Guidry asked about leagues. He is concerned about splitting up the League. Would the current structure remain in place? In other words, would those children who now use Iowa Town Park fields still be allowed to play here?

Guidry wants to know if Lacassine, Bell City would still be allowed to play. Answer: the leagues will still be the same and play. It will have nothing to do with the Leagues. All that they are wanting is to find funding to improve the facility/Iowa park.

LaTour said the sales taxes in Iowa would stay in Iowa. He indicated the millage if passed should bring in about \$200,000. Said about \$100,000 would remain in Iowa. LaTour says right now he's for getting a park and looking for playgrounds for LeBleu.

LaTour indicated a Recreational President and Secretary would be directing the rec district. No paid employee. Indicated Iowa's Lawrence Touns Memorial Park would be under recreation board control. LaTour states not anything is set in stone.

Marshall again asks about how this would be funded. LaTour says property millage plus \$43,000 from Town of Iowa would be used to fund.

If Town does not agree to this arrangement then Town of Iowa would be excluded and they would build another facility central to the district. LaTour says it could be three to six months before the property millage could be placed on the ballot for voters to decide.

Hardy wants to know who would be in charge of the park/leagues. LaTour says the Board would work with the leagues. If Iowa agrees, then everything will stay in Iowa and not effect anyone.

Fontenot asked if the millage doesn't pass how you would fund this proposal.

LaTour indicated basically the district would be northern border goes to Hecker and south goes pass McCowan road, with east and west boundaries being west to 397 and east to 165.

Guidry wants to know if Lacassine, Bell City would still be allowed to play. Answer: the leagues will still be the same and play. It will have nothing to do with the leagues. All that they are wanting is to find funding to improve the facility/Iowa park.

Mayor: control of the concessions is not by the Town. The concessions is operated by the leagues. We have in the past been asked to hold tournaments. Town of Iowa funds the costs of maintaining the area/park. It takes money to operate. My concern is the legalities of it. Right now the funds you're proposing for this district comes in through Sales Tax III. This is controlled by the Council and by the function of the sales tax.

Mayor said need to get the current Recreation Board. You say there are two spots open of which the Town can fill one. Council then pointed out if only one board seat represents Town then Town has little input.

Mr. Bouquet, Town Attorney says he needs to look at how District 8 is defined and what can and cannot be done and to review the sales tax issue.

Marshall indicated Council cannot take a definitive position this evening. Council needs to look at the legalities. He felt it was ok to move forward with the makeup of the Board. The Town should not make a decision tonight because we need to start a discussion.

LaTour wants Council to make a timeline.

Public comment: J. Lapearous – Recreational District would be nice but doubts a property tax millage would pass at this time. Says to find the legal opinion. Don't know if you can legally use the money to fund an outside entity. Eventually you will have to have a Director. C. Caesar: thinks more discussion is needed. But thinks it a good idea.

Mayor proposes to the Council a need for further discussion. Perhaps have a Town Hall meeting which allows for expression of ideas. No formal decisions or action will be taken. Open forum for citizens of Ward 8. Make no decision tonight. Let Mr. LaTour and I get together and have an open forum. However Councilman Guidry said it would probably be better to do it at a Council meeting in order to get a better understanding and whether the Council is in agreement. Let Mr. Bouquet gather facts relative to the legal issues.

LaTour wants to know if anyone wants to be on the Board. He wants to see what type of budget we could come up with.

3. Chief Miller – IVFD – updates, reports – Chief Miller presented stats for the month of March. Certifications have been earned.

Public comment from C. Caesar: asked about the certifications.

Marshall asked if Fire Dept. was doing something for prom season. Chief Miller said they try to do this about every other year.

4. Rusty Reeves, LRWA – utility rates – Mayor introduced Mr. Reeves. Mr. Reeves stated over the last few weeks he has been reviewing costs, depreciation and water sales. LRWA uses known standards across the industry to set usage. Basing average residential usage at about 4,000 gallons per month. Commercial customers at about 40 million gallons in a year. Mr. Reeves reviewed the proposed new rates for metered water. The suggested rate for Residential would be \$17 for first 3,000 gallons and \$3.00 per 1,000 over. Commercial would be \$40.00 for first 5,000 gallons and \$3.00 per 1,000 over. These rates are within standard acceptance. These rates would cover the depreciation and this will insure we are breaking even or better.

Hardy says he wants to start metering. It's the fair way as individuals will pay for what they use.

Mayor says we will start with the commercial accounts first. Residential customers will be next. There will be a break in period showing what their usage is and what metered bill would be. This way it will give the customer a chance to see what they are using and to make any necessary repairs or adjustments to their usage.

Mr. Reeves reviews with Council the Sewer rates for residential and commercial.

Public comments: J. Lapearous: water rates to go up. No default was filed regarding the lawsuit. Mr. Bouquet said he will check into situation. C. Caesar: money is due to the citizens of Iowa from lawsuit.

Marshall: whenever we start discussing rates wants to know expenses.

Mr. Reeves asked Council for help regarding HB823. If passed by legislature would require state to enforce all secondary standards. If this passes, will have to comply and will prove more costly. So asking you to contact your legislators to not approve this.

5. Engineer's Report – recommendations, updates

a. 2017 CPPJ Road and Drainage Trust Fund application – last year we did not get funded. Do we want to reapply and get the extra point? Hardy motioned to apply for 2017 CPPJ Road and Drainage Trust Fund grant to continue with N. Lightner to tie in at David; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: C. Caesar stated he wants to see road across S. Storer

Updates: current Road & Drainage Grant the contractor is now ordering his supplies as the last of the utility poles are to be moved. Trying to get started as soon as he can. Jessen stated John Dale Lift Station change order finally approved. April 26<sup>th</sup> bids for Third street sidewalk project will be opened. Right-of -ways for W. Miller sidewalk is still in process. Sewer project to upsize by doing a pipe bursting project would cost approximately \$230,000. Need to see if this can be added to next budget year.

6. Municipal Debt Recovery Service –Hardy motioned to enter into agreement with Louisiana Municipal Advisory & Technical Services Bureau Corporation for debt recovery service as long as no expense to the Town; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: J. Lapearous asked about old sewer assessments. C. Caesar says it's a waste of money.

7. I-10 Lighting Agreement with DOTD – Mayor states I-10 lighting system is operational. It was no cost to the Town for installation of the lights. However, we must take ownership and maintenance of the system. Mayor is looking at a CEA with Entergy to take care of the maintenance and repair of the interstate lighting. Entergy has the equipment to handle maintenance. Marshall motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with DOTD regarding I-10 Lighting; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

8. Ordinance 2016-05 – appeal of prior ordinance regarding no parking on N. Kinney

a. Public Hearing – Mayor adjourned the regular meeting in order to conduct a public hearing at 9:25 p.m. There being no public comments regular meeting resumed at 9:26 p.m.

b. Action/vote – Marshall motioned to accept approve the ordinance; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance 2016- 05**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL**  
**Ordinance 2014-08 which prohibited parking on the west side of the**  
**100 block of North Kinney, south to the Stop signs at end of dead end**  
**and designated a tow zone**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana in a regular meeting duly called for on March 14, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. to repeal Ordinance 2014-08 that parking is prohibited on the west side of the 100 block of North Kinney, south to the Stop signs at dead end of street and designated a tow away zone. This ordinance shall remove the prohibited parking and tow away zone on the west side of the 100 block of North Kinney, south to the Stop signs at end of dead end and remove designation of tow zone.

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.

Said ordinance having been introduced on March 14, 2016, with title having been read and a public hearing held and the ordinance considered on motion of Marshall, seconded by Hardy to adopt the Ordinance.

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

YEAS: Marshall, Hardy, Fontenot, Guidry  
NAYS: none  
ABSENT: Talbot  
ABSTAIN: none

The Mayor then declared the ordinance adopted by the Town Council of Iowa, Louisiana on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.

9. Police Chief – (1) updates (2) reminders (3) reports - Chief Vincent presented his department stats and recommendation to the Council

a. Promotion: from PT dispatcher to Full Time: Czarvena Christian – Hardy motioned to approve C. Christian to full time status; Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

Sign checks: Guidry

Council Roundtable:

Dist. A – Baseball season started. Watch out for the children.

Reminder by the Mayor to do your one hour ethics session. Reminder to file Tier III paperwork by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Budget workshop – Wed. April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

There being no further business, Hardy motioned to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.; Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Sandra Turley, CMC

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Carol Ponthieux, Mayor