

**Minutes  
Special Meeting  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson  
February 25 2019  
Iowa, La  
6:30 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: Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry [quorum present]; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Fire Chief Lewis; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett  
Absent: Council Member Julie Fontenot

Invocation by Mayor Hesse; followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse called the meeting to order.

**Discuss Proposals for Programs, Infrastructure, Capital Projects for the Town of Iowa:**

Mayor announced one program that is intended to continue, the Summer Feeding Program. Ms. Wendy Robinson with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury came forward to give a brief history of the program and the things they have done in the past to help make the program a success. She explained the program is for two months, June and July. She stated, in the past they have partnered with some recreation districts throughout the Parish and was asked to start serving breakfast as well as lunch because the children would show up so early. Mayor Hesse asked the council if this may be something they may want to help the community with by hiring teachers during these two months for about 20 hours a week. Ms. Robinson asked if the town would still donate the annual \$2500.00 toward the program. Mayor affirmed that this would be in addition to the annual contribution. Mayor thanked Ms. Robinson for coming.

To continue with the meeting, Mayor asked the department heads, in general, to tell what they would like to see done. He asked Elsie Lane to begin. Elsie reported that everyone wants a quad baseball field. She explained the things she is doing to see about making this work for parking and where the fields could be situated. She announced the Town of Iowa will host the All-Star games this year. Mayor talked about the tennis court and trying to get the lights and surface redone. Council Member Gerald Guidry said that the fence at the ball park is necessary. She also suggested that the park needs a piece of playground equipment for children ages 6-23 months and something for handicap children. She would like to see in the near future a fence around the play area for safety reasons.

Calcasieu Parish Police Juror Shayne Latour was present and announced that the Parish helped build a baseball field in Bell City and the cost was about \$65,000.00. .

Fire Chief Lewis talked about the joint service agreement the town has with the fire district and the lack of volunteers. He reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> responder program volunteers are down throughout the country. The response time for call outs are not where they need to be. For the fire rating to be advantageous, he is requesting three persons full-time so they could arrive immediately on the scene and then the volunteers. It was discussed to apply for grants or get help from the Parish. Also, it was recommended to evaluate the town's water system. Chief Lewis reported that the town's water pressure isn't enough to help with the fire rating score and needs to be addressed.

Chief of Police Keith Vincent asked for:

1. Computer storage for records and evidence: photos, reports, video, etc. Use WatchGurard program to auto down load video evidence and store and use National Networks to assist with completing the C.A.D. Sytem Grant. He asked that this be a priority.
2. Appropriately maintain the vehicle fleet.
3. New police department building
4. Increase officer pay scale accordingly to improve on retention level.

5. Continue to purchase modern equipment as needed (lap top computer in units, video surveillance equipment that is mobile, etc. Also, hand held ticket system.

Mr. Latour will commit for helping with the new police department building. The Mayor suggested an Emergency Response Center and there was discussion of location to build. Chief Vincent requested that a grant from USDA be written to help with the funding to build.

Mayor Hesse submitted a list of items for consideration and planning to Council Members. He went through the list and talked about the items that had not been discussed. One item was agreed a priority, look at gaining access for a road from railroad area to E. Miller. After discussion on listed items, Mayor asked everyone to submit about four or five items that they feel is a priority.

With no further discussion, it was **moved by** Gerald Guidry, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Paul Hesse, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC