

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson**  
**August 14, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**

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, Thomas Talbot, Gerald Guidry, Errol Marshall (quorum present)

Absent: Larry Hardy

Invocation given by Mayor Ponthieux, and then followed by Pledge.

Talbot motioned to approve minutes of July 10, 2017 as written; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

**Agenda Items**

1. Weber Fontenot [DBA as Roy's Meat Market] – request for liquor license approval for on premises consumption/restaurant. Talbot motioned to approve liquor license request; Guidry seconded. Motion carried.

2. Tim Osborn, NOAA Coast Survey Mgr. Central Gulf – informational presentation – NOAA is oldest science office in America. Gave brief overview of National Hurricane Center. We want to see community growth but want it done safely and properly. Sulphur has received over 80 inches of rain just this year. Average annual rainfall in the state has been reached. Communities need to look at various ways of addressing major issues. Need to start looking at statistics of rainfall. We are currently in a LA Nina event. We have the opportunity in looking at the parish drainage system to help mitigate drainage issues in our community. Drainage is only as good as two things – (1) capacity to drain and (2) the capacity of that drainage ditch and the area to actually take that drainage. No developer can do so on their own. This has to be a system wide effort. Osborn suggested looking at implementing impact fee. The developer pays fee on each lot, which would help with maintaining the utilities and streets. Secondly, guidances, ordinances on parish/city level should be implemented. FEMA has incentives for going above BFE. If you can diversify your drainage, it is very important to do so. Consider elevation of home height above street. Elevation surveys be based on NAVD datum. Nothing stops storm surge. Recommends good maintenance of ditches, getting trash out of ditches and require developers to slope their driveway to one side so the water does not all go to the street. The parish drainage is still in the process of drafting drainage ordinance for Calcasieu Parish. Allen Wainwright is contact for parish drainage. Everyone needs to work together. He also emphasized maintaining river channel is very important.

Public comment: C. Caesar

3. Crystal Yentzen – confirmation of recordation regarding N. Lightner & Reed division of lot into two. Mr. Bouquet informed Council documentation reviewed and properly filed.

4. IVFD – Chief Lewis – reports, updates- Chief Lewis gave the department stats. Stated department now has a few new volunteers.

5. David Brossett, AIA – updates and recommendation regarding park – park restroom is about 75% completed. Rain has hampered the work. Brossett recommended approval of current invoice. Talbot motioned to approve Gunter Construction invoice for \$49,986; Marshall seconded. Motion carried. Change order submitted for completion date of Sept. 1, 2017 due to excessive rain amounts. Talbot motioned to approve change order of completion date; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried.

Brossett stated the walking path and the veteran’s memorial be separated into two different projects. Thus, they would be built at different times. Split into two packages to see which one to do first. Brossett asked which one Council would do first? Fontenot inquired as to using casino funds. She wants to see both done at the same time. Guidry feels doing walking path first as that seems to be what citizens most want. Estimated cost for Veteran’s Memorial about \$275,000 and walking path \$250,000. Fontenot inquired as to what monies received from casino revenue funding. Hesse responded about \$400,000. Marshall wants to know how long to complete projects. Brossett says about six months for veterans and walking path could be another 90-120 days. Marshall wanted to know if project(s) would be completed all in one budget year. Talbot stated he prefer the walking path first. Fontenot wants memorial done first. We have elderly veterans and wants them to see it and be a part of it. Marshall wants to know why both cannot be done at the same time. He understood the project was to be advertised again. He does not want to make a decision but rather do them simultaneously. Mayor said the project was reviewed as to what might be eliminated in order to save money such as the markers and lightening. However, the lighting is for safety purposes. Council discussed re-advertising the project. Fontenot motioned to re-advertise without markers and to use gaming funds to cover the cost difference; Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

Brossett then moved into presenting information on the proposed floor plan redesign of current utility clerks’ workstation area, lobby and accountant’s office area. We are not disturbing the footprints. Possibility of a drive up utility area with pneumatic tube such as what banks use. Fontenot asked for estimated total costs. Brossett estimated about \$225,000.

Public comment: C. Caesar commented on how the agenda item did not specifically list renovations and suggested renovations be added to agenda.

Talbot motioned to add discussion of proposed renovations to Town Hall; Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Marshall asked what percentage of this cost estimate is for the drive up pneumatic tube and the inside renovations. Brossett says it has not been defined at this point. Talbot says the inside renovations could be completed but wants to see total breakdown of the renovation and

pneumatic tube. Talbot would like to see bid quotes on this project. Talbot motioned to consider the project and thus approve seeking bids; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried.

Public comments followed: C. Caesar spoke against. J. Lapearous spoke against. Keith Vincent wanted data research

6. Engineer – updates, reports, recommendations – Mr. Jessen presented his information.  
a. final estimate of the retainage for Project No. I-2016-123, 3rd Street Sidewalk – Bowers Avenue to Thomson Avenue, along with the clear lien certificate. Talbot motioned to approve retainage payment to Asphalt & Associates for \$9,974.69; Marshall seconded. Motion carried. EB Fuetch contracts for the sewer siphon are being executed. Town received bids/quotes for the 2-inch water line abandonment for \$12,275 dollars by Asphalt & Assoc. Engineer recommends bid acceptance. Guidry motioned to award to the low bidder, Asphalt & Assoc.; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried. Jessen stated this line would actually be tying into new water main. Marshall inquired as to when did Town abandon opening bids at Council meeting. Jessen explained when it is a small project not actually needing a bid, we can solicit estimates and this prevents holding the job up. Jessen says the important thing is we always follow public bid law. Says his office is still working on the USDA loan application.  
Public comment: J. Lapearous.

7. Introduction of Ordinances – introduction and title read – the Mayor read the title of ordinances and stated a public hearing will be held at the September meeting.  
a. Ord. 2017-10 – Clerk’s salary adjustment – introduced with title read  
b. Ord. 2017-11 – amending Section 41 Article II Sec.41- will be taken up at the next meeting as Town Attorney did not have time to prepare.  
c. Ord. 2017-12 - amending FY16/17 budget – introduced with title read

8. Ordinance 2017-09 – renewal of Gas contract with Centerpoint Energy – tabled to the Sept. meeting. Mayor stated Centerpoint did not respond in time for this meeting in making the changes the Town has requested. Council asked if they could proceed with the ordinance, Bouquet answered Marshall’s question as to whether we can eliminate that paragraph and proceed with adopting the ordinance. Talbot suggested we go forward with adopting the ordinance excluding the paragraph. Two corrections made: (1) removal of last sentence of second paragraph and (2) the changing on page two from monthly to yearly franchise payment. Council decided not to table this item but to proceed. Mayor read the ordinance with the removal of partial wording of the second paragraph and the word change on second page from monthly to yearly as Council recommended and submit to Centerpoint Energy.

a. public hearing – regular meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. for a public hearing. Public hearing comments from public: P. Hesse wants it changed from 25 years to maybe 5 years as he feels the larger number is unrealistic. Bouquet states it is not an exclusive franchise thus the years can be changed at any point. J. Laperous is in agreement with less years and feels changing ordinance at meeting does not allow public to see. C. Caesar agrees with making changes and proceeding forward.

There being no further comments the regular meeting resumed at 9:25 p.m.

b. action/vote - Marshall motioned to accept the Ord. 2017-09 with corrective amendments that were read during the reading of the ordinance, Talbot seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Drainage MOU between Town and Drainage Dist. Board on Lat. 14 - Town did not receive the document from the drainage board. Item tabled until document provided.

10 Police Dept. – updates, reminders, recommendations, reports – Chief Vincent read the department’s stats.

- a. National Night Out on August 1, 2017 was a success, with positive feedback from the community
- b. We also held a Community Watch meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> and are working with community leaders to determine the date of the next meeting
- c. We will be hosting our annual Sports Camp on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at Iowa High School from 8am-noon - Chief recognized Lorena Caesar of Entergy for their support of this activity.
- d. Recommend for Promotion - Colleen Stringer from PTN to PFC- Marshall motioned to approve; Talbot seconded. Motion carried.
- e. Iowa Police Department is transferring the Green Ford F-150 to the Iowa Maintenance Department – just acknowledging moving internally.

Marshall thanked Chief Vincent for the National Night Out.

Marshall asked for clarification on the riding of ATV/4 Wheelers. Chief Vincent explained it is a state law prohibiting the riding of such on streets, state roadways.

11. Condemnation – authorize beginning process on the following: 308, 310 Hwy. 90 structures owner M. Young – Marshall motioned to begin the process notifying property owner; Talbot seconded. Motion carried.

Sign checks – Guidry

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

ATTEST:

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Sandra Turley, CMC

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Carol Ponthieux, Mayor