

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson**  
**March 13, 2017**  
**Iowa, La**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Invocation by Mayor Carol Ponthieux, followed by Pledge

Talbot motioned to approve as written the minutes of February 13, 2017; Fontenot seconded. Motion carried.

**Agenda Items**

1. Wendy Robinson regarding CPPJ Summer Feeding Program – Human Services Dept. partnered with Iowa to provide a summer feeding program. Have also partnered with Calcasieu Parish School Board. School Board is looking at moving program to different schools. This summer we will only be providing lunch for the children. Only doing what the program was designed to do which is to feed children. A facility will be opened to only serve the food, cleanup and then leave. Thought for next year is to consider opening the program up to different organizations in the community. For example this year, assisting Camps. Hoping to possibly use their facilities to serve. Asking communities to think about different areas to serve/host the kids. Right now we'll be feeding at the H.S. of the schools. But she asked Council and community to think about 2018. Over the last few years the number of kids fed has declined. In 2016, 1032 meals [breakfast/lunch] were served. Hardy asked who provides the liability. Response was the longer the kids are there then schools and CPPJ become more liable. This is why the focus is now on feed the children and children leave. Another reason why they are looking at other options for next year. She thanked the Council and Mayor for their participation and support. Mayor thanked her for taking on the task.
2. Gov't Consultants, Inc. – Disclosure and Engagement Letter – David Medlin stated Gov't Consultants is working with the Town on securing a loan. They are regulated by the Bond Commission. They provided advice on our sales tax renewal and incorporated language in the wording. We are the party for setting the terms and conditions. They act to make sure our interests are put first which is a law requirement. Once we have our loan, they will help us to understand our responsibilities. Explain payments/amortization. They make sure we remain in compliance on all aspects of the loan and repayment process. The firm's fees is done per thousand dollars in bonds [\$4 per thousand]. Mr. Medlin reviewed the proposal of how this loan would be repaid. Utility fund would be pledged. Recommended going back to Sales Tax 1 to make it a perpetual tax which does not expire. This opened up the \$500,000 potential debt. Added sewer to the purposes and other lawful purposes, any capital improvement. The reason for USDA loan is it will give a 40 year loan. If you go to a market loan, it will be much higher. Talbot motioned to authorize Mayor to sign disclosure; Hardy seconded. Motion carried. David Riggins reminded Council about installation of water meters and user fees is a requirement of USDA. Community may see a drop in revenue when metered fees are charged. However, it will balance out.

3. IVFD – Chief Lewis – updates, reports – Chief Lewis presented the department stats. PIAL has audited and should respond within next 30-90 days of what our rating will be for the next few years. Working on several projects. Trying to start our EMRS program. Will hopefully be able to run first response within our community. Department partnering with Acadian.
4. Engineer – recommendations, reports, updates -  
Recommend for payment for N. Kinney Ave. Drainage PPEst#6 to R.D. Spell, Inc. in the amount of \$3,656.25. Talbot motioned to approve; Hardy seconded. Motion carried. In clear lien period, will submit final payment at next meeting.  
  
Recommend payment for West Miller Sidewalks PPEst.#4 to Asphalt & Assoc. in the amount of \$2,295.00. Talbot motioned to approve for payment; Hardy seconded. Motion carried. This project will also finish next month.
5. Ordinance 2017-03 obsolete no longer needed equipment – Mayor adjourned the regular meeting at 7:43 p.m. to the purpose of a public hearing
  - a. Public Hearing – question as to when bids will open? Response: March 31 at 11:00 a.m.  
Public hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.
  - b. Action/vote – regular meeting resume. Talbot motioned to approve the ordinance for obsolete equipment; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance 2017-03**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOLICITING BIDS TO  
DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNECESSARY PROPERTIES  
BELONGING TO THE TOWN OF IOWA.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, and in Regular Session convened, that:

Section 1: That certain property belonging to the Town of Iowa is obsolete and/or unnecessary to the operation of the municipality. Said property as further described as:

**2003 5320 John Deere Tractor 53 HP                      Minimum Bid: \$10,000.00**  
**[ Serial # LV5320C330058]**

**1994 Ford F700G Flatbed Truck [Vin#1492    Minimum Bid: \$ 500.00**

Section 2: In accordance with LRS 33:4712, the Town of Iowa intends to receive sealed bids for the purchase of the property located at 115 N. Thomson Ave., Iowa, Louisiana, on March 31, 2017. The property described in Section 1 above may be inspected between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. between March 16, 2017 and March 31, 2017 at 115 N. Thomson Ave., Iowa, Louisiana. On date of said sale, the Town will receive sealed bids, which bidding process shall be closed at 11:00 a.m. Terms are cash, cashier's check, or money order, on date of sale. All sales are final. The City reserves the right to reject any bid. Highest bid will be awarded the sale.

Section 3: Any property not sold shall be sold at auction or destroyed and discarded.

Section 4: Notice of the introduction of this Ordinance shall be published in the Town official journal. Any opposition to this Ordinance must be filed in writing with the Municipal Clerk no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of first publication.

THIS ORDINANCE shall become effective immediately and the provisions of this Ordinance shall not be included and incorporated in the Code of Ordinances, Town of Iowa, Louisiana, as an addition or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately indexed by the Municipal Clerk for the Town of Iowa.

This Ordinance having been read Section by Section and as a whole, and having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: Talbot, Hardy, Fontenot, Guidry

Nays: none

Absent: Marshall

Abstain: none

THUS ADOPTED AND APPROVED at Town of Iowa, Louisiana, on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March,

6. Police Department – recommendations, reports and updates – Chief Vincent presented the stats for his department.
  - a. Miscellaneous surplus equipment transferred from IPD to IVFD –Hardy motioned to approve transfer from I.P.D. to I.V.F.D.; Talbot seconded. Motion carried. Community policing program. Going to propose this in the new fiscal year budget.

7. Budget dates - Wed. Mar 22 at 6:30 p.m. proposed.

Dist. A –Fontenot inquired about communications billing. Inquired if SuddenLink might provide a more reasonable pricing. Wants to know if we can look into hiring more experienced maintenance employees rather than subbing out certain work. Realizes some is due to constraint of equipment. Asked about dental and vision benefits for employees might be considered.

Check on the rates for getting a dental and vision benefits. Paul said \$15,000 would be the cost for dental and vision is his estimate.

Dist. B – Hardy – asked we remember Mr. Marshall his father is not doing well. Remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Dist. D – Talbot asked about the process of enforcing ordinances. If a resident covers his ditches, is the Town still responsible for that right-of-way? Who is responsible to repair? Resident bought the material and at that time the Town installed. Bouquet, address a letter to property owner and site new current ordinance.

Rabbit Festival this weekend and Happy upcoming Easter.

There being no further business, Talbot motioned to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.; Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Sandra Turley, CMC

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Carol Ponthieux, Mayor