

**Minutes
Special Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
May 20, 2019
Iowa, La
6:00 p.m.**

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

Present: Paul Hesse, Mayor; Council Members: Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennegan, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot [quorum present]; Chief of Police H. Keith Vincent; Fire Chief Lewis; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett. and about 6 citizens; Absent was Gerald Guidry;

Invocation by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

It was **moved by**, Julie Fontenot **seconded by**, Daniel Hennegan to adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot, to approve May 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as written not read. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Lewis, on behalf of the Fire District #1 Board Members, requested the Town of Iowa hire, as employees, the two persons, which in the past have been paid as contract labor. He stated that the Fire District can't afford the expense. Mr. Bouquet stated his concerns about this request and will look into the issues that may arise from this employment. Chief Lewis requested a separate meeting with the fire board and Mr. Bouquet. Mr. Bouquet agreed to meet with them.

Mayor Hesse read the budget message and explained how he arrived at his assumptions of providing a cost of living raise, which would include elected officials, employees, and officers of the town, and implementing a change in employee benefits. Also, street repairs and street overlay needs were discussed for budget purposes.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennegan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to pause discussion of budget and discuss item #4, rules and restrictions of a proposed mobile home ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Julie Fontenot distributed a report listing required items for a proposed mobile home ordinance. She read the listed items and announced the list was not complete and plan to add more to the list as necessary. She said that she and Council Member Daniel Hennegan will meet with Mr. Bouquet to prepare a draft ordinance.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to continue discussion of budget message. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse continued reading the budget message and reviewing expenditures for the Sewer Department. Questions arose from citizens concerning the nitrogen treatment of the sewer pond baffle system. It was discussed that it would be an expensive project but necessary. Another citizen, representing the baseball league, came forward to ask for support in the improvements needed for the baseball fields. Mr. Becnel asked what needed to be done. The citizen reported that the fields were not in safe condition. Council Member Julie Fontenot explained some things that have been planned in the past and would like to start working toward it. Mayor suggested that the town should be getting assistance, from Calcasieu Parish, with the cost of improvements because children from outside the Town of Iowa, within the Parish, use the baseball fields. Mayor and Council thanked him for coming.

Mayor Hesse continued with an explanation of proposed budgeted revenues.

Mayor brought up his proposal of converting employee sick time to Paid Time Off (PTO) as part of the expense of payroll benefits. There were questions and discussions of how the booked time would be converted for the first year of PTO.

All funds in the proposed budget were discussed. Council Member Daniel Hennegan discussed his concern about, the percentage of increase in expenditures of General Fund proposed budget in comparison to present fiscal budget. Mayor asked if there are any amendments to proposed budget items. No amendments were suggested.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to introduce Ordinance 2019-03, An Ordinance adopting an Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adjourn meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

ATTEST:

Paul Hesse, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC
Town Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, will meet on June 10, 2019 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m., at its regular meeting place, Iowa City Hall Meeting Room, 115 N. Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana at which time there will be a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal budget and adoption of the below introduced ordinance:

Ordinance 2019-03

An Ordinance adopting and Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures
For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020

The proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at City Hall, 115 N. Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana, between the hours of 7:30 am until 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday; and 7:30 am until 12:30 pm Friday with holidays excluded.

All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Handicapped persons needing assistance or aid should contact City Hall, 337-582-3535 before the meeting. Published in Lake Charles American Press.

