

**Minutes  
Public Meeting  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson  
July 8, 29019  
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: Paul Hesse, Mayor; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, and Vernessa Guillory[quorum present]; Officer Willie Thomas; Fire Chief Lewis; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; and about 13 citizens

Invocation by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

Mayor Hesse called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel, to approve June 19, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes as written not read. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Guest Adrian Bordelon, Fire Board Member was present to discuss Fire Department employees. She cited Louisiana State Statutes regulating Civil Service and if the Fire District or the Town of Iowa would be required to have a Civil Service Board. She stated that 7000 population is required before Civil Service Fire Board is required.

Citizen, Mr. Landry asked if the board would regulate the salary. Ms. Bordelon said the governing authority would set the pay. The Mayor and Council Members thanked her for coming. Council Member Daniel Hennigan and Gerald Guidry made a few comments about the issues that could arise in the future. Mayor Hesse asked that the discussion be tabled until August meeting so the information can be considered. Daniel Hennigan asked what it will entail if the town would take the fire fighters as employees. Mayor Hesse explained a few things the Council need to consider before making a decision. Mr. Bouquet said that a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement will have to be executed between the Fire District and the Town.

Mayor Hesse presented the appraisal report for the proposed property for Police Station/Command Center. He stated that it was appraised for lower than the asking price. Officer Willie Thomas was present representing Chief Vincent. Officer Thomas stated that Chief Vincent was aware of the appraisal and the Chief spoke with the seller, Mr. Natalie, and is discussing other options.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Engineer Walt Jessen, Jr. presented the invitation for bid on Project No. 1-2016-133, Piping Manifold improvements at Iowa Water Plant. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to advertise for bid on said project. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Lewis presented report and updates for the month of June. He also stated that he would like the town to pick up the Red Ford Explorer that was donated to them from the town. He stated that the title could not be located and would like to return it to the town.

Officer Willie Thomas representing Chief Vincent presented the monthly police report for June. Upon the written request of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to promote Patrolman K Poullard to Patrolman First Class. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hesse gave an updated financial report.

Mayor Hesse announced that when the commercial rates were adopted it affected the non-residential, low revenue businesses. The Mayor suggested that the minimum commercial rate be reduced and increase the rate of usage after the minimum, for such places as churches and businesses that have reduced revenue.

Open for Mayor and council comments:

- Mayor Hesse announced that Calcasieu Parish Tax Assessor Office will be at City Hall on Thursday to meet with anyone that qualify for the freezing of their tax assessment.
- Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated that he wants to have the fire department employee issue addressed as soon as possible.
- Mr. Kenneth Landry requested to speak and was given permission. He came forward and asked about at-home businesses and making sure they are required to get an occupational license and their water bills should also be considered and regulated as commercial businesses.
- Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Member Shalon Latour requested the Council and Mayor to discuss and consider, at August meeting, the possibility of tie in of the town's water system into the Water District's system for emergency only situations.
- Council Member Julie Fontenot questioned the ownership of liability for damages done while the town contracts out to have ditches cleaned and dug. Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet said that he would need to know more information about the actual circumstance before answering.
- Council Member Gerald Guidry asked if the pot holes in the roads throughout town could be repaired soon. Also, there is a car that seems abandoned in the road. He asked if the police could address this.
- Mr. Calvin Caesar Sr. stated that he requested a resolution be placed on the agenda and asked why it wasn't. Mr. Caesar said no parking signs are needed on Northside of 2<sup>nd</sup> street between Bower Avenue and Storer Avenue except for church services. Mayor said it will be addressed at the August Council Meeting.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

ATTEST:

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Paul Hesse, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

