

# Town of Iowa

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Monthly Mayors Report

June 27, 2023

## **THE UGLY**

**Time:** The one thing about time is it never stops, and we can't go back in time. And thanks to the regulations and requirements placed on local governments, infrastructure projects can eat up a lot of time - sometimes years. The project might seem simple to you and me, however the town is required to follow a process.

Considering this time issue, I am in the process of identifying, prioritizing, and submitting necessary documentation that will help the town begin to repair, restore and upgrade our infrastructure. Please keep in mind that some of these items will never be seen by the general public but are of the utmost importance to the town's quality of life. Some things may be seen in six months while other items may be 3 years or more from now.

Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this Monthly report - time was not on my side this month.

## **THE BAD**

**TOWN BUDGET:** As we have had to reduce our budget to be in line with the revenues from your tax dollars, some of the services could suffer as a result. (Jetting of culverts, mowing, etc.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Back in February I submitted a list of streets here in town that need attention in a group bid process with other municipalities. It is our hope that through this type of bidding process it will reduce the overall cost of street repairs, or overlays. By doing this process we can reach out beyond our area to contractors that could be more favorable to our budget. We should have some idea on this bid process within the next 45 days.

## **THE GOOD**

**SEWER LIFT STATION:** As part of the town focusing on infrastructure issues, one of the most labor-intensive issues has been one specific lift station. I am happy to report that the internal parts previously ordered should be in by the end of this month and the lift station should be retrofitted by the middle of

August. This should reduce labor costs on this unit, and we can focus on the next step in correcting more of our wastewater system.

**REMINDER - IOWA FARMERS MARKET:** Saturday AUGUST 5<sup>th</sup> 8am-12 noon!

For entertainment, Andy Smith will be in concert beginning @ 8:30 am. He has performed for Governors, Presidential Candidates, Military Functions, and performed at the weddings of their children.

Andy has been the opening act for artists like BB King, Jerry Jeff Walker, Bob Wier, Starship, Lonnie Mack, Leon Russell, KC and the Sunshine Band, Hunter Hayes, Ellis Hall and Aaron Neville and some of his band members moved on to play with George Benson, Jimmy Smith, Joe Cocker, Dr. John, George Duke, Stanley Clarke, Bobby McFerrin, Bob Wier, John Mayer and many more.

Tommy Senegal will be on site with his food trailer and through his non-profit will be sponsoring a benefit for Mr. Bob Muir (a long-time resident) to help pay for specialty medication from a very recent and life-threatening diagnosis.

Plate Lunch Menu: Pork steak, chicken, red beans & rice, and a roll. \$15. All proceeds will go to help pay for the required medication for Mr. Bob.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

I would like to thank each of you, the residents of Iowa, for the opportunity to serve in my capacity as Mayor. Many decisions are made daily, none are taken lightly. I try, to the best of my ability, to operate with two principles. First, is the decision made best for the Town of Iowa and its future. Secondly, does the decision put an unnecessary strain on the taxpayers' dollars.

Sometimes it is incumbent on us all to make changes, without it, the status quo leads to complacency and a decline in quality of life. And thus, the reason that I made the change from private life to public life; it has been by far one of the most difficult tasks for me. Hard decisions have been made that might not be popular or politically prudent, nonetheless it's not about me, its about the Town of Iowa and will always be, God willing.

I trust that if time will allow, please attend our upcoming Farmers Market, we all look forward to seeing you. It should be a great community and family event.

**Mayors Chat:** As a reminder, prior to each council meeting, I am making myself available for open conversations starting at 5:30 and ending at 6:30 pm. I simply request that we have respectful conversations, regardless of the topic.

Mayor Watkins