

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647**  
**City Hall Meeting Room**  
**September 9, 2024 7:06 p.m.**

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

Mayor Watkins called roll. Present: Mayor Douglas Watkins; Council Members: Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Julie Fontenot, and Vernessa Guillory; Mayor Watkins established a quorum was present.

Others present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 14 citizens.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by Pledge.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to amend agenda to add:

1. Motion to accept bids submitted for Project No. I-2022-204, City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall Improvements.
2. Upon the recommendation of Melissa Jessen, representative of D.W. Jessen and Associates, to approve and award, to the lowest qualified bidder, the construction for Project No. I-2022-204 City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall Improvements.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting August 12, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Special Meeting August 20, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor read the first amended item of the agenda. He asked if there were any questions or comments. A citizen asked what this project entailed. Mayor Watkins explained it was a replacement of a sewer line from the park lift station to the oxidation pond. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to accept bids submitted for Project No. I-2022-204, City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall Improvements. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor read the second amended item of the agenda. Mayor announced that the two bids submitted were as follows:

1. Blake D. Hines, Inc. for \$623,015.00
2. MPB Construction, LLC for \$664,614.00

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve and award the construction for Project No. I-2022-204 City Park Lift Station Sewer Lone Outfall Improvements to Blake D. Hines, Inc. in the amount of \$623,015.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item of the agenda, discussion regarding Louisiana Rural Water Association and Water Rates. Mayor Watkins announced that Louisiana Rural Water Association came in about two

weeks ago to begin the process of the water and sewer rate study. Mayor Watkins presented a graph comprised of the years 2021-2024 sewer income and expenses and of water revenue. Mayor asked if there were any questions or concerns. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked if the rate study would be done by the next meeting. Mayor Watkins said he didn't know. Mr. Rodney Daigle asked if it would be possible to see the numbers instead of the graph. Mayor Watkins said sure, they are taken from financial reports, you can ask Ms. Cindy for them.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and corrected the address from 413 S Stockwell Ave. to corner of Hwy. 90 & Philbrick. He explained that the Fire District has approached the town to make a swap of property so they could get the fire station away from where they are. Mayor Watkins said this is for discussion and wants to know if the town would like to see this happen. Chief Vincent asked what the disposition of the Emergency Response Center is. Mayor Watkins said that he hasn't heard anything from Meyers and Associates, but they are planning to submit it again in the next legislative session. Chief Vincent explained past plans for the police and fire station to be built together. There was a discussion about who would own the building if the town and the Fire District would join. Mr. Landry came forward and suggested a Joint Service Agreement could be reached. Mr. Bouquet said it would have to be looked at carefully. Mr. Erik Johnson stated that no motions have been made by the Fire Board concerning this subject. Ms. Trahan stated her suggestions on the location of the emergency response building. There was discussion of the grant for the emergency response center and working together to accomplish this. Mayor Watkins completed the discussion with a question. What do we want to try to accomplish.

Mayor Watkins read the next item of the agenda and asked if there were any questions. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved** by Vernessa Guillory, **seconded** by Julie Fontenot to approve and adopt Resolution 2024-17. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Resolution 2024-17**

A Resolution to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire was received from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, and was properly completed by the Clerk of the Town of Iowa and presented to the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa in the same as hereby approved and adopted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of said Compliance Questionnaire be filed in the records of the Town of Iowa and further, that a completed copy of the Resolution be forwarded to McElroy, Wurik, & Burch, the auditing firm engaged by the Town of Iowa to test the accuracy of the answers to questionnaire and submit to the Town of Iowa and the Legislative Auditor their opinion and validity of the answers therein contained.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Mallett, Clerk

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to extend contract with and between Crowder Gulf and Town of Iowa for the purpose of pre-event contract for Emergency Debris Removal and Site Management. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. He asked Mr. Bouquet to explain the new CAT Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Bouquet explained his concerns with the Memorandum and recommended that the MOU be signed but not the CAT Vehicle Liability Agreement. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve the new CAT Memorandum of Understanding excluding the Memorandum of Vehicle Liability Agreement pending legal approval from Mr. Bouquet. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett to report the August Financials. Ms. Mallett reported on the Town of Iowa's financials. Mayor asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

---

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

---

Cynthia Mallett, MMC