

**Minutes
Public Hearing
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
Iowa, LA
August 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing was called in compliance with all requirements as to notice and open meeting regulations.

Present: Mayor Douglas Watkins; Council Members Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, Julie Fontenot; Attorney Eugene Bouget; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 16 citizens.

Mayor Watkins called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

He read the title of the proposed ordinance and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions asked or comments made. Mayor Watkins asked Clerk Cindy Mallett to explain the reason for the amendment to the Fiscal Budget. Clerk explained the need to increase expenses to lease needed vehicles for the police department, to grant needed funds to Council on Aging, and the need to assist poverty citizens with their water and sewer charges. Questions were asked about the application for assistance for the utility assistance program. Cindy told them that the applications would be available in the front office at City Hall, and it is based on the federal poverty guidelines. Other questions were asked and answered concerning this program. With no further questions or comments the public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA
August 14, 2023 7:05 p.m.**

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

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas Neal Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 16 citizens. Absent was Council Member Julie Fontenot.

The invocation was given by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to Adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting, July 10, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins introduced Sa'Trica Williams as a candidate for 14th Judicial Division Court Judge. Ms. Williams came forward and gave a background of her legal experience and accomplishments. She provided a packet of information to each member of Council and the Mayor. The Mayor and Council thanked her for coming.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda, Request by Karen Vincent to waive Ordinance No 2019-07 Part 2 Section 1.4.2 Five years or less on mobile home to be located at TBD S. Sherman and stated that they have knowledge of the location. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve request and waive said part and section of Ordinance No. 2019-07. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item of the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adopt Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance Amending FY 2023/2024 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2023-03

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING THE FY 2023/2024 BUDGET FOR THE
TOWN OF IOWA LOUISIANA**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana that:

The following is an amended statement of the FY23/24 Budget

SECTION 1: The following is an amended statement of the probable receipts and disbursements of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30th, 2024 and the same is hereby declared to be and is designated the adopted amended budget for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for FY2023-2024.

General Fund

Changes:	Budget		Actual
Revenues:			
Prior Year Cash Appropriated	\$ 677.00	to	\$ 121,677.00
Expenditures:			
Leased Vehicles	\$ 0.00	to	\$ 117,000.00
CCOA Services	\$ 0.00	to	\$ 4,000.00

Sales Tax II

Changes:	Budget		Actual
Revenues:			
Prior Year Cash Appropriated:	\$ 88,972.00	to	\$ 843,972.00
Expenditures:			
Capital Outlay:	\$ 863,772.00	to	\$1,618,772.00
	For Land Acquisition of \$755,000.00		

City Water Works

Changes:			
Expenditures:			
Utility Assistance Program	\$ 0.00	to	\$ 5,000.00

SECTION 2: This section shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Council Members of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in Regular Session duly convened on July 10, 2023 an amended budget for the fiscal year of 2023 and 2024 be adopted and enacted.

THUS DONE AND INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, held on the 10th day of July, 2023.

After public hearing was held on the above ordinance, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, motion by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken and following result was had:

YEAS: Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, and Joe Becnel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Julie Fontenot

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 14th day of August, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 15th day of August, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 15th day of August, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 15th day of August, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 15th day of August, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Upon the request of Chief of Police Keith Vincent, it was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Daniel Hennigan**, to transfer Jonathan Lavergne from Full-Time Dispatcher to Dispatcher/Patrol, pending evaluation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Upon the request of Chief of Police Keith Vincent, it was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Joe Becnel**, to transfer Chloe Bergeron from Part-Time Dispatcher to Full-Time Dispatcher effective August 11, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Town of Iowa and Calcasieu Parish Voluntary Council on the Aging, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Town of Iowa and Calcasieu Parish Voluntary Council on the Aging, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve Resolution 2023-17, A resolution to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor read the next agenda item, motion to rescind Cooperative Endeavor Agreement approved on November 14, 2022, between the Town of Iowa and Fire Protection District No. One of Ward Eight. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Landry asked why they were doing this. Mayor Watkins explained that within the scope of the agreement that The District agrees that all applicable federal, state and local laws will be adhered to in the implementation of the scope of this agreement as well as the related execution of this agreement. He further explained, the funds we have are federal ARPA funds and anytime these funds are given out then we have to have cooperative documentation and we don't have that documentation. He said at this time we are asking to rescind the CEA and they can go through the process of bidding to make it legal and if we gave the Fire Board the money we would be in trouble because we didn't follow those regulations. Mr. Landry asked when we found out. Cindy said about two weeks ago. Mayor Watkins reported that it was upon the advice of the Fire Board's attorney that we move in this direction. Mr. Landry asked if the Fire Board knew. Mayor Watkins said that a couple of people do know but there will be discussion at the next fire board meeting. A member of the Fire Board, Pam, asked if the money would still be there. Mayor Watkins said yes and that the Parish is in the same situation and having to do the same thing. Mr. Landry stated that the truck was ordered and should be delivered soon and now the town...Mr. Bouquet interrupted and said no, its not the town. He explained that it was an error of the Fire Board and the town is not in the position to release the funds. After all questions and comments made it was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Daniel Hennigan** to rescind Cooperative Endeavor Agreement approved on November 14, 2022, between the Town of Iowa and Fire Protection District No. One of Ward Eight. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and introduced Andrew representing Meyer and Associates, Inc.. Andrew came forward to answer any questions the Council Members may have. He said the documents that needed to be approved and executed was for the engineering agreement of the municipal complex and Task Order No. 1 which is for the Law Enforcement Center. There were no questions asked. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve agreement and Task Order between the Town of Iowa and Meyer and Associates, Inc and to authorize Mayor Watkins to execute said agreement and Task Order. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Mayor explained that this engineering firm are specialists in the wastewater field. And we will be asking them to do an assessment of our system. The cost should be about \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00 and it will give us a good understanding of the capacity of our wastewater system. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve General Engineering Services- as needed contract with and between the Town of Iowa and Domingue, Szabo & Associates, Inc. and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute as needed contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor said the next item on the agenda is in conjunction with the grant the town applied for. He explained this list doesn't mean they will be condemned. This is just to order inspection reports. He read the agenda item and the address list. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to order inspection reports for condemnation procedure on the following addresses: 110 S. Bowers, 111 S. Bowers, 212 S. Bowers, 403 S. Lambert, 405 S. Lambert, 104 Stockwell, 507 Fairview, 907 Granger, 505 E 2nd, 107 Larry, 105 Larry, 701 S Thomson, 504A N Thomson, 701 S Thomson, 113 N Welty, 207 S Welty, 213 S Welty, 403 Storer, 415 S Storer, 310 HWY 90, 402 S Philbrick, 412 S Philbrick, 409 S Knapp, 216 Railroad, 218 Railroad, 200 Railroad, 500 Railroad, 502 Railroad, 510 Barclay(out building only and RV). The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Landry asked about 507 Fairview. He said the trailer at that address has been removed. He also made a comment about a previous item on the agenda, about the waver on moving the mobile home into town. Mayor said that we have an inspector that inspects the mobile home and that has helped the process.

Monique Charlot complained about the house next door to her and also 207 Knapp. Mayor answered her questions. Mr. Bouquet also spoke with her and explained the process of demolition.

Mayor Watkins asked Town Clerk Cindy Mallett to give the financial report. Cindy Mallett reported the financials for the month of July 2023. Cindy asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Mayor Watkins brought attention to the Council to review the Sales Tax received for the month and comparable to this time last year.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

ATTEST:

Neal Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC