

**Minutes**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA**  
**May 8, 2023 7:00 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 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas Neal Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Police Chief Keith Vincent; and about 7 citizens. Absent: Council Member Vernessa Guillory,

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

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

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Special Meeting April 24, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda, A request by David Begnaud for Special Permit for the movement of a mobile home. He asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Council Member Julie Fontenot and Joe Becnel asked a couple of questions about location and wind zone rating, and verification that this would be the only dwelling on the lot. Mr. Begnaud said it would be located at 208 Lightner Avenue and it was wind zone II and it will be the only dwelling on the lot. After reviewing the report from Building Code Inspector LLC, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Special Permit to be moved into the Town of Iowa. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor read the second item on the agenda; Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to transfer Jonathan LaVergne from Part-Time Dispatcher to Full-Time Dispatcher effective 4/20/2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins Read item three of the agenda and announced that Adrian Guillot has resigned from the Fire District Board, and he will be appointing Mrs. Debbie Muir to replace him.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Mayor Watkins said there is a petition to make N. Kinney a two-way street again. He said N Lightner is the same width from north to south. He also said the grass has grown over the road and he would be doing some maintenance to remove the grass from off the road and then the mailboxes may have to be moved back a little from the road. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to introduce Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance to Amend Section 47 of the Town of Iowa Municipal Code of Ordinances. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item five of the agenda. There were questions from Council Members about the contracts with LRC and National Networks and what was in place presently. Cindy Mallett answered the questions. Chief Vincent explained why he would like to have LRC's contract in place for his department. Mr. Bouquet questioned the date of commencement for the contract; He said it may need to be amended to May 1, 2023. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Iowa Police Department Maintenance Agreement 2023 with and between LRC Wireless and Town of Iowa with the amended commencement date of May 1, 2023 and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute it. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item six of the agenda. Discussion of the difference between the present contract City Hall has with LRC and this contract. Cindy Mallett explained the amount was the same. The difference would be in the services provided. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Town of Iowa Maintenance Agreement 2023 with and between Town of Iowa and LRC Wireless with the amended commencement date of May 1, 2023 and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute it. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2023-11. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-11**

**Town of Iowa**

A resolution authorizing the Town of Iowa to prepare and submit a pre-application to the Statewide Flood Control Program for assistance in the implementation of a project for the purpose of reducing existing flood damages; providing for the necessary documentation of said flood damages; and providing for other related matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, Town of Iowa has been adversely affected by damages from flood waters; and

WHEREAS, Town of Iowa desires to apply for State matching funds pursuant to L.A. R.S. 38:90.1 et. seq., as amended, to implement a project to reduce said flood damages, and that Town of Iowa is fully aware of its obligations under said Statute; and

WHEREAS, Town Council of Town of Iowa is a political body duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Louisiana and is eligible to apply for funds under said Statute,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa as follows:

Section 1. That Town of Iowa acknowledges that upon approval of the pre-application a formal application will be prepared and submitted to the statewide Flood Control Program.

Section 2. That at the appropriate time and upon approval of funding assistance and prior to commencement of work on the project Town of Iowa agrees to execute a Statement of Sponsorship pursuant to said Statute.

Section 3. That Douglas Watkins, Mayor of Town of Iowa is hereby designated Authorized Representative for Town of Iowa to effect the preparation of the pre-application and application to the Statewide Flood Control Program for funding assistance of a flood control project.

Section 4. That said Authorized Representative's responsibilities shall pertain to technical matters only and shall not include any official act on behalf of the Town of Iowa,

This 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

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Secretary

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Presiding Officer

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(Sponsoring Authority)

Mayor Watkins read Item 8 of the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Resolution 2023-12. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12**

A RESOLUTION accepting the substantial completion of Project No. I-2022-198, Asphalt Overlay of Sherman Avenue from Highway 90 North to Dead End for the Town of Iowa, LA, and authorizing the advertising of the lien period.

WHEREAS, R. E. Heidt Construction Co., Inc. has substantially completed its contract with the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, for Project No. I-2022-198, Asphalt Overlay of Sherman Avenue from Highway 90 North to Dead End, Town of Iowa, LA,

WHEREAS, D. W. Jessen & Associates, LLC has informed the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that R. E. Heidt Construction Co., Inc. has substantially completed its contract and that the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, should accept the said improvements as substantially complete from the said contractor and assume the maintenance of the same;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: All of the above and foregoing provisions are hereby made a part of this resolatory provision; and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, the governing authority of the said Town, does hereby accept from the said R. E. Heidt Construction Co., Inc. as substantially completed, the heretofore described substantial completion of Project No. I-2022-198 , Asphalt Overlay of Sherman Avenue from Highway 90 North to Dead End, Town of Iowa, LA, and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby accept said improvements for maintenance.

SECTION 2: The Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby authorize the running of a legal advertisement notifying lien holders affected that the final payment will be made at the end of the lien period of forty-five (45) days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

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DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR  
TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

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CLERK OF THE TOWN OF IOWA

Mayor Watkins read the ninth item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to accept the substantial completion of Ballpark Improvements Phase 1 with \$38,500.00 of the contract value to be retained until K&J Development of SWLA completes remaining punch list items and authorizes the advertising of the lien period. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced that the town had approved grants from Calcasieu Parish Road and Drainage Trust Fund that it may be amended. Mrs. Valla Johnson asked about the drainage grant and what it was for. Mayor Watkins said it was to change the culvert and cover them on the east side of N Lightner Street. Mrs. Johnson asked why we would not be doing it. Mayor Watkins said we could use the funds to do a larger drainage project that would serve more residents.

Cindy Mallett gave the financial report. Mr. Bouquet gave a report of the lawsuit between the Town of Iowa and the Insurance company for the repair/rebuilding of the Water Plant building.

Open for Mayor and Council Comments: Julie Fontenot asked how long before the meters will be completed. Mayor said they should finish this week. Julie Fontenot asked if the Fire District was still waiting on the insurance to repair the main fire station. Debbie Muir gave a report. Mayor Watkins reported about the lift station near Pilot and the issues we are having. Mrs. Johnson asked for clarification on the drainage grants that were discussed earlier. Mayor Watkins explained what the grants were for and what they may be able to be used for.

With no further business it was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned 7:38pm.

ATTEST:

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Neal Watkins, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

#### 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 12, 2023 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 adoption of the below introduced ordinances:

#### Ordinance 2023-01

An Ordinance To Amend Section 47 of the Town of Iowa Municipal Code of Ordinances

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.