

Minutes
Public Hearing
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
February 9, 2026 at 7:00

Mayor Douglas Watkins opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm.

There was present, Mayor Watkins; Council Members Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, and Vernessa Guillory; Town Attorney Russ Stutes; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; About 8 persons.

Mayor Watkins announced that they would hear questions and comments on the following Ordinance, Ordinance 2026-03, An Ordinance Amending the FY 2025/2026 Budget for the Town of Iowa. He asked if there were any comments or questions. No questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at approximately 7:01 pm.

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
February 9, 2026

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

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

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

Also, present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 8 people.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by the pledge.

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

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve minutes, as submitted, for regular meeting January 12, 2026 and special meeting February 2, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced the next item, report of finance. Town Clerk Cindy Mallett gave the monthly and year-to-date financial report. She asked if there were any questions. There were no comments or questions.

Mayor read item #2 on the agenda. It wa s **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel, to adopt Ordinance No 2026-03, An Ordinance Amending the FY 2025-2026 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2026-03
AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING THE FY 2025/2026 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 FY25/26 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, 2025 and ending June 30th, 2026 and the same is hereby declared to be and is designated the adopted amended budget for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for FY 2025-2026.

General Fund

Changes:	Budget	TO	Amended
Revenue:			
Prior year Cash Appropriated	\$ 0		\$324,244.00
Expenditures:			
Salaries & Wages	\$ 580,000.00		\$777,998.24
Overtime	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 88,710.00
I-10 Traffic Detail	\$ 72,000.00		\$ 85,525.00
Ins. -Worker's Comp.	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 48,765.20
Ins. -Unemployment Tax	\$ 1,700.00		\$ 1,787.26
FICA Taxes	\$ 62,229.00		\$ 80,931.30
Reimburse SRO – CPSB	\$ (75,500.00)		\$ (99,941.00)
Dues & Membership Fees	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 8,000.00
Gasoline Fuel	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 55,897.00
Employee Screening/Testing	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Ins.- Property & Casualty	\$ 24,500.00		\$ 28,000.00
Other Services	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 7,000.00
Police Equipment	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Uniforms	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 11,000.00

Sales Tax I Water Improvement

Changes:	Budget	TO	Amended
Revenue:			
Fema Disaster Assistance:	\$1,019,000.00		\$ 1,875,852.00
Interest Earned	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 190,000.00
Expenditures:			
Capital Outlay-Sewer Line	\$ 0		\$ 115,413.00
Capital Outlay-Water Line Loop	\$ 0		\$ 41,563.00

Parks and Streets

Changes:	Budget	TO	Amended
Revenues:			
Transfer from Sales tax III	\$ 50,501.00		\$ 113,201.00
Expenditures:			
City Hall Park- Capital Outlay	\$ 0		\$ 62,700.00

Sales Tax II Street Dept.

Changes:	Budget	TO	Amended
Revenues:			
Prior YR Cash Appropriated	\$392,677.00		\$423,677.00
Expenditures:			
Training	\$ 0		\$ 2,000.00
Equipment	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
Ins. Property & Casualty	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Other Services	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 11,500.00

Sales tax III

Changes:	Budget	TO	Amended
Revenues:			
Prior YR Cash Appropriated	\$ 234,815.00		\$ 297,515.00
Expenditures:			
Transfers to Parks	\$ 50,501.00		\$ 113,201.00

Fire Protection

Changes:	Budget	TO	Amended
Revenues:			
Fema- Hurricane Disaster Assist.	\$ 0		\$ 400,000.00
Taxes -Property-GO Bond	\$ 0		\$ 381,940.00
Expenditures:			
Ins. Property & Casualty	\$ 0		\$ 144,000.00
GO Bond Payments	\$ 0		\$ 132,685.00

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 February 9, 2026, an amended budget for the fiscal year of 2025 and 2026 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 12th day of January, 2026.

After public hearing was held on the above ordinance, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, motion by Julie Fontenot seconded by Joe Becnel to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken, and following result was had:

YEAS: Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, and Vernessa Guillory
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Daniel Hennigan
ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 9th day of February, 2026.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 9th day of February, 2026.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 9th day of February, 2026.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 9th day of February, 2026.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 9th day of February, 2026.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read item #3 of the agenda. Chief Vincent came forward. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Joe Becnel** to transfer part-time Dispatcher Tabitha Whetstine to Full-Time Dispatcher. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to hire Ethan Landry as Part-Time Patrolman. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #5 of the agenda, condemnation hearing for 408 A South Welty Ave. Mayor Watkins explained that Mr. Crochet came by and stated that he bought the property at tax sale. Town Attorney Russ Stutes advised, because the property is in a transition period, we will have to notify the other party also. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to pass without date condemnation hearing for parcel #00724823B, 408 A Welty Ave, S, Iowa, LA. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #6 of the agenda. Mayor Watkins announced that this resolution was tabled last month, and he doesn't believe that the paperwork has come back to the council to discuss. He asked what the council wished to do. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to table the motion to approve Resolution 2026-01, A Resolution of the Town of Iowa creating a Recreation Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk