

**Minutes
Public Hearing
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
Iowa, LA
January 9, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

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

Present: Mayor Neal Watkins; Council Members Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet, and about 16 citizens.

Mayor Watkins called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Watkins read the title to the introduced Ordinance No. 2022-09, An Ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council

Mayor Watkins read the title to the introduced Ordinance No. 2022-10, An Ordinance Setting the Compensation of Council Member as required by chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, Providing for the fixing of the Salary of Council Member.

Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments on these introduced ordinances. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked the council if they wanted to go two meetings a month? Mayor Watkins gave his opinion. He said that the Lawrason Act gives us the opportunity to call a special session at any time if it is warranted. It was agreed that one meeting per month would be appropriate. No other comments or questions were made.

Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

**Minutes
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA
January 9, 2023 6:32 p.m.**

Mayor 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 6:32 pm.

Present: Mayor Neal Watkins; Council Members: Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 16 citizens.

Invocation was led by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by Pledge.

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

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting December 12, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Mr. Clark Guidry, representative of Entergy Louisiana, LLC was not present. Mayor Watkins reported to Council he met with Mr. Guidry for the purpose of Right-of-Way Agreement. Mayor Watkins told the Council Members that Entergy would be putting a transmission line in the Right-of-Way, and they increased the offer from \$25,120.82 to \$31,401.03 for .25 acre. Mayor Watkins explained to the Council that if they didn't go through with the agreement then it would go to expropriation. He said he thinks it would be in the best interest of the town to make this agreement. Council Member Gerald Guidry inquired about other lines in town. Mayor Watkins said that this agreement is for this line only and they would be coming back later for any other lines that the agreements have expired. Council

Member Daniel Hennigan asked about the timeline on the agreement and any future technology that could take place. Mayor Watkins reported Mr. Guidry said this would be the last conversation about this. Town Attorney, Eugene Bouquet, explained some issues of an expropriation if they chose not to accept the agreement. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to accept the agreement for right-of-way with Entergy in the amount of \$31,401.03. Mr. Bouquet clarified that this was for the purchase of the right-of-way. Mayor Watkins called for a vote. Yeas: Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, and Joe Becnel. Nays: Daniel Hennigan

New Business:: Mayor Watkins read item 1. Request by J. Niki Hebert for waiver to move a trailer built in 2005, to location of 210 S. Knapp Street. Ms. Hebert came forward. Council Member Daniel Hennigan and Julie Fontenot asked Ms. Hebert questions about the existing building on the property. Ms. Hebert said at one point she plans to repair the building for living as a residence. Julie Fontenot asked her if she was going to live in it and not use it for rental property. Ms. Hebert confirmed that she would be living in it. Julie Fontenot explained to her the town had an ordinance that allows only one living residence per lot so at that time she would have to move the trailer off the lot. Ms. Hebert replied that she understood. Daniel Hennigan said he was in favor of the waiver. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to grant a variance to Ms. Hebert to move the trailer to address 210 Knapp Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item 2 of the agenda, Mayor's appointments for January 1, 2023-December 31, 2026.

- a. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to appoint Cynthia Mallett as Town Clerk. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Mayor Watkins asked to table the appointment of Town Attorney. Council Member Daniel Hennigan quoted the attorney general's opinion concerning appointment and approval of the town attorney. He said the present town attorney remains until appointment and approval of new one.. He also said that his vote would always be for Mr. Bouquet. Mr. Bouquet responded and said that he had a good conversation with the Mayor and that he would remain until replaced if that was the choice. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to table approving the town attorney. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve David Olney as Town Magistrate. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to appoint Joe Becnel as Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to appoint Julie Fontenot as Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adopt Ordinance 2022-09, an Ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council with the amendment as per public hearing of one meeting per month instead of two per month. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09

AN ORDINANCE FIXING MEETING PLACE, DAYS, AND TIME FOR MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council, pursuant to law, desire to fix and publish the place, days and time for regular meetings of the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Town of Iowa Mayor and Town Council meetings shall be held at 115 N. Thomson Avenue in City Hall Meeting Room on the second Monday, at Seven O'clock p.m., of each and every month of the calendar year 2023 and shall be designated and published in

accordance with law for the official meeting day of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

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 December, 2022.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Noen

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 9th day of January , 2023

APPROVED:

NEAL WATKINS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adopt Ordinance 2022-10. The motion passed with the following votes: Yeas: Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, and Gerald Guidry; Nays: Daniel Hennigan

ORDINANCE 2022-10

An ordinance setting the compensation of Council Member as required by Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; Providing for the fixing of the salary of Council Member

WHEREAS, the Town Code of ordinances provides the salary of elected Council Members will be set by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, upon discussion, and considering years of inflation, there is a need to modify the salary of elected Council Members.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF IOWA, that:

Sec. 2-65 Compensation of elected Council Members - that effective February 1, 2023 by this ordinance the compensation due an elected Council Member of Iowa, shall be the sum of \$9,600.00 [800.00 monthly] annually.

The above and foregoing addition to the Code of Ordinances, Town of Iowa, Louisiana, has been read and adopted and is only intended as an addition to said Ordinances and the remaining Ordinances and the past enacted are still in full force and effect.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered as a whole. A vote thereon was called for, with the following results.

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

WHEREUPON, the ordinance was declared adopted on the 9th day of January, 2023.

Neal Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

It was **moved** by Daniel Hennigan, **seconded** by Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2023-01. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2023-01
TOWN OF IOWA
CHANGING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS
ON A GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTS

The Bank
114 N Thomson Avenue
Iowa, LA 70647

Re: Account Number(s): see attached list of Town of Iowa accounts

Dear Banking Official:

Please be informed that the following changes(s) has/have been made regarding signing authority on the above-referenced account(s).

The following person is to be added as authorized signers(s) on the account(s): **EFFECTIVE 01/01/2023**

Neal Watkins

Print Name

Joe Becnel, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, and Julie Fontenot remain on the accounts please use info currently on file with bank

The following person(s) **no longer has/have signing authority** on the account(s):

Paul Hesse

Print Name

Passed at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council Members of the Town of Iowa held on January 9, 2023.

Attest:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC
Iowa Town Clerk

It was **moved** by Daniel Hennigan, **seconded** by Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2023-02. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2023-02
TOWN OF IOWA
CHANGING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS
ON A GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTS

JD Bank
414 S Kinney Street
Iowa, LA 70647
Re: Account Number(s): see attached list of Town of Iowa accounts

Dear Banking Official:

Please be informed that the following changes(s) has/have been made regarding signing authority on the above-referenced account(s).

The following person is to be added as authorized signers(s) on the account(s): **EFFECTIVE 01/01/2023**

Neal Watkins

Print Name

Joe Becnel, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, and Julie Fontenot **remain on the accounts** please use info currently on file with bank

The following person(s) **no longer has/have signing authority** on the account(s):

Paul Hesse
Print Name

Passed at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council Members of the Town of Iowa held on January 9, 2023.

Attest:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC
Iowa Town Clerk

Mayor Watkins reported to the Council he had a meeting with the Chief of Police about the proposed resolution increasing the interest rate for the purchase agreement for the acquisition of one police vehicle. Mayor Watkins proposed to the Council not to lease purchase this vehicle. He said it would be better to purchase out right. It was **moved** by Julie Fontenot, **seconded** by Daniel Hennigan to approve the purchase of a vehicle without the lease purchase agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett gave the financial report.

With no further business it was **moved by** Daniel Henningan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

ATTEST:

Neal Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC