

**Minutes
Public Hearing
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson Ave., Iowa, LA
November 13, 2023, 7:00 pm**

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

Present: Council Members Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, and Daniel Hennigan; Mayor Neal Watkins; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 6 citizens.

Mayor Watkins called the public hearing to order at 7:00 pm. He read the item on the Public Hearing agenda, obtain views on introduced Ordinance 2023-08, An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Johnson asked what the amendments were for. Town Clerk Cindy Mallett answered the question. No other comments were made. Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at 7:01 pm.

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson Ave., Iowa, LA
November 13, 2023**

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 7:01 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas N Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 6 citizens.

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 amend agenda to add, motion to approve Resolution 2023-19 and approve as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting, October 9, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the added agenda item and read Resolution 2023-19. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2023-19
TOWN OF IOWA
AUTHORIZED SIGNERS
ON GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTS**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council Members of the Town of Iowa has a financial responsibility to protect the assets of the Town of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the bank accounts of the Town of Iowa has a risk of being compromised.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the old bank accounts be closed, and new banks accounts be opened, and funds be transferred to the new bank accounts.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the below following persons have signing authority on these new accounts.

Douglas N. Watkins, Joe Becnel, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, and Julie Fontenot Passed at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council Members of the Town of Iowa held on November 13, 2023.

Mayor Douglas N. Watkins

Cynthia Mallett, MMC
Iowa Town Clerk

Mayor Watkins recognized Daniel Hennigan as being named Coach of the Year for Division II Baseball and thanked him for the work he does with our youth.

Mayor Watkins read a notification explaining that the Town of Iowa experienced a cyber breach but at this time no more information can be disclosed.

Mayor Watkins presented the Council Members with a report prepared by Bluewing Civil Engineering, BWC. He explained that it is a development review for a proposed subdivision on Highway 90. No comments or action was taken.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory to approve Ordinance 2023-08. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2023-08

AN ORDINANCE

**AMENDING THE FY 2022/2023 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 FY22/23 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, 2022 and ending June 30th, 2023 and the same is hereby declared to be and is designated the adopted amended budget for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for FY2022-2023.

General Fund

Changes:	From	To
Expenditures:		
General Government		
Public Safety		
Total General Fund expenditures	\$ 2,931,655.00	to \$ 3,190,000.00

Sales Tax I Water Improvements

Revenues:

Intergovernmental	\$		\$ 700,261.00
Use of Prior year fund balance	\$		\$2,060,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 4,742,739.00	to	\$ 3,860,000.00

Expenditures

Other services and charges	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 2,005,000.00
Total budgeted expenditures	\$ 4,544,959.00	to	\$ 2,005,000.00
Operating Transfer in (out)	\$	to	(\$1,855,000.00)

Sales Tax II

Revenues:

Tax Revenue	\$ 835,038.00	to	\$ 732,500.00
Total Revenues	\$ 874,564.00	to	\$ 770,000.00

Sales Tax III

Revenues:

Tax Revenue	\$ 642,337.00	to	\$ 575,800.00
Grant Revenue	\$ 109,200.00	to	\$ 9,200.00
Total Revenues	\$ 797,822.00	to	\$ 590,000.00

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 November 13, 2023, an amended budget for the fiscal year of 2022 and 2023 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 9th day of October, 2023.

After public hearing was held on the above ordinance, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, motion by Daniël 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, Juile Fontenot, and Joe Becnel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 13th day of November, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 14th day of November, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 14th day of November, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 14th day of November, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 14th day of November, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to order an inspection report for the building located at 102 S Stockwell for the purpose of condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to order inspection report for building located at 415 S Storer for the purpose of condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Mayor explained that we have done our due diligence in this process and the 45 days granted to the owners have passed and nothing has been done. Cindy Mallett explained the process of Notice of Demolition. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to order Notice of Demolition within 30 days for 110 S Bowers Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to order Notice of Demolition within 30 days for 500 Railroad Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Mayor Watkins reported that the Fire District does have all their paperwork straight and the truck arrived in Eunice today. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Town of Iowa and Fire Protection District No. One of Ward Eight and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda.

- a. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to promote Jeanine Dugas from Patrolman to Patrolman First Class. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to transfer Denasja Dartest from part-time to full-time dispatcher effective October 20, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Mayor Watkins asked Chief Vincent questions concerning the agreement assigning Russell Jimenez to the U.S. Marshall's Task Force. He asked if we would have to maintain records such as body camera records when he would be working with the U.S. Marshal Task Force. Chief said he would look into this but that he would not have to use the town's body cameras so we shouldn't have to maintain any records. He also asked if the town would be paying overtime for any hours worked with the Marshal's Office. Chief Vincent said the town would not be paying overtime for this task force. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to assign Russell Jimenez to the U.S. Marshal's Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor announced that we didn't have a finance report because of the glitches in the computer system. Clerk Cindy Mallett said that a report will be provided at next meeting.

Mayor mentioned, in connection with the report from Bluewing Civil, that it was a provision that was a result of a conversation with Gravity Drainage. He stated that there are issues along the lateral. He said there are a couple of places that need to be taken care of. Once they tell us what can be done then it will be taken care of.

Mayor asked if there was anyone else that had anything to say. Ms. Leonard talked about her research on the necessity of sleep and the noise ordinance. Mayor discussed the ordinance, and the lack of respect people have. There was discussion about the noise ordinance and how it could be enforced.

Pam Adams, Fire District Board Member, thanked the Mayor and Clerk for helping the Fire District in getting the paperwork done to get the new fire truck.

With no further business it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

ATTEST:

Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC