

**Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647**  
**May 26, 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 6:03 pm.

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

Also, there were present Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; Elsie Lane and about 3 people.

Invocation was said by Mr. Alan Weishampel, followed by the pledge.

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

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda, discussion and action for Waste Management renewal of contract for expiration of November 2026. There was discussion on having two trash trucks, one for garbage, and one for debris. Mayor Watkins gave options to the Council for the town to do in-house garbage pickup, renew the contract with Waste Management for 5 years or 1 year, or submit requests for proposals. Daniel Hennigan asked if the benefits, for our own driver, were attached to the driver's salary. Mayor Watkins informed him that they are. Daniel Hennigan and Gerald Guidry talked about how Waste Management does not pick up the items on the side of the road. Julie Fontenot asked questions about how an employee would work with our own truck. Also discussed was the billing for large items/debris. Mayor responded that if they are interested, he will get some solid numbers on the cost for in-house pick up. Mayor requested a decision on what to pursue and he will update the council. Daniel Hennigan stated he would like to stay with Waste Management. There was discussion on the lease of the garbage truck for in-house garbage pickup. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot, to enter into a one (1) year renewal contract with Waste Management at the conclusion of current contract. Roll call vote was done, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda, Introduction of Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium for a period of One Hundred Fifteen (115) days on the granting of all permits for Mobile Homes in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana. Julie Fontenot asked to have less time than the 115 days on the moratorium. There was discussion on the present mobile home ordinance and what changes could be made to that ordinance. Julie Fontenot said she would like to see mobile homes only in mobile home parks. Daniel Fontenot and Vernessa Guillory talked about the variances that were made in the past. Mayor Watkins explained why the 115 days were put on the Ordinance and how the process works. Eric Johnson asked If the Town has ever considered hiring a Town Inspector. Mayor Watkins explained that we have a third-party inspector that informs the council members with any necessary information. After no further discussion, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to table Ordinance 2026-07. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the third item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory Upon the recommendation of Mayor Watkins, to approve Elsie Lane as interim clerk from May 28, 2026, to July 2, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the fourth item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

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Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

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Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk