

Minutes
Public Hearing and Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA
June 28, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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, Daniel Hennigan, Mayor Neal Watkins; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 15 citizens.

Mayor Watkins called the public hearing to order at 7:00p.m. He read the first item on the Public Hearing agenda and asked if anyone had any comments or concerns. Nobody said anything. The Mayor continued with a statement concerning the budget, General Fund, the Health Savings account, the loss the General Fund has made this past fiscal year, and ways of being able to cut the budget. He gave information on the legal process of the presentation and adoption of the budget. Mr. Calvin Ceasar asked about the Parish's report of the last quarter of 2022 sales tax and how it compared to the projection. Then he asked how much it was, the first quarter of this year. Mayor and Mr. Ceasar discussed the projection of sales taxes on the parish's report but said he didn't have that report now. Mr. Ceasar said he would like to see it and will come by tomorrow. Mr. Ceasar told the Mayor and Council what the Lawrason Act says about not adopting the budget in time. After no further comments, Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:24 pm.

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:24 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas Neal Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Police Chief Keith Vincent; and about 15 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 adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting, June 12, 2023, with the change of a name on page 5, from Johnny Landry to Kenneth Landry. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the first item of the regular meeting agenda. Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated that he didn't want them to go to a 50% marker, but he said he did have a worry of certain revenues that are not in line with what they may be. He gave examples of some of these revenues. He asked Mr. Bouquet about the procedure of amending an ordinance and amending the budget and if it was the same thing. Mr. Bouquet said that it was different in the sense that you have to do notifications before the budget meetings. He said the process is a little more complicated. Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated his thoughts on the Mayor's statement of checks and balances for adopting the budget. Mayor interrupted his statements with a call for a point of order. Mayor explained why he called for a point of order and asked for a motion for the adoption of the budget. Council Member Hennigan asked if he was not allowed to make these comments. Mr. Bouquet gave his opinion that it can be discussed at this point. Mayor made statements about when the budget was presented and the time it could have been discussed. He asked why the discussion wasn't done prior to this meeting. Mayor asked the council to either adopt it or amend it.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to adopt Ordinance 2023-02, An Ordinance adopting an Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

ORDINANCE 2023-02
AN ORDINANCE adopting an Operating Budget of
Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning
July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE IOWA TOWN COUNCIL of Iowa, Louisiana, in general session convened that:

SECTION 1: The attached detailed estimate of Revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, during the same period.

SECTION 2: The attached estimates of Expenditures by departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as a budget of Expenditures for the Town during the said period.

SECTION 3: The adoption of this Operating Budget of Expenditures be and the same is hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION 4: Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included within the 2023 to 2024 budget. Further, it is the intent of this presentation to hereby authorize the Chief Administrative Officer the power to administer these budgets within a margin of plus or minus 5%.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on May 22, 2023, the title having been read and a public hearing held on June 28, 2023.

The above ordinance was adopted at a duly convened special meeting, June 28, 2023 on motion by Joe Becnel, seconded by Gerald Guidry upon a vote taken as follows:

YEAS: Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, and Daniel Hennigan

NAYS: Vernessa Guillory and Julie Fontenot

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREAUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 28th day of June, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 28th day of June, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 28th day of June, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS
MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 28th day of June, 2023.

DOUGLAS N WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 28th day of June, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

Town of Iowa Budget Summary 2023-2024

General Fund

Revenue:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Taxes | 1,301,925.00 |
| Licenses & Permits | 246,900.00 |
| Grant Revenue | 440,000.00 |
| Fines & Forfeitures | 682,800.00 |
| Investment Earnings | 70,000.00 |
| Police Department | 46,450.00 |
| Transfers & Other Revenue | 164,177.00 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Administration | 544,798.00 |
| Police | 1,887,904.00 |
| Fire | 158,750.00 |
| Court Costs | 224,366.00 |
| Multi-Purpose Center | 66,100.00 |
| Fire-Admin | 70,334.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Revenue Total | 2,952,252.00 |
| General Fund Expenditure Total | <u>2,952,252.00</u> |
| Net Total General Fund | 0.00 |

Sales Tax I

Revenue:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Taxes | 627,925.00 |
| Grants | 835,000.00 |
| Investment Earnings | 1,820,000.00 |
| Transfers & Other Revenues | 92,373.00 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Expenditures | 2,547,321.00 |
| ARP -Comp Hardwre/software Serv | 26,779.00 |
| ARP-Sewer Line Replacement | 301,198.00 |
| ARP-Motor Vehicle Units | 300,000.00 |
| Economic Development | 200,000.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sales Tax I Revenue Total | 3,375,298.00 |
| Sales Tax I Expenditure Total | <u>3,375,298.00</u> |
| Net Total Sales Tax I | 0.00 |

Sales Tax Parks & Streets

Revenue:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Taxes | 218,400.00 |
| Investment Earnings | 2,500.00 |
| Other Revenue | 3,807.00 |

Expenditures:

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| Expenditures | 224,707.00 | |
| Sales Tax Parks & Streets Revenue Total | | 224,707.00 |
| Sales Tax Parks & Streets Expenditure Total | | 224,707.00 |
| Net Total Sales Tax Parks & Street | | .00 |

Sales Tax II

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue: | | |
| Taxes | | 709,800.00 |
| Investment Earnings | | 30,000.00 |
| Other Revenue | | 123,972.00 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Expenditures | 863,772.00 | |
| Sales Tax II Revenue Total | | 863,772.00 |
| Sales Tax II Expenditure Total | | 863,772.00 |
| Net Total Sales Tax II | | 0.00 |

Sales Tax III

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue: | | |
| Taxes | | 546,000.00 |
| Grant Revenue | | 226,400.00 |
| Investment Earnings | | 18,000.00 |
| Transfers & Other Revenue | | 126,998.00 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Expenditures | 917,398.00 | |
| Sales Tax III Revenue Total | | 917,398.00 |
| Sales Tax III Expenditure Total | | 917,398.00 |
| Net Total Sales Tax III | | 0.00 |

City Water Works

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Revenue: | | |
| Charges for Services | | 1,497,000.00 |
| Investment Earnings | | 24,000.00 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Water Expenditures | 510,029.00 | |
| Waste Water Expenditures | 497,551.00 | |
| Garbage and Trash | 420,000.00 | |
| City Water Works Revenue Total | | 1,521,000.00 |
| City Water Works Expenditure Total | | 1,427,580.00 |
| Net Total City Water Works | | 93,420.00 |

Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ceasar asked to comment. He asked what was amended on the personnel policy. The Mayor and Council Member Daniel Hennigan said that it was in regard to the HSA and the short term disability for the employees. Cindy Mallett explained that it was removed from the policy as a benefit.

RESOLUTION 2023-16

A RESOLUTION REGARDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND BENEFITS FOR TOWN OF IOWA EMPLOYEES AND SUPERSEDES ANY AND ALL OTHER POLICY EDITION, MEMORANDA, OR OTHER TOWN OF IOWA POLICIES WHETHER WRITTEN OR ORAL

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has a need to revise the present Personnel Policies and Procedures adopted March 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the revised Personnel Policy will help prevent misunderstanding and problems, and to ensure that all employees know what is expected of them; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Policy has been prepared as a guide and reference for employees. Nothing in this Policy creates an express or implied contract or promise concerning the Town of Iowa's policies or practices, including policies or practices it will implement in the future. The Town of Iowa retains the right to establish, change, and abolish these policies, practices, rules and regulations at will and as it sees fit; and

WHEREAS, nothing in the Personnel Policy is intended to violate the law. Any provision violating the law shall be deemed automatically reformed to be consistent with applicable law. Also, should any provision in this Policy be found to be unenforceable, invalid, or violate of law, such finding does not invalidate the entire Town of Iowa Personnel Policy, but only that particular provision.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Iowa Town Council, Iowa, Louisiana as follows:

The Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said personnel policies, a copy of which is attached hereto and by this reference made part hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of June, 2023.

Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2023-15, A Resolution affirming designating Properties for Application for Funding in Connection with Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Demolition Program. Mayor Watkins explained the reason and need for the resolution and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no comments or questions. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2023-15

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING DESIGNATING PROPERTIES FOR APPLICATION FOR FUNDING IN CONNECTION WITH LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DEMOLITION PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, duly convened and acting as governing authority of said Town, that;

WHEREAS the Town of Iowa strives wherever possible to improve living conditions for it's citizens by preventing slum and blight conditions by clearing and demolishing condemned properties and,

WHEREAS the Town is at present in need of outside grant funding to help make this improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Iowa has obtained permission to demolish the following properties:

306 S Bowers Ave.
403 S. Bowers Ave.
504 W 1st Street
506 W 1st Street
414 S Sherman Avenue

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that the following properties will be considered for demolition pending granted permission by the property owner/owners:

110 S. Bowers
111 S. Bowers
212 S. Bowers
403 S Lambert
104 Stockwell
507 Fairview
907 Granger
505 E 2nd Street
107 Larry
105 Larry
701 S Thomson
504A N Thomson
701 S Thomson
113 N Welty
207 S Welty
213 S Welty
403 Storer
415 S Storer
310 HWY 90
402 S Philbrick
412 S. Philbrick
414 S Philbrick
409 S. Knapp
216 Railroad
218 Railroad
200 Railroad
500 Railroad
502 Railroad

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa by way of this resolution do hereby express their support for and hereby request the aforementioned funding from the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant program.

The above resolution was unanimously approved and adopted at a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa held on June 28, 2023.

CYNTHIA MALLET, CLERK

NEAL WATKINS, MAYOR

CERTIFICATE

Being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Town of Iowa, the undersigned does hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a special meeting held June 28, 2023 at Town Hall, Iowa, Louisiana.

Town Clerk

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. He asked if there were any questions. He explained the benefits of the program. Chief of Police Vincent asked to speak. He reported that he was having problems getting a vehicle, but Enterprise had some waiting that we could get immediately but if they didn't act soon, they would run out quickly. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Master Equity Lease Agreement with and between Town of Iowa and Enterprise Fleet Management and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute lease agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

ATTEST:

Neal Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC