

**Minutes**  
**Public Hearing**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647**  
**April 13, 2026 at 7:00**

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

There was present, Mayor Watkins; Council Members Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, and Vernessa Guillory; Town Attorney Russ Stutes; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; About 7 persons.

Mayor Watkins announced that they would hear questions and comments on the following Ordinance, Ordinance 2026-04, An Ordinance annexing certain property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, title 33, Section 172, following the petition of Progressive Merchants, Inc. and due advertisement.

There were questions from the public about the location and ownership of the property. Mayor Watkins answered the questions.

Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at approximately 7:04 pm.

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647**  
**April 13, 2026**

Before the meeting was called to order Mayor Watkins announced that there will be a tax renewal election on May 16, 2026. He explained that it is a renewal and not a new tax. He explained what departments this sale tax funds. He announced that the mobile home moratorium is no longer in effect.

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 7:04pm.

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 and about 7 people.

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

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

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes, as submitted, for regular meeting March 9, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced the next item, Adopt the millage rate; Resolution 2026-07. Mayor Watkins read the resolution. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Linda Leonards asked a question about the millage. Mayor Watkins answered. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot,

**seconded by Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2026-07, The adoption of Millage 5.590. The motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2026-07

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2026 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Town of Iowa:  
(Name of taxing district)

MILLAGE

General Alimony 5.590 mills  
(Tax for: e.g. General Alimony, Library, Maintenance)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2026, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on April 13, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Iowa, Louisiana, this 13th day of April, 2026.  
(City, Town, Village)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of authorized person of the taxing district)

Mayor read item #2 on the agenda. Town Attorney Russ Stutes stated that the notice to the owner was not delivered successfully. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to table the hearing for 106 Ruby Street, owner Jessica Hardy for the renovation or condemnation of structure at 106 Ruby Street, Iowa, LA. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #3 on the agenda and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to send

owner of 103 N Storer, Iowa, LA, Bradley LeMonia, notification hearing for condemnation and demolition. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #4 on the agenda and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to send owner of 101 N. Storer, Iowa, LA, Estate of Helen Marie McKay, notification hearing for condemnation and demolition. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #5 on the agenda and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to send owner of 319 S. Lambert Ave., Iowa, LA, Estate of Wallace Carrier, notification hearing for condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #6 on the agenda and asked if there were any questions or comments. Questions concerning advantages of the annexation were asked by Council Member Julie Fontenot. Mayor Watkins and Council Member gave explanations of the advantages for the town. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to Adopt Ordinance 2026-04. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ORDINANCE 2026-04**

**An ordinance annexing certain property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, title 33, Section 172, following the petition of Progressive Merchants, Inc. and due advertisement.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the Iowa Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in Regular Session convened:

#### **Section 1.**

That the Town of Iowa does hereby annex and incorporate into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa the following described property, situated in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana,

To-wit;

#### **West Tract Two Legal Description:**

A particular 93.32 acre tract of land located in the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South, Range 6 West, Louisiana Meridian, within the Southwestern Land District of Louisiana, and situated in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, being a portion of Tract 2, recorded as Instrument Number 3588654 in the Calcasieu Parish Public Records, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining. Said property being further described as follows:

Commencing at the point of beginning being the intersection of the center line of Louisiana Highway 3258 and the west boundary line of Section 19, Township 9 south, Range 6 west, Louisiana Meridian;

Thence, coincident with the centerline of said highway, along a curve concave to the southwest having a radius of 1500 feet, an arc length of 125.00 feet, a cord bearing of south 79°32'03" east and a cord length of 100.23 feet to a point;

Thence, coincident with the centerline of said highway, south 77°36'40" east a distance of 841.31 feet to a point;

Thence, south 00°14'07" east, passing a found 5/8" iron rod with cap at a distance of a distance 35.87 feet, continuing south 00°14'07" east a distance of 311.73 feet for a total distance of 347.60 feet to a found 5/8" iron rod with cap;

Thence, coincident with the south boundary line of said Section 19, north 88°55'53" west a distance of 925.36 feet to a point;

Thence, coincident with the west boundary line of said Section 19, north 00°22'41" east passing a found 5/8" iron rod with cap at a distance of 493.95 feet, continuing north 00°22'41" east a distance of 35.10 feet for a total distance of 529.06 feet to the point of beginning;

AND

**Tract 3 Legal Description:**

All of the North Half of Section 25, Township 9 South, Range 7 West, Louisiana Meridian, and that portion of the North Half of the South Half of Section 25, Township 9 South, Range 7 West, Louisiana Meridian being North of the Northeast Right-of-Way boundary line of the Southern Pacific Railroad, together with all buildings and improvements situated thereon.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 9th day of March 2026, the title having been read, and appropriate public advertisement completed:

The above ordinance was adopted at a duly convened meeting on motion of Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel, upon a vote taken as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 13th day of April, 2026.

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**DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR**

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 15th day of April, 2026.

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**CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK**

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 15th day of April, 2026..

DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

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

Mayor Watkins read item #7 on the agenda and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved** by Daniel Hennigan, **seconded** by Julie Fontenot to adopt Resolution 2026-06. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-06

A Resolution to Declare Property as Surplus And Assign to  
LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program for Online Sale

Council Meeting Date: April 13, 2026

Agenda item: Surplus Property

Presented by: Mayor Watkins

Be It Resolved:

1. The Town of Iowa declares that the following property used by multiple Departments is no longer needed by the town and is declared surplus property and is assigned to LaMATS through the LPS Surplus Property Program, 6767 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to be auctioned online. The listed property will be viewable and will be auctioned online at [www.lamats.net/surplus](http://www.lamats.net/surplus) commencing the day of publication of this resolution for no fewer than 7 days until sold or withdrawn.

Description

- 1 4-Brown High Back Pneumatic Office Chair
- 2 4- Blue low back pneumatic Office Chairs
- 3 1- Blue low back pneumatic Office Chair (broken)

The Town of Iowa reserves the right to evaluate and to accept the highest bid if deemed to be the fair market value or to relist the unsold item.

Instructions

[Lake Charles American Press, jackie.martz@americanpress.com] and forward to the LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program Administrator for listing and publication [paul@lamats.net](mailto:paul@lamats.net).

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item #8 on the agenda and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved** by Julie Fontenot, **second** by Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2026-05. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2026-05**

**A RESOLUTION DONATING MOVEABLE SURPLUS PROPERTY TO  
WARD 8 DISTRICT 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Iowa no longer has need of 55 office guest chairs; and

**WHEREAS**, Ward 8 District 1 Fire Department has need of 55 office guest chairs; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Iowa hereby acknowledges the public service and protection by Ward 8 District 1 Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VII, Section 14 of Louisiana Constitution allows the donation or exchange of surplus moveable property between political subdivisions, social welfare programs, and support of the needy.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Town Council Members for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in regular session this date does hereby authorizes Mayor Douglas N. Watkins to execute a Donation of Surplus Property for the above stated surplus of 55 office guest chairs.

The following Council Members voted:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREAS, this resolution was declared adopted on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

APPROVED:

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Douglas N. Watkins Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Mallett, MMC  
Town Clerk

Mayor Watkins read item #9 on the agenda. Chief Vincent came forward and the recommended to hire Kyle Cormier as full-time patrolman effective 3/25/2026. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to hire Kyle Cormier as full-time patrolman effective 3/25/2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #10 on the agenda. Introduction of Ordinance 2026-05, An Ordinance annexing certain property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in accordance with the provision of Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, title 33, Section 172, following the petition of Progressive Merchants, Inc. and due advertisement.

With no further business, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.,

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Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

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Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk