

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647**  
**April 14, 2025**

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 7:00pm.

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

Others present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 13 people.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by Pledge.

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

It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve minutes as presented for regular meeting March 10, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked for the report of financials. Cynthia Mallett reported the town's monthly and year to date financial as distributed to Mayor and Council Members.

Mayor Watkins addressed the citizens and Council Members:

- a. He discussed Tyler Technologies, a company the town is considering contracting with for a customizable mobile app and issue reporting platforms. He addressed concerns some residents had with the company. He informed them of solved issues from allegations against the company; letting everyone know that it originated from a third-party company Tyler Technology acquired.
- b. Relating to the town's budget - House Bill 606, a bill, if passed, the town will lose \$91,758.00 in sales tax revenue. He said benefits given by the prior administration, if reinstated, would cause the town to lose ground financially.
- c. Mayor Watkins showed a presentation on the MyCivic App. designed by Tyler Technologies.

Mayor Watkins invited Chief Vincent to come forward to present recommendations. Chief Vincent came forward.

- a. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to hire Seth Whetstine as full-time Patrol Officer effective 3/14/2025. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to hire Matt Doucet for full-time Detective/Patrol at Rank of Sergeant pending pre-employment testing results. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve the transfer of Austin Peloquin from part-time patrolman to full-time acting executive officer at rank of staff sergeant effective 3/24/2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Vincent announced this week is telecommunications appreciations week and asked if you see any dispatchers of the EMS let them know you appreciate their service. Chief Vincent announced next month on May 15, 2025 the Police Memorial Service will be held at 5:00 pm at the Community Center with guest speaker District Attorney, Stephen Dwight.

Mayor Watkins read item four of the agenda. After discussion by the Mayor, Council, and Town Attorney, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve the purchase and Service Agreement with and between Tyler Technologies for the My Civic App, and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. Yeas: Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, and Gerald Guidry. Nays: Julie Fontenot and Vernessa Guillory. Absent: None. Abstain: None. The motion passed.

Mayor Watkins read item five of the agenda. Council Members asked questions about the contents of the document. Mayor Watkins explained the document and said that it could be amended at any time. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town of Iowa. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item six of the agenda. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between Calcasieu Examiner (S.A.N.E.) and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute CEA. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. He asked Town Clerk, Cynthia Mallett to explain the changes in the policy. Cynthia Mallett explained that the policy needed to be changed in order to participate in the Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery. She explained if a customer has an unpaid bill it can be collected through the State Department of Revenue from tax refunds and such. Chief Vincent asked if the traffic fines could also be collected through the state debt recovery. Cynthia Mallett discussed this with Attorney Eugene Bouquet and will speak with someone about the process to collect unpaid traffic fines also. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve amendments to Town of Iowa Customer Utility Accounts Policy.

Mayor Watkins read item eight on the agenda. Town Clerk explained an agreement is needed between the Town and Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery Department of Revenue before the State Debt Recovery can begin collecting the unpaid debts . It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve Agency Participation Agreement with and between Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery Department of Revenue and Town of Iowa for the collection of unpaid debts to the Town of Iowa. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item nine of the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve application for 2025-26 Keep Louisiana Beautiful Beautification Grant and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute all documents pertaining to said grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item ten of the agenda. Introduction of Ordinance 2025-01, An Ordinance to Amend Article V, Section 2-122 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, To Authorize the use of the Louisiana Department of Revenue Office of Debt Recovery for the Collection of Delinquent Debt, as Authorized by Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:299.1 Et SEQ., and to provide for Related Matters.

Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions. Ms. Johnson asked for more information on the Comprehensive Master Plan and what is included in the document. Mayor Watkins invited her to call anytime to look at it and/or discuss it. Cynthia Mallett gave Ms. Johnson a copy of the plan. Mayor Watkins invited anyone to call with any question at any time.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Daniel Hennigan**, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

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Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, will meet on May 12, 2025 at Seven (7:00) o'clock p.m., at its regular meeting place, Iowa City Hall Meeting Room, 115 N. Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the below introduced ordinance:

#### **Ordinance 2025-01**

An Ordinance to Amend Article V, Section 2-122 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, To Authorize the use of the Louisiana Department of Revenue Office of Debt Recovery for the Collection of Delinquent Debt, as Authorized by Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:299.1 ET SEQ., and to provide for Related Matters.

All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Handicapped persons needing assistance or aid should contact City Hall, 337-582-3535 before the meeting.  
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