

Minutes
Special Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
City Hall Meeting Room
October 28, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Watkins and Town Council met in special session this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice. Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

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

Others present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 5 people.

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

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

Mayor read the first item of the agenda, under Old Business; Motion to authorize Mayor Watkins to order appraisal on Railroad Avenue property owned by Grafie and Mary Victorian. The mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Tosh Leonard asked why the town was wanting to buy this property. Mayor Watkins answered that it would be added to the park. Mr. Sheraton Mckay and Ms. Tosh Leonard voiced their opposition to the purchase. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to authorize Mayor Watkins to order appraisal on Railroad Avenue property owned by Grafie and Mary Victorian. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda, under New Business; Motion to approve Resolution 2024-20. Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. Mayor Watkins said this project had been talked about for many years; to provide an alternate road route. He said the application to Capital Outlay would be for Phase I. This phase would take the road up to the ditch. The second phase would include the bridge and extend the road to W. Miller Street. Chief Vincent made positive remarks about the project and asked if the total of 10 million included the cost of the bridge. Mayor Watkins affirmed that it does. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2024-20, A Resolution granting the authority to the Mayor to sign and submit all necessary documents, appoint an administrative consultant and engineer, and to commit costs for FY 2024-2025 Louisiana Capital Outlay Request for North Storer Road Extension Phase I Project. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory and unanimously carried:

RESOLUTION 2024-20
A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE AUTHORITY
TO THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND
SUBMIT ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS,
APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT AND ENGINEER
AND TO COMMIT COSTS
FOR THE FY 2024-2025 LOUISIANA
CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUEST FOR NORTH STORER ROAD EXTENSION PHASE I
PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has a need to provide for an alternate road route, to provide safety and emergency travel; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has developed a plan to extend North Storer Road to achieve this alternate road route; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa is in need of assistance with the cost of this road extension; and
WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, through the Capital Outlay Bill, may assist the Town of Iowa with this needed project; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa desires to submit a Capital Outlay Request in the amount not to exceed two million dollars (2,000,000.00); and
WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa intends to provide up to twenty-five (25%) percent matching funds toward the cost of the project; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa desires to enter into an agreement with Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC to perform all engineering and administrative services associated with the application, which includes assistance with developing the Application, and thereafter performing all engineering and administrative duties following the award.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF IOWA, LOUISIANA:

1. The Town of Iowa enters into an agreement with Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC to develop and submit the Application, and thereafter to perform all administrative consulting duties following the Capital Outlay award.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute respective agreements with Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC and to execute and submit the Application, as well as all related documents, to be on such other terms and conditions as he shall deem advisable, and to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out this Resolution and to fulfill its objectives and purposes.
3. This Resolution shall become effective upon final adopting and signature of the Mayor.

Passed, approved, and adopted at a special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, on October 28, 2024.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Mallett, MMC, Clerk of the Town of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Town Council, on October 28, 2024 at which meeting a quorum was present.

**CYNTHIA MALLET, MMC
CLERK, TOWN OF IOWA**

With no further business it was **moved** by Julie Fontenot, **seconded** by Joe Becnel to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC