

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
January 13, 2025
7:00pm

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Town Council met in regular session this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Becnel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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

Others present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 7 citizens.

Invocation was said by Mr. Joe Becnel, followed by Pledge.

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

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting December 9, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Becnel announced that he would be presiding over the meeting because Mayor Watkins was unable to attend.

He read the first item on the agenda and announced, Mr. Matthew Fruge listed on the agenda to speak is unable to attend. The item was passed.

Town Clerk Cindy Mallett gave the December financial report.

Mr. Becnel read item three on the agenda, Mayor Watkins: Announcement for the Streaming and recording of Mayor and Council Meetings, Debris throughout town, decline in revenue. He said Mayor Watkins will make these announcements next month.

Mr. Becnel read item 4 and invited Chief Vincent to come forward. Chief Vincent came forward and made recommendations to Council Members. The vote is as follows:

- a. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to promote Kristi Juarez from SSG to LT. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to promote Rodney Daigle from SGT to SSG. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to promote Brandon Guillory from CPL to Det. Sgt. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to promote Jeanine Dugas from PFC to CPL. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to promote Amy Henry to Asst. Communications Supervisor and Communications FTO. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Chief Vincent withdrew the request to hire Remember LaFleur for part-time dispatcher.
- g. Chief Vincent announced that he submitted a letter as required, as an elected chief, when he exceeds the budget by 5%. He read the letter of budget amendment request for Iowa Police Department 2024-2025 budget as presented to the Council Members advising them that the police department exceeded 5% of the budgeted expenditures and requested the budget be amended. He stated that he lost some guys that their salaries were higher, so it freed up some

money to give raises. He said he increased the starting pay of the officers to \$17.95 per hour, the same as Westlake.

The Council Members acknowledged the advisement. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked if Chief Vincent could supply the Town Council with a report, before the, start of the next budget year, explaining the needs and cost breakdown of expenditures. Chief Vincent said that he will start working on it.

Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked Mr. Bouquet, we only have to amend it if the General Fund goes (+) or (-) over 5%, not each department? Mr. Bouquet said the best answer would be from the Legislative Auditor's Office.

Mr. Becnel read item five of the agenda. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2025-01. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2025-01

A RESOLUTION DONATING MOVEABLE SURPLUS PROPERTY TO A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, The Town of Iowa has received a donation of approximately 75 chairs from Grace Harbor Light House; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Iowa no longer has need of approximately 53 chairs located in Iowa City Hall Meeting Room; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Calcasieu Council on Aging is in need of chairs; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Iowa hereby acknowledges the public service and social welfare programs provided by Iowa Calcasieu Council on Aging; 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 authorize Mayor Douglas N. Watkins to execute a Donation of Surplus Property for the above-approximately 53 chairs.

The following Council Members voted:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREAS, this resolution was declared adopted on this the 13th day of January, 2025.

APPROVED:

Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC
Town Clerk

Mr. Becnel read item six on the agenda Cindy explained that the town would be going to a new phone system, eliminating the land lines and the present phone system. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Business Service Agreement with and between REV Business and Town of Iowa for the replacement and Service of telephone system. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Becnel read item seven on the agenda. He stated the leased vehicle would replace the large 4X4 truck driven by the water department which would be sold at surplus. It was stated that it would cost less to operate and maintain. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Open-End (Equity) Lease with Enterprise Fleet Management for the lease of a 2025 Ford Maverick for the Water Department which will replace 2021 F150 4X4. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC