

**Minutes
Public Hearing
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
Iowa, LA 70647
January 15, 2024 at 7:00p.m.**

Mayor Watkins called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Present was Mayor Watkins; Council Members; Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Julie Fontenot, and Daniel Hennigan; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Police Chief Keith Vincent; about 2 citizens.

Mayor Watkins announced the purpose of the public hearing, to hear comments/questions on the proposed ordinances.

1. Ordinance No. 2024-01, An Ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council. Mayor asked if there were any questions/comments. None were made.
2. Ordinance N. 2024-02, An Ordinance Annexing 0.75+/- Acres into the Corporate Limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana. Mayor asked if there were any comments/questions. He explained that this piece of land was left out in error when the town annexed the property were Love's Truck Stop is located. No questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at 7:01 pm.

Minutes
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
Iowa, LA
January 15, 2024 At 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice.

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Mayor Douglas N. Watkins; Council members: Gerald Guidry Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, and Vernessa Guillory; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 6 citizens.

The invocation was given by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting, December 11, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced that before getting started with the new business he wanted to go over a couple of things. One is the water rate issue. He stated that the Louisiana Department of Health has standards for water systems. He listed some and announced that these are things that we must abide by. He spoke about the water testing and grading testing the town must meet. He said that the wastewater treatment facility is more expensive to maintain than the water system. Wastewater must be treated before it can go into the oxidation pond. He talked about the resolution for the utility rates that was passed in May of

2023, which were discussed in 2 or 3 meetings before the resolution was approved. He explained how the rates were based. He commented on the approval of the rates by Mr. Joubert with Louisiana Department of Health. He talked about the increase in materials, supplies, chlorine, and equipment it takes to supply the water and maintain the wastewater. Mayor Watkins talked about the misinformation that has been stated on Facebook. He talked about the mock billing and that it will be done for two billing cycles, and that citizens can use this time to make repairs and address the issues they have. He encouraged citizens to contact City Hall with any questions. He stated that in six months the rates and finances for the water fund can be reviewed and adjusted.

New Business:

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda; Motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-01, An Ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Ordinance 2024-01. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-01

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING MEETING PLACE, DAYS, AND TIME FOR
MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council, pursuant to law, desire to fix and publish the place, days and time for regular meetings of the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Town of Iowa Mayor and Town Council meetings shall be held at 115 N. Thomson Avenue in City Hall Meeting Room on the second Monday, at Seven O'clock p.m., of each and every month of the calendar year 2024 and shall be designated and published in accordance with law for the official meeting day of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

THUS DONE AND INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, held on the 11th day of December, 2023.

After a public hearing was held on the above ordinance, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, on motion by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken, and the following result was had:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 15th day of January . 2024.

APPROVED:

NEAL WATKINS, MAYOR ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the seconded item on the agenda; Motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-02, An Ordinance Annexing 0.75 +/- Acres into the Corporate Limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adopt Ordinance 2024-02. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024- 02

**AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING 0.75± ACRES INTO THE
CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA**

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:172.C provides for the annexation of property in which at least ninety percent of the boundary of the area to be annexed is common to the boundary of the municipality and on which no registered voters reside; and,
WHEREAS, a property was inadvertently omitted from previous annexations; and,
WHEREAS, the said property is one hundred percent (100%) in common with and surrounded by the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa and no registered voters reside on the said property; and
WHEREAS, due notice of the annexation ordinance was given, and no request was made by anyone for a hearing; and,
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town of Iowa to annex the Property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Iowa Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in regular session convened this 15th day of January, 2024:

§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,

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A certain piece, parcel or lot of ground, together with all, rights, ways and privileges thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining, being, lying and situated in Section 20, Township 9 South, Range 6 West, South Western District, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a 2-1/2" diameter iron pipe located on the northern right-of-way line of Interstate 10 Frontage Road and marking the southeast corner of Tract D of the Lynn Berry Partition, a copy of which can be found at Conveyance Office Book 2479, pages 401-402, official records of the Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court, said point bearing the State Plane Coordinate, Northing of 640,414.2215 and Easting of 2,752,545.9989, North American Datum of 1983, Louisiana South Zone (1702), US Survey Feet; thence run S85°51'21"W along said northern right-of-way line a distance of 855.88 feet; thence run N00°37'41"E a distance of 479.33 feet to a point located on the common boundary line between Tracts A and D of the aforementioned Lynn Berry Partition; thence run S85°59'39"W along said common boundary line a distance of 560.47 feet to a point marked by a 5/8" diameter iron rod (set), said point also marking the southeast corner and **POINT OF BEGINNING** of the tract herein described; thence continue S85°59'39"W a distance of 33.47 feet; thence run N38°31'50"W a distance of 256.77 feet; thence run N00°07'19"W a distance of 294.02 feet; thence run S21°49'30"E a distance of 422.20 feet; thence run S20°11'00"E a distance of 107.19 feet to the **POINT OF BEGINNING**; containing 0.747 acres (32,544 square feet) more or less.

§2. This Ordinance shall become effective after final adoption and publication of same in the manner prescribed by law and in accordance with La. R.S. 33:173.

This Ordinance was introduced at the regular meeting of the Board of Council Members on December 11, 2023. Notice of Public Hearing was published on December 26, 2023, and said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion to adopt, by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Julie Fontenot, a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 15th day of January, 2024 .

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 16th day of January, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 16th day of January, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 16th day of January, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 16th day of January, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the third item on the agenda; Hearing from owners of below listed property to show cause why the building/s should not be condemned.

- a. 111 S. Bowers. Mayor Watkins stated that the owner, Mr. Seaberry was not present. After the advice of Town Attorney Mr. Bouquet, It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to reset and re notify the owner, for a hearing at the February meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. 415 S Storer- Mayor Watkins reported that this building was removed by the owner.

Mayor Watkins read the fourth item on the agenda; Motion to approve Resolution 2024-01, A Resolution to Declare Property as Surplus and Assign to LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program for Online Sale. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2024-01

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

Council Meeting Date: January 8, 2024

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 commencing the day of publication of this resolution for no fewer than 7 days until sold or withdrawn.

Description

- 1) DR Lawn Edger Serial No. 3006942638
- 1) 2017 Ford XPL Vin 1FM5K7B81HGC44959
- 2) 2015 Ford PK VIN 1FTEX1CPOFKE97273
- 3) 2010 Ford PK VIN 1FTKR4EE1APA15920

2. 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.

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins stated that the agenda needed to be amended for the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for CAT Team as well as item number five on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to amend item number five of the agenda by striking "Police" from the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to add motion to discuss Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with and between Combined Anti-Drug Team and Town of Iowa. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Vincent explained the only difference in this agreement and the one prior is a change in police personnel. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to enter into CEA with and between the Town of Iowa and the Combine Anti-Drug Team. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda; Motion to approve IT Maintenance Agreement with and between the Town of Iowa and Avexon, LLC for City Hall, Fire, and Public Works effective January 3, 2024. Mayor Watkins said that it will be a temporary approval limited to six months until a request for proposal can be done. Council Member Julie Fontenot asked that the 12-month commitment and 90 day notice will be stricken? Mayor confirmed. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve the IT Maintenance Agreement with Avexon, LLC for the Town of Iowa, Fire, and Public Works effective January 3, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda; Request by Belinda Nolan to move a mobile home from 210 B West First Street, Iowa, LA to 510 S Kinney Street, Iowa, LA.; an inspection report of the mobile home was given to all council members. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan seconded by Joe Becnel** to allow a variance to move mobile home from 210 B West First Street to 510 S Kinney Street with the noted additional requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced a report of finance be given. Town Clerk Cindy Mallett presented the report of finance. Mayor Watkins talked about the \$300,000.00 grant we received for the purchase of equipment for the town that we drastically need, GIS Project and the grant we received to pay for the project, and the vehicle lease program with Enterprise Fleet for the police department and for the town side which should save the town money on the maintenance and repairs.

With no further business, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

ATTEST:

Dougals N. Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, Town Clerk