

**Minutes
Special Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
Iowa, LA 70647
April 24, 2024 at 7:00p.m.**

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

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 10 citizens.

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

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

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve minutes as submitted for Regular Meeting, April 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda and said that Mr. Doug Johnston was not able to be present tonight and will be here for the regular May meeting.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda. He announced each address and asked if owner was present as follows:

- a. 210 S Knapp: The homeowner was not present. Cindy Mallett reported that repairs only were recommended for this address. She said the owner came to City Hall and picked up the report and will be calling Mr. Cooney, building inspector. She said that she will make the repairs. Cindy said that she will call Mr. Cooney to get an update and report back at the May meeting.
- b. 200 Highway 90: Nobody was present. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to condemn building, and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. 614 Highway 90: Nobody was present. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to condemn building, and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. 310 Highway 90: Nobody was present. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to condemn building and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. 804A Highway 90 East: Owner, Ricky Rousell came forward. He said that he plans to demolish the building. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked if this address was included in the grant the town applied for. Cindy Mallett said yes and explained that it would be a few more months before we would complete some of the process to receive the funds. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to condemn building, and grant 60 days to demolish building. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. 806 Highway 90 East: Nobody was present. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to condemn building, and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. 414 S Philbrick: Nobody was present. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to condemn building, and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. 412 S Philbrick: Nobody was present. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to condemn building, and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- i. 207 S Welty: Mr. Charles Albert II came forward and said he plans to repair the house. He said there was junk in the yard that he will remove. He said that he will remove the camper trailer as soon as he can get someone to get rid of the nest of bees. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to grant 60 days to have the building repaired and the property cleaned. The motion passed unanimously.
- j. 308 E David: Nobody was present. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to condemn building and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- k. 413 S Lambert: Owner was not present. Town Clerk, Cindy Mallett, called Mr. Goodwin, owner. Mr. Goodwin thanked the Mayor and Council for the phone call instead of him having to appear because of health reasons. Mr. Goodwin said he had no means to tear down the building. Mayor Watkins asked if this address was included in the application for LCDBG Funding, and if it wasn't included then a letter of amendment be filed for this property. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to condemn building and grant 90-day extension to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- l. 403 N Lightner: Mr. Gerald Doucet came forward. He agreed the building should be torn down. He said he could not afford it and didn't know how long it would take. Mayor asked if this address was included in the application for LCDBG Funding. It was confirmed that it was included, and the grant process was explained to the owner. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to condemn building and grant 90-day extension to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.
- m. 406 N Lightner: Mr. Chaselin Martin came forward. Mayor Watkins asked what he proposed to do with the building. Mr. Martin said that he was selling the home to Coast to Coast Homes. Mr. Bouquet asked for a contact name and phone number. He gave the contact name and phone number of the person he had been working with on the sale of the property. Mayor Watkins asked to continue with the condemnation. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to condemn building and allow 60 days to begin demolition. The motion carried unanimously.
- n. 304 N Welty: Nobody was present. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to condemn building, and grant 60 days to the owner to demolish it. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item three on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve Local Services Agreement for the collection of the Old Spanish Trail Economic Development District 2% Sales & Use Taxes with and between Town of Iowa and Calcasieu Parish School Board and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute said agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item four on the agenda. It was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2024-12. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2024-12

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

Council Meeting Date: April 24, 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) 3- Verizon Jetpack MiFi
- 2) 2-Vizio 39" TESLA
- 3) 1-iphone 6S
- 4) 1- iphone6S Plus

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, public.notices@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 read item five on the agenda, Introduction of Ordinance No. 2024-07, An Ordinance Amending FY 2023-2024 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. The Town Clerk explained the three funds affected by the amendment. It was reported that Sales Tax II, Streets, received a grant from State Legislature, ACT #397, that was not in the original budget; General Fund will be transferring money from Sales Tax I to cover the cost for expenses of computer/electronic data security and updates.

Mr. Mark Owens, Attorney, came forward to report that the Town of Iowa and Mayor Watkins, in his capacity as Mayor has officially been served with a lawsuit concerning the ground lease of the Iowa Mall. He answered questions from the Council Members and Town Clerk and announced that he will be filing a counter suit on behalf of the town. Mr. Owens explained that the town's liability insurance company was notified and has contacted him. He said he wishes to continue on the case. Mayor Watkins and Council Members agreed to continue having Mr. Owens represent the Town of Iowa in this case.

With no further business, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

ATTEST:

Dougals N. Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, Town Clerk

BUDGET HEARING
AND
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 June 10, 2024 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 ordinances:

Ordinance 2024-07

An Ordinance Amending the FY 2023/2024 Budget for the Town of IOWA Louisiana

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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