

Minutes
Public Hearing Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
November 4, 2024
Iowa, La
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Douglas Watkins called a public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Present was Mayor Watkins; Council Members Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry, and Vernessa Guillory; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 11 persons

Mayor read the title of Ordinance No. 2024-14, An Ordinance amending the FY 2023/2024 budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. A citizen asked if there were any changes to the budget. Mayor Watkins said there were no additions to the budget, but amounts were moved from one fund to the correct fund.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:02 pm.

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
City Hall Meeting
Room
November 4, 2024 7:02
p.m.

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 7:02pm.

Mayor Watkins called roll. Present: Mayor Douglas Watkins; Council Members: Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Julie Fontenot, and Vernessa Guillory; 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 11 citizens.

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

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

It was **moved** by Julie Fontenot, **seconded** by Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting October 14, 2024 and Special Meeting October 28, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor read the first item of the agenda; Old Business: Motion to approve Attornment Agreement by and between Town of Iowa and Pro Quarters, LLC. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved** by Daniel Hennigan, **seconded** by Julie Fontenot to approve the Attornment Agreement by and between Town of Iowa and Pro Quarters, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda for New Business. It was **moved** by Julie Fontenot, **seconded** by Joe Becnel to approve Ordinance 2024-14. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-14

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING THE FY 2023/2024 BUDGET FOR THE
TOWN OF IOWA LOUISIANA**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana that:

The following is an amended statement of the FY23/24 Budget

SECTION 1: The following is an amended statement of the probable receipts and disbursements of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30th, 2024 and the same is hereby declared to be and is designated the adopted amended budget for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for FY 2023-2024.

General Fund

Changes:	Budget		Actual
Expenses:			
For police and Court	\$2,353,855.00	to	\$3,553,855.00
General Fund Total Expense	\$3,267,406.00	to	\$4,467,406.00

Sales Tax I Water Improvement

Changes:	Budget		Actual
Revenue:			
Fema Disaster Assistance:	\$ 800,000.00	to	\$ 200,000.00
Sales Tax I Total Revenue	\$3,282,925.00	to	\$2,682,925.00

Sales tax III

Changes:	Budget		Actual
Revenues:			
Grant Revenues:	\$ 226,400.00	to	\$ 16,000.00
Sales Tax III Total Revenue	\$ 790,400.00	to	\$ 590,400.00

SECTION 2: This section shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Council Members of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in Regular Session duly convened on November 4, 2024, an amended budget for the fiscal year of 2023 and 2024 be adopted and enacted.

THUS DONE AND INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, held on the 14th day of October, 2024.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 4th day of November, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 6th day of November, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 6th day of November, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 6th day of November, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 6th day of November, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read item #2 on the agenda. He explained that a mobile home was moved into town without an inspection or moving permit. Ms. Sara Talbot, owner of mobile home, located at 608 W. Highway 90, Iowa, LA, came forward. Mayor Watkins said that the inspector told him that the State Fire Marshal will have to grant the permit to continue the work on the mobile home. She presented the pictures of the work being done. She stated that it is a 1997-year model mobile home with a wind zone II. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to table this item until further reports are available. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and invited Chief Vincent to come forward. Chief Vincent came forward and recommended the following resolution approved. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2024-21. The motion passed unanimously. Resolution 2024-21

A Resolution to Declare Property as Surplus And Assign to Pedersen & Pedersen Auctions; Also to sell items of no value for junk scrap

Council Meeting Date: November 4, 2024

Be It Resolved:

1. The Town of Iowa declares that the following property used by Iowa Police Department is no longer needed by the town and is declared surplus property and is assigned to Pedersen & Pedersen Auctions 6170 Highway 90 E, Lake Charles, LA 7061.

Description

- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RCJ1FC
- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RCJ16G
- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RCJ16H
- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RCJ16J
- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RCJ167
- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RC918G
- HP DESKJET PRINTER BEARING S/N CN01RC917D
- PANASONIC LAPTOP MODEL SF-73 BEARING S/N 4KKS A69315 (HARD DRIVE REMOVED)
- MOTOROLA MODEL HK1322 BEARING S/N 3433KS0147
- MOTOROLA MODEL HK1322 BEARING S/N 3433KS0131
- MOTOROLA MODEL HK1322 BEARING S/N 3433KS0169
- MOTOROLA MODEL HK1322 BEARING S/N 3433KS0134
- ONE (1) CHICAGO ELECTRIC GAS GENERATOR BEARING S/N MO52241312
- 2 LARGE BLACK SPEAKERS
- BROTHER PRINTER MODEL MFC-L3770CDW BEARING S/N U65180K8N305520
- ONE (1) ION BLUETOOTH SPEAKER, TRI-POD STAND, & MICROPHONE

2. The Town of Iowa declares that the following property used by Iowa Police Department is no longer needed and has no value and is declared junk to be sold as scrap.

Description

- GAMBER-JOHNSON LAPTOP STAND BEARING S/N 33609AZO005
- GAMBER-JOHNSON LAPTOP STAND BEARING S/N 33609AZO010
- GAMBER-JOHNSON LAPTOP STAND BEARING S/N 33609AZO009
- GAMBER-JOHNSON LAPTOP STAND BEARING S/N 33609AZO016
- 4 2-DRAWER METAL FILING CABINETS

3. 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.

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Chief Vincent recommended promoting SGT Mattie Gaspard to Lieutenant. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to promote SGT Mattie Gaspard to Lieutenant. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Vincent recommended transfer for LT Thomas to part-time patrolman effective 10/14/2024. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to transfer LT Thomas to part-time patrolman. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Vincent recommended hiring Austin Peloquin as part time patrol officer. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to hire Austin Peloquin as part time patrol officer. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Vincent thanked State Representative Troy Romero and State Senator Abraham for the legislative grant to the police department. Chief Vincent asked that he be placed on the January agenda to discuss his budget.

Mayor Watkins read the next agenda item. He read the proposed resolution and reported a summary of the rate study outcome. He explained how they arrived at the sewer rate decrease. Ms. Tosh Leonard asked each Council Member and Mayor how much they paid for their water bill. Each Council Member reported what their utility bill is for their home. Ms. Johnson asked about the criteria of the grants for water and sewer. Mayor Watkins answered her question. It was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2024-22. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2024-22

A Resolution setting Utility Rates, Tap Fees, Charges for Other Services, and Account Fees EFFECTIVE November 1, 2024

WHEREAS, The Town of Iowa has a legal and fiduciary duty to increase or decrease water and sewer rates as necessary for the service of providing water and sewer; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa, based on a water and sewer rate study provided by Louisiana Rural Water Association, reports that In Town Residential Sewer rates may decrease; and

THEREFORE, the Town of Iowa maintains the following commercial rates for water and commercial rates for sewer.

COMMERCIAL RATES:

In Town Water:	\$15.00 for the first 1,000 gallons or less \$34.00 after 1,000 gallons up to 2,000 gallons \$ 3.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons
Out of Town Water:	\$20.00 for the first 1,000 gallons or less \$39.00 after 1,000 gallons up to 2,000 gallons \$ 3.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons
In Town Sewer:	\$20.00 for first 1,000 gallons or less \$37.00 after 1,000 gallons up to 2,000 gallons \$ 3.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons

Out of Town Sewer: \$25.00 for first 1,000 gallons or less
\$42.00 after 1,000 gallons up to 2,000 gallons
\$3.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons

FURTHER, THEREFORE, the Town of Iowa maintains the In Town Water, Out of Town Water, and Out of Town Sewer Residential Rates; and establishes new In Town Residential Sewer Rates.

RESIDENTIAL RATES:

In Town Water: \$15.00 for first 1,000 gallons or less
\$22.00 after 1,000 gallons up to 2,000 gallons
\$ 3.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons

Out of Town Water: \$20.00 for first 1,000 gallons or less
\$27.00 after 1,000 gallons up to 2,000 gallons
\$3.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons

In Town Sewer: \$20.00 for first 2,000 gallons or less
\$29.00 after 2,000 gallons up to 4,000 gallons
\$3.75 per 1,000 gallons after 4,000

FUTHERMORE, The Town of Iowa hereby maintains the following bulk water purchase rate, Tap Fees, Deposits, and other services as follows:

BULK WATER RATE: \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons

WATER TAP FEES: \$ 815.00 for 3/4 inch water tap
\$2,910.00 for 2-inch water tap
Greater than two (2) inches shall be based on the actual cost basis.
Cost to locate existing water tap on Town Right-of-way shall be \$50.00

SEWER TAP FEES: \$550.00 up to four (4) inches
Greater than four(4) inches and any tap over fifty (50) feet in length and all other taps not listed above, shall be billed at cost including but not limited to labor and materials with a copy of said cost to be furnished to user.
Cost to locate existing sewer tap on Town Right -of-way shall be \$50.00

DEPOSITS:

Residential shall pay \$150.00 for a deposit before services will be turned on.
Commercial shall pay \$200.00 for a deposit before services will be turned on.

OTHER SERVICES: Location of water or sewer lines on private property with Right of Entry or Affidavit shall be \$100.00. Other services on private property shall be billed on a cost recovery basis. Acceptance and scheduling of the above services shall be at the discretion of the lead supervisor and shall be scheduled based on his department workload.

Schedule of Other fees and charges:

Delinquent Account Service Fee	\$25.00
NSF/Return Payment/EFT Fee	\$25.00
Meter Profile Request	\$25.00

Damaged/Missing Lock, Valve or Fittings.	\$75.00
Removal of Water Meter	\$15.00
Damage to Water Meter	\$250.00 3/4 inch meter
	\$375.00 1 inch meter
	\$3500.00 2 inch meter
	\$3910.00 4 inch meter
Damage/Missing Water Meter Lid	\$24.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council Members for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in regular session this date does hereby set the above listed utility rates, services, and account fees. The following Council Members voted:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREAS, this resolution was declared adopted on this 4th day of November, 2024.

APPROVED:

Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and asked if Chief Vincent would like to comment. Chief Vincent said they are satisfied with their equipment and would recommend renewing the agreement. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve contract by and between Town of Iowa and Saltus Technologies(digiTicket). The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor read the next item on the agenda; Discuss Iowa Recreation League. He presented a preliminary draft resolution, setting the guidelines for creating a recreation advisory committee. There were questions and comments made from Council Members Julie Fontenot and Daniel Hennigan. Mayor expanding on the thoughts and plans for an Iowa Recreation League. A comment was made by a citizen concerning tournaments and how other towns/cities operate them. Mayor Watkins agreed and said they would follow most of how others operate theirs. Council Member Daniel Hennigan gave suggestions for setting up appointments of the commission. Chief Vincent asked how the expenses would be paid, from general funds or parks. Mayor Watkins said it would have to come out of parks. There were questions and comments from a few citizens about the Recreation department. Mayor Watkins answered their questions.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda; Introduction of Ordinance 2024-15, An Ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council. Mayor Watkins said the days and times of the meetings would remain the same as present. He asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins asked Cindy Mallett to give the monthly financial report. Cindy Mallett gave the report of finances for the month of October.

With no further business it was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

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 December 9, 2024 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m., located at 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 2024-15

An ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council

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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