

**Minutes  
Public Hearing  
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647  
August 25, 2025**

Mayor Douglas Watkins called a public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

There was present, Mayor Watkins; Council Members Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, and Vernessa Guillory; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; About 20 people.

Mayor Watkins read the introduced Ordinance No. 2025-04, An Ordinance to amending Article III Administration, Section 2-64 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, Providing for the fixing of the retainer/salary of Municipal Attorney.

Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. Public Hearing was closed at 7:01 pm.

**Minutes  
Special Meeting  
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647  
August 25, 2025**

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 7:01 pm.

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

Others present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 20 people.

Invocation was said by Pastor Weishampel, followed by the pledge.

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

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adopt Ordinance 2025-04. The motion passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE 2025-04**

**An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article III Administration, Section 2-64 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; Providing for the fixing of the retainer/salary of Municipal Attorney.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that the retainer/salary of the Municipal Attorney be set at \$1,500.00 per month for ordinary municipal affairs and \$200.00 per month for duties as prosecutor for Town of Iowa Mayor's Court. The Municipal Attorney may charge the Town of Iowa for any extra ordinary work at the Attorney General's approved rate of

\$275.00 per hour. The term "extra ordinary work" shall mean legal services rendered to the Town of Iowa that the Municipal Attorney determines, in his discretion, are outside the ordinary course and scope of his duties as Municipal Attorney. The Town of Iowa acknowledges and agrees that the Municipal Attorney may assign or direct extra ordinary work to attorneys and/or staff at the law firm of Stutes & Lavergne, LLC provided that the rate charged by such attorneys and staff shall not exceed the Attorney General's approved hourly rate for legal services as applicable to the individual performing extra ordinary work. The Municipal Attorney shall also be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Town of Iowa including, but not limited to, postage, filing fees, printing, or other legal costs.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that beginning January 1, 2027, the Municipal Attorney's retainer/salary shall be set at \$2,000.00 per month for ordinary municipal affairs and \$500.00 per month for duties as prosecutor for Town of Iowa Mayor's Court. The Municipal Attorney may charge the Town of Iowa for any extra ordinary work at the Attorney General's approved rate of 275 per hour or the maximum Attorney General rate in effect as of January 1, 2027, whichever is greater. The term "extra ordinary work" shall mean legal services rendered to the Town of Iowa that the Municipal Attorney determines, in his discretion, are outside the ordinary course and scope of his duties as Municipal Attorney. The Town of Iowa acknowledges and agrees that the Municipal Attorney may assign or direct extra ordinary work to attorneys and/or staff at the law firm of Stutes & Lavergne, LLC provided that the rate charged by such attorneys and staff shall not exceed the Attorney General's approved hourly rate for legal services as applicable to the individual performing extra ordinary work. The Municipal Attorney shall also be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Town of Iowa including, but not limited to, postage, filing fees, printing, or other legal costs.

This ordinance shall become effective on September 1, 2025.

The above and foregoing addition to the Code of Ordinances, Town of Iowa, Louisiana, has been read and adopted and is only intended as an addition to said Ordinances and the remaining Ordinances and the past enacted Ordinances are still in full force and effect.

The foregoing ordinance introduced on August 11, 2025, a Public Hearing held on August 25, 2025, was read and considered as a whole. Upon the motion by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory, A vote thereon was called for, with the following results.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 25th day of August, 2025.

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**DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR**

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 26th day of August, 2025.

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**CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK**

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 26th day of August, 2025.

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**DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR**

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

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**DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR**

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025 .

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**CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK**

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda. The mayor confirmed that the grant that we were applying for was a grant for planning, not for construction. It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve Resolution 2025-10. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10**

**A Resolution applying for and accepting  
Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant**

WHEREAS, United States Department of Transportation desires to increase organizational capacity in communities that may not have resources available to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs, and:

WHEREAS, Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant, with no matching funds, can assist with project development and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa is in need of project development funds for the Emergency Operating Center, Boulevard, Utility Infrastructure, and Economic Development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Iowa Louisiana, authorizes Mayor Watkins to apply, accept, and sign all required documents required for the said non-matching grant up to \$2,500,000.00 for the purpose of development and planning for the Emergency Operating Center, Boulevard, Utility Infrastructure, and Economic Development.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August , 2025.

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**DOUGLAS N. WATKINS  
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

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**CYNTHIA MALLET, MMC  
TOWN CLERK**

Mayor Watkins invited anyone that would like to come forward and say any kind words to Mr. Gene Bouquet in recognition of his retirement. The following persons came forward and spoke: Prior Mayor Racca; Chief Vincent; Council Members Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, and Gerald Guidry; and Magistrate David Olney;

Mayor Watkins invited Mr. Gene to come forward. Mr. Gene came forward. Mayor Watkins read the Proclamation honoring Town Attorney Eugene "Gene" Bouquet and proclaimed August 29, 2025 as

Eugene "Gene" Bouquet Day. The Mayor also presented Mr. Bouquet with a thank you card and departing service award on behalf of the Town of Iowa. Mr. Bouquet said a few words thanking everyone.

Mayor Watkins invited Mr. Russell Stutes III, new Town Attorney for the Town of Iowa, to come forward. Mr. Stutes came forward and said that he had big shoes to fill in respect to following Mr. Gene as Attorney, and answered a couple of questions from the citizens about himself.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

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Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

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Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk