

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
October 13, 2025

Mayor Watkins and Town Council met in Regular session this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice.

Mayor Watkins commented on two topics. 1. Demolition Project: Mayor read an email from Attorney Mark Judson, curator, for the property located at 502 Railroad Avenue, Iowa, LA. He told the Council that a copy of this email will be given to them for their review, and action needed to be taken soon. 2. Yellow Jacket statue: Mayor Watkins talked about the City of Ruston's bulldog mascot displayed by businesses throughout the city. He said he got prices for the town to have a mold made of the Iowa Yellow Jacket. The cost for the trade marked mold is \$7500.00 then each unpainted statue is \$4500.00, and the minimum order is 5 statues.

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

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.

Also, present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 9 people.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by the pledge.

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

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes, as submitted, for regular meeting September 8, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins recognized guests Mr. Dane Bolin, Administrator of Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and Mr. Tony Stelly, Calcasieu Parish Police Juror. Mayor Watkins invited Mr. Bolin to come forward.

Mr. Bolin came forward and gave a brief introduction. He stated he wanted to assist the Town of Iowa and talked about the projects they are working on for the parish and the town. In conclusion he said he just wanted to come by and say hello.

Mayor Watkins asked Town Clerk, Cynthia Mallett, to give the financial report. Cynthia gave the financial report. She asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no comments or questions.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. He read: Public Notice is hereby given in compliance with La R.S. 42:19.1, that the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, will meet in open and public session on the 10th day of November, 2025, at 7:00p.m., at the City Hall, 115 N. Thomson, Iowa, Louisiana, to consider calling an election to be held in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, on April 18, 2026, to consider renew and levy in perpetuity, the 1% sales and use tax, currently being collected, for the following purposes: (1) maintenance and construction of streets, sidewalks and street lighting; (2) maintenance and construction of sewerage treatment facilities, systems, pumps and sewer lines; and (3) general administrative and general fund needs. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. There were questions or comments.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2025-13. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2025-13

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

Council Meeting Date: October 13, 2025

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) 1-Brother Laserjet Intelli Fax 2840
- 2) Yealink phones: 14-T29G, 2-EXP-40, 1-T46S, 1-T48G
- 3) 1 Sound System: Peavy impulse 1015 with 2 speakers and a XR8600D 1200 W. Mixer, comes with all wiring
- 4) 1-Xerox Documate 4440 Scanner

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 read the next item on the agenda. Introduction of Ordinance 2025-05, An Ordinance Amending the FY 2024/2025 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. Mayor Watkins asked Cindy Mallett, Town Clerk, to provide an explanation of the introduced ordinance. Cindy explained that upon the close of the annual fiscal audit if any funds' revenue or expenditures are 5% difference it is required to be amended. The town's auditors gave us the numbers that needed to be considered for 2024/2025 fiscal year budget amendments. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. Council Member Dainel Hennigan inquired about the difference being amended in revenue from Fema Disaster Assistance and PJ Drainage Grant. Cindy Mallett explained that these revenues were received or will be received in the current fiscal year instead of FY 2024/2025 and that is why it needed to be amended. No other questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda, motion to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with and between the Town of Iowa and Coushatta Tribe for the purpose of providing water and sewer services.

He asked if there were any questions or concerns. Ms. Linda Leonard confirmed that the Coushatta business would be outside Calcasieu Parish. She asked why they couldn't get water where they would be. Mayor explained there are no water or sewer services at that location. She asked who would pay for this and what this would do to the town's water and sewer system. Mayor Watkins said that currently it won't do anything to our system. Mayor Watkins explained that through this agreement, Coushatta is paying for everything to get sewer and water from us and at the end they will be paying us like any other business for their usage. Mayor Watkins explained that the more people on our system could mean lower rates for everyone because the cost would be spread out to more people. He explained that after the project is complete and accepted by the town, then it will belong to the town. He said that the sewer line will be gravity fed so there is less mechanical maintenance and the water line will be 12 inches. Council Member Julie Fontenot asked about the Sales Taxes going to Jeff Davis Parish. Mayor Watkins said that even though this property is not associated with the casino it is in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Land Management Program and allows them not to pay taxes. Mayor Watkins stated the amount Coushatta agreed to pay is up to 1.6 million dollars for the project. Ms. Leonard asked what would happen if someone damaged the line after the town took ownership of it. Mayor Watkins said whoever damages the line would pay for it. He explained with a 12" waterline it provides for more businesses to come in and, have more people attached to that waterline. He asked if there were any more questions. There were no further questions or comments.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with and between the Town of Iowa and Coushatta Tribe for the purpose of providing water and sewer services. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda, Motion to correct motion and vote of Council dated June 9, 2025 regarding the following promotions: a. Austin Peloquin from ssg/acting executive officer to lieutenant/executive officer b. Matt Doucet from detective sergeant to detective staff sergeant c. Seth Whetstine from patrolman to sergeant/fto d. Kevin Loewer from patrolman to patrolman first class e. Austin Sonnier from patrolman to patrolman first class. Attorney Russ Stutes gave an explanation that this motion needed to be made to make clear the Council's decision from the June 9, 2025 Council Meeting. Mr. Stutes explained the R. S. in the Lawrason Act and the authorization of the Council to make promotions, hire, fire, and discipline police department personnel based on the recommendation of the police chief. There were discussions and questions by the Council, Mayor and Mr. Stutes about personnel policies. Mr. Stutes recommended that the town update the personnel policy and adopt it by ordinance. Mayor Watkins suggested that the council put this to rest and vote. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel, effective June 9, 2025, to promote Austin Peloquin from ssg/acting executive officer to lieutenant/executive officer, Matt Doucet from detective sergeant to detective staff sergeant, Seth Whetstine from patrolman to sergeant/fto, Kevin Loewer from patrolman to patrolman first class, Austin Sonnier from patrolman to patrolman first class. The motion passed unanimously.

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 8:04pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk

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 November 10, 2025 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 2025-05

An ordinance amending the FY 2024/2025 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.
Published in Lake Charles American Press.