

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
September 8, 2025**

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 7:02 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.

Also, present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 5 people.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by the 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 submitted, for regular meeting August 11, 2025, and Special Meeting August 25, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

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. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve Resolution 2025-11. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

A RESOLUTION accepting the substantial completion of
Project No. 1-2022-204 City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall
Improvements for the Town of Iowa, LA, and authorizing the
advertising of the lien period

WHEREAS, Blake D. Hines, Inc. has substantially completed its contract with the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, for Project No. 1-2022-204, City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall Improvements, Town of Iowa, LA,

WHEREAS, D. W. Jessen & Associates, LLC has informed the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that Blake D. Hines, Inc. has substantially completed its contract and that the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, should accept the said improvements as substantially complete from the said contractor and assume the maintenance of the same;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in special session convened, that:

SECTION I: All of the above and foregoing provisions are hereby made a part of this resolutory provision; and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, the governing authority of the said Town, does hereby accept from the said Blake D. Hines, Inc. as substantially completed, the heretofore described substantial completion of Project No. 1-2022-204, City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall Improvements, Town of Iowa, LA, and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby accept said improvements for maintenance.

SECTION 2: The Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby authorize the running of a legal advertisement notifying lien holders affected that the final payment will be made at the end of the lien period of forty-five (45) days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this the 8th day of September, 2025.

DOUGLAS N. WATKINS, MAYOR
TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLET, CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and asked Cindy Mallett, Town Clerk, to provide an explanation of the resolution. Cindy explained that the resolution is for the approval of the annual Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire required by the Legislative Auditors Office for the completion of the town's audit process and reporting. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Resolution 2025-12. The motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution 2025-12

A Resolution to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire was received from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, and was properly completed by the Clerk of the Town of Iowa and presented to the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa in the same as hereby approved and adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Compliance Questionnaire be filed in the records of the Town of Iowa and further, that a completed copy of the Resolution be forwarded to McElroy, Quirk, & Burch, the auditing firm engaged by the Town of Iowa to test the accuracy of the answers to questionnaire and submit to the Town of Iowa and the Legislative Auditor their opinion and validity of the answers therein contained.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, Clerk

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Mayor Watkins asked Town Attorney Russ Stutes to explain the ability of the town to trade one parcel of property for another parcel of property. Mr. Stutes explained that Public Purpose, constitutionally for parks and recreation, gives the town the ability to do this as long as the transfer is for public purposes. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or comments. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve the exchange of ownership of parcel #0072, 302 W HWY 90, Iowa, LA for parcel #00728071@300906-0000-1200022 000 for the purpose and benefit of public parks; and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute any and all documents for this exchange. The motion passed unanimously.

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. Mayor Watkins requested that this item be held off and asked that Mr. Stutes explain. Mr. Stutes explained that later today there were some changes in language to the CEA and we have not been able to review it thoroughly. It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Daniel Hennigan** to table this item. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk