

Minutes
Public Hearing Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
July 22, 2024
Iowa, La
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Douglas Watkins called a public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were 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; About 32 Citizens.

Mayor Watkins read the title of introduced Ordinance 2024-10. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Margo Racca asked when ordinance 2024-04 was passed. Mayor Watkins told her April 2024. No further questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins read the title of introduced Ordinance 2024-11. He asked if there were any questions or comments. A citizen asked questions about the tax and the district. Mayor Watkins explained that these ordinances would do away with the entire district. No further questions or comments were made

Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

Minutes
Special Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
City Hall Meeting Room
July 22, 2024 7:03 p.m.

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

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 32 public individuals.

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

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

Old Business:

Mayor Watkins read the first item. Motion to approve and grant a variance of Chapter 5 Section 39(a) of the Town of Iowa Code of Ordinances, Facilities and location regulated and limited, specific to public library footages for Brent Stantz d/b/a The Buzz Daiquiris, LLC located at 110 S Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana upon the completion and approval of the State of Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control. Mayor Watkins invited Mr. Brent Stantz to come forward. Mayor Watkins asked if there were

any questions. Council Member Julie Fontenot asked where the entrance and exit would be located. Mr. Stantz said that they have a preliminary location, but it would have to be approved by DOTD. Ms. Fontenot said that she met with Mr. Tony Stelly, Calcasieu Parish Police Juror. She talked about her conversation with Mr. Stelly, the library rules for children being outside of the library, and she asked Chief Vincent if a sign was located at the library concerning this if they would enforce it. Chief Vincent said they would patrol and do their duty and if there was a violation then there would be a fine. Council Member and Chief Vincent discussed crossing guards, school routes for the dropping off and picking up of children, and parking areas.

Council Member Vernessa Guillory asked what the business hours would be. Mr. Stantz replied, 4-10pm. Ms. Margo Racca came forward and addressed the Mayor, Council, and Town Officials. She read her statement of opposition to the variance. Mayor Watkins thanked her for coming.

Ms. Linda Leonard was recognized to speak. She voiced her opposition to the variance.

Mr. Dwayne Nunez was recognized and came forward. He asked if the Mayor and Council received a copy of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control Petition to oppose issuance of an alcoholic beverage permit. He asked if they understood what it meant. He said he was filing it with the State of Louisiana. He said he couldn't find anywhere in the State of Louisiana that there is a bar across the street from a public library. He asked if we wanted to set that type of precedence.

Someone asked about the other establishments that sell alcohol and that they are located closer to the school. There was discussion about this and the exceptions to this section of the Ordinance in reference to on-site consumption. Mr. Stantz reported that he is required by law to have a set space in the building for patrons, it is part of the application requirements.

Mr. Macer was recognized and spoke about the safety of the children and voiced his opposition to the variance.

Ms. Melissa Macer was recognized. Ms. Macer also voiced her opposition to the variance.

Ms. Dartez was recognized and encouraged the town to be pro-business.

Ms. Dugas asked for clarification on having a sit-down and drive-through facility. Mr. Stantz answered her question that it was required for his alcohol permit that he has a space for patrons to sit down.

Mr. Nunez asked if the Council would grant the variance prior to granting Mr. Stantz an alcohol permit.

Mr. Stantz answered his question that he must have this variance before he builds the building.

Mr. Burt was recognized. Mr. Burt talked about the process of the Council waiving the ordinance and issuance of the alcohol permit.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve and grant a variance of Chapter 7 Section 39(a) of the Town of Iowa Code of Ordinances, Facilities and location regulated and limited, specific to public library footages for Brent Stantz d/b/a The Buzz Daiquiris, LLC located at 110 S Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana upon the completion and approval of the State of Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tabacco Control. The motion passed with the vote as follows: Yeas: Julie Fontenot, Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, and Joe Becnel. Nays: None Abstain: Daniel Hennigan Absent: None

New Business:

Mayor Watkins read the title to Ordinance No. 2024-10. He asked if there were any comments. There were no comments. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-10. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10

AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04, AN ORDINANCE CREATING "THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, STATE OF LOUISIANA"; DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF FROM WHICH AREA LOCAL AND STATE SALES TAX INCREMENTS WILL BE DETERMINED AND USED TO FINANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND AS AUTHORIZED BY PART II OF CHAPTER 27 OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Iowa adopted Ordinance No. 2024-04 on the 8th day of April, 2024; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for further consideration and analyzation of the impact of Ordinance No. 2024-04. THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Ordinance No. 2024-04 be rescinded, revoked, and withdrawn.

This ordinance shall become effective upon signature of the Mayor, the elapse of ten days after receipt by the Mayor without signature or override of a veto, whichever occurs first.

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 22nd day of July, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 23rd day of July, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 23rd day of July, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 23rd day of July, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 23rd day of July, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the title to Ordinance 2024-11. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-11. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-11

AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05, AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL SALES TAX OF TWO PERCENT (2.00%) IN "THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, STATE OF LOUISIANA" (THE DISTRICT); DESIGNATING THE FULL AMOUNT OF SUCH SALES TAX AS THE SALES TAX INCREMENTS IN THE DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE LOCAL AND STATE SALES TAX WILL BE DETERMINED AND USED TO FINANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND AS AUTHORIZED BY PART II, CHAPTER 27, TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED; DESIGNATING THE INITIAL ANNUAL BASELINE COLLECTION RATE AND ESTABLISHING A MONTHLY BASELINE COLLECTION RATE FOR THE

DISTRICT; PLEDGING AND DEDICATING SUCH TAX INCREMENTS TO REIMBURSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Iowa adopted Ordinance No. 2024-05 on the 8th day of April, 2024; and

WHEREAS, upon the rescinding of Ordinance No. 2024-04, an ordinance creating “The Old Spanish Trail Economic Development District, State of Louisiana” which is a companion ordinance to Ordinance No. 2024-04, Ordinance No. 2024-05 must be rescinded also.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Ordinance No. 2024-05 be rescinded, revoked, and withdrawn.

This ordinance shall become effective upon signature of the Mayor, the elapse of ten days after receipt by the Mayor without signature or override of a veto, whichever occurs first.

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 22nd day of July, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 23rd day of July, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 23rd day of July, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 23rd day of July, 2004.

DOUGLAS WATKINS
MAYOR

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 23rd day of July, 2024.

CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read item three of New Business Agenda; motion to approve Louisiana Rural Water Association to perform Rate Study for Town of Iowa Water And Wastewater. Mayor announced that we don't have the exact date when they will start but it will be in the month of August. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve LRWA to perform Rate Study for Town of Iowa Water and Wastewater. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item four of New Business Agenda. Chief Vincent asked for confirmation that the exception pertains only to do with the newly created position for the park director and has no bearing or effect on anything that is already existing in the current policies with the police department or the town. Mayor Watkins confirmed that it has nothing to do with the police department and has nothing to do with anything but the attached document. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2024-16 with the noted addition of part-time. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Watkins explained and read the job description of a part time position of a park director that was added to the personnel policy. Questions and comments were made concerning the position, pay amount, who was hired, and how many hours were being paid. Mayor Watkins answered all questions.

RESOLUTION 2024-16

A RESOLUTION REGARDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND BENEFITS FOR TOWN OF IOWA EMPLOYEES AND SUPERSEDES ANY AND ALL OTHER POLICY EDITION, MEMORANDA, OR OTHER TOWN OF IOWA POLICIES WHETHER WRITTEN OR ORAL

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa has a need to revise the present Personnel Policies and Procedures adopted March 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the revised Personnel Policy will help prevent misunderstanding and problems, and to ensure that all employees know what is expected of them; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Policy has been prepared as a guide and reference for employees. Nothing in this Policy creates an express or implied contract or promise concerning the Town of Iowa's policies or practices, including policies or practices it will implement in the future. The Town of Iowa retains the right to establish, change, and abolish these policies, practices, rules and regulations at will and as it sees fit; and

WHEREAS, nothing in the Personnel Policy is intended to violate the law. Any provision violating the law shall be deemed automatically reformed to be consistent with applicable law. Also, should any provision in this Policy be found to be unenforceable, invalid, or violate of law, such finding does not invalidate the entire Town of Iowa Personnel Policy, but only that particular provision.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Iowa Town Council, Iowa, Louisiana as follows:

The Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said personnel policies, a copy of which is attached hereto and by this reference made part hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of July, 2023.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan, to adjourn meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC