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## Town of Iowa

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Monthly Mayors Report

November 14, 2023

### THE UGLY

In life there are always outside forces that contribute to hardships, or just downright delays in being able to overcome situations. The biggest culprit in our world today is complacency. So many times, we develop habits and those habits become second nature. Our routines then dictate what we do and how we respond to situations. One area of our lives this is most evident is our voting habits. We for the most part have become disgusted with politics to the point we no longer exercise our right to vote. I am right there with you with the disgust, but the **ONLY** way we can fix what is broken is to act. This requires us all to break the habit of not voting because we convince ourselves it doesn't matter. When was the last time you researched whom to vote for, or for that matter even voted? In a country where our freedoms are being assaulted, will you continue to sit on the sidelines and not exercise your right to vote? Election day is November 18, 2023, and we have Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, BESE all on the ballot. Join me on Saturday the 18th and VOTE!

**THE BAD** Inflation is continuing to be stubborn and pricing for necessities continue to encroach on individual finances. The meter replacements have been completed and at the end of last month I directed our water department to NOT begin metering at this time. Even though we are not covering our cost, I felt it necessary to give the residents till the first of the year to anticipate and adjust for the possibility that the metered water may increase your individual billing if you exceed the gallons under the current structure. Please keep in mind that in December we will send out a mock bill based on water usage. Please take this time to research your use so you know how to plan. If you need a rate schedule, please contact Town hall for the information.

**THE GOOD** Progress is being made on many aspects of economic development. I am very hopeful that next year will be extremely busy as we begin setting the cornerstone for growth to our town and region.

**LIGHTING THE PARK:** You don't want to miss this event 5:30 Pm December the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a little Christmas music and a very short ceremony to light the park. Come visit and celebrate the season with your neighbors and friends.

**FARMERS MARKET:** Our November Market was quite eventful with nearly 30 vendors and the Chili cook off as part of our events. Shout out to the winners and all the participants that made the first Chili cook-off a success.

Gearing up for December we look forward to Santa Claus being in attendance, so don't forget to bring the kids out to take pictures with the jolly St. Nick. Farmers Market December 2, 8am-12 noon. Music as always.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Some of you may have caught the news a couple of weeks ago about “a cyber breach” to the Town of Iowa. Just so we are clear, I still can't get into specifics when it comes to an open investigation. However, what I can say is that we are moving forward with a clear plan of action and that we are thankful for the assistance that has been provided during this time. At a time in the future, we will be able to address some of the specifics as would be concerning to the public, but until such a time we will remain vigilant and will continue to move forward with the business of fiscal responsibility, economic development, and maintenance to give the Town of Iowa the quality of life we all long for.

Looking for something to do in our community, - Volunteer! So many things you can do to help. There are people just like you that wish to see this community unite and make Iowa all it can be.

***Words to live by:*** Remember “respect” nurtures community, disrespect brings chaos and division.

Mayor Watkins