

Minutes
Public Hearing Meeting
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson
August 12, 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 16 Citizens.

Mayor Watkins read the title of introduced Ordinance 2024-12, An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2024-09, authorizing the name of E 1st Street Located in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana to be Amended and Changed to Foreman Street; now hereby authorizing the name of Foreman Street to Foreman Brothers Street and otherwise with respect thereto. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. Council Member Daniel Hennigan added that when it is official and effective that something be done to dedicate it. No further questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins read the title of introduced Ordinance 2024-13, An Ordinance Abandoning or Revoking the Dedication of Certain Undeveloped Streets Findley Subdivision, Plat Book 4 Page 116 of Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. A question was asked about the location of Findley Subdivision. Mayor Watkins explained the location and the reason for the abandonment of the undeveloped Street.

Mayor Watkins closed the public hearing at 7:04 pm.

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
City Hall Meeting Room
August 12, 2024 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Watkins and Town Council met in regular 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 16 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.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting July 8, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Special Meeting July 16, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by**, Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for July 22, 2024 with an inclusion on page two, Paragraph two, to be: Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated that he personally is biased about alcohol, and all the points are relevant to the issue but out of all the people he reached out to in the Town of Iowa, 71% were a resounding yes to grant the waiver and that is my dilemma. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor read the first item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-12. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-12

An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2024-09, authorizing the name of E 1st Street Located in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana to be Amended and Changed to Foreman Street; now hereby authorizing the name of Foreman Street to Foreman Brothers Street and otherwise with respect thereto.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE IOWA TOWN COUNCIL of Iowa, Louisiana, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana do hereby change and amend the name of that certain street by Ordinance 2024-09, from E 1st Street to Foreman Street, now from Foreman Street to Foreman Brothers Street, effective December 1, 2024.

SECTION 2: The Town Clerk of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana is hereby directed to file a copy of this Ordinance with the Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court, and a report of the adoption of the ordinance shall be filed with the Calcasieu Parish Registrar of Voters, as required by law.

THIS ORDINANCE will become effective December 1, 2024. Said ordinance having been introduced on July 16, 2024, publication of proposed ordinance having been published, the title having been read with opportunity for discussion and the ordinance considered, on motion of Council Member Daniel Hennigan and seconded by Council Member Julie Fontenot, to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEAS: Daniel Hennigan, Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, and Joe Becnel
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

WHEREAUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 12th day of August, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda. It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Joe Becnel** to adopt Ordinance No 2024-13. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-13

**AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING OR REVOKING THE DEDICATION OF
CERTAIN UNDEVELOPED STREETS FINDLEY SUBDIVISION, PLAT BOOK
4 PAGE 116 OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Whereas, the streets described herein have never been paved or developed for street purposes in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; and

Whereas, the streets described herein do not meet the needs of current owner of property of adjacent property owners, and considering the configuration, location, and proposed future development of the property as presented to the Town Council; and thus should be abandoned and or revoked.

Therefore, Be It Ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in regular session convened, after public hearing held, that:

SEC. 1: The Town of Iowa does by those present, relinquish, release, abandon, and revoke the dedication of any and all claims, ownership or demands for use as a street which it may have or may have had to the following described dedications for public streets in the Findley Subdivision, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 116 of Clerk of Court, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, as described below:

Unnamed street between Lot 6 of Block 3 and Lot 1 of Block 2;
Located in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

SEC. 2: However, The Town of Iowa, does by those present reserve and retain unto and in favor of the Town of Iowa, its successors and assigns a perpetual servitude over, along, and across said property for access to, and the construction, repair, replacement, and maintenance of any type of utility line including, without limitation, drainage, gas, water, and sewer lines, which may exist on said property.

Said ordinance having been introduced on July 16, 2024, notice of public hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the ordinance considered on motion of Council Member Julie Fontenot seconded by Council Member Joe Becnel to adopt the ordinance.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered as a whole. A vote thereon was called for, with the following results:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREAUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 12th day of August, 2024.

DOUGLAS WATKINS, MAYOR

Mayor Watkins read item three of the agenda; Motion to approve service Agreement and Property Access Agreement with and between Town of Iowa and Optimum for Internet Service and

authorize Mayor Watkins to sign agreements. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. Chief Vincent asked if this agreement was for City Hall only or would it affect the Police. Mayor Watkins stated that it would be for the entire building. Chief Vincent stated that he preferred to stay with his current provider, FulAir because of the service they provided during the hurricane. Mayor Watkins explained the reason this was looked at, was because currently the data speed up and down for the police department was very low. He said with Optimum it will be 500 up and 500 down and it will be a dedicated fiber optic line. Chief Vincent said that he can contact his provider and see what they can do to improve his service. Cindy Mallett explained the options City Hall and Police Department has for internet providers, the issues that were discovered when the current internet service went down and the cost of the services. Chief Vincent requested that time be granted to him to do his own analysis.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to table approval of service agreement and property access agreement with optimum. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item four on the agenda. He asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve low alcohol permit for Family Dollar Store of Louisiana, LLC, d/b/a Family Dollar Store #24494, 305 W Highway 90, Iowa, LA 70647. The vote was as follows: YEAS: Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, and Julie Fontenot; NAYS: None; ABSTAIN: Daniel Hennigan; ABSENT: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins called on Ms. Melissa Jesson to come forward. Ms. Melissa came forward and introduced herself as the engineer with D.W. Jesson and associates and is working on the Sewer Project. She said that she is working with Cindy Mallett to secure the Temporary Construction Servitude and Permanent Utility Servitude for the Project I-2022-204. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions. A citizen asked where it is located. Mayor Watkins said it was at 109 and 111 N Thomson. Ms. Melissa explained where the sewer lines are planned to be replaced. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to accept Temporary Construction Servitude & Permanent Utility Servitude with and between Frank McDonald Et Ux and Town of Iowa for the purpose of sewer line repair/replacement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item six of the agenda. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to accept Temporary Construction Servitude & permanent Utility Servitude with and between Jacqueline Roussell and Town of Iowa for the purpose of sewer line repair/replacement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor read item seven of the agenda and asked if there were any questions or concerns. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to authorize advertisement for bids for Project I-2022-204 City Park Lift Station Sewer Line Outfall Improvements. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item eight of the agenda. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or concerns. Chief Vincent asked if this pertains to the computers and programs for the Police Department and the Town. Mayor Watkins said this was the Green Lake equipment agreement

and was discussed at a prior council meeting. Mayor Watkins explained that it is for equipment for the storage and backup of data for Police and Town. Another citizen asked if they were using cloudstrike. Mayor said he wasn't sure, but this is used by the state, and he wouldn't think they would use cloudstrike. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve addendum to Avexon, LLC Managed Services Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked Cindy Mallett to present the report of finance. Cindy Mallett reported the July report of finance. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Pam Adams asked for clarification on the City Water Works Fund, if the revenue over expenditure was a negative or positive balance. Cindy said it was a positive. Mr. Fix asked about the General Fund's balance being negative; doesn't the account roll over? Cindy explained that it is a revenue over expenditure report it isn't a balance sheet.

Ms. Linda Leonard addressed the Mayor and Council. She requested that an informal meeting on the fourth Monday of the month with a couple of Council Members be held at the Community Center to discuss and communicate plans and ideas with the citizens of the town.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel, to adjourn meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC