

**Minutes**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA**  
**September 11, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice.

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas Neal Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 5 citizens. Absent was Council Member Julie Fontenot.

The invocation was given by Council Member Joe Becnel; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to Adopt agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting, August 14, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked to speak about something before getting into the new business. He talked about the raises for this fiscal year that were discussed at a prior meeting, He talked about COLA raises, then all elected officials will get one and that he didn't think it was a good idea at this point when we are cutting the budget. He asked the council to get back with him on this and give him their thoughts.

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda, Request by Keith Banes to acknowledge and accept setbacks from previously built auxiliary building located at 601 Walnut Street, Iowa, LA. Mayor explained the circumstances of this situation, that Mr. Banes was purchasing the property and before he bought it, he wanted to make sure there were no issues about this building and the required setbacks. Mr. Banes came forward and stated how much he appreciated the consideration and the town's staff and their help in this matter. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to acknowledge and accept setbacks from a previously built auxiliary building located at 601 Walnut Street, Iowa, LA. The motion passed unanimously. Clerk Cindy Mallett told Mr. Banes she would give him a letter to submit for his closing affirming the acceptance.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve contract by and between the Division of Administration and The Town of Iowa for FY 2022-2023 LGAP effective August 30, 2023 and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the third item on the agenda. Discussion was held concerning contract changes for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Oxidation Pond. Mayor Watkins explained the issues of completion for the repairs on the oxidation pond and the costs to complete it. He talked about the warranty from LEMNA and when it would start. Mr. Bouquet said that Mr. Jessen told him that it would start at the time of acceptance of substantially complete. There was discussion between Mayor Watkins and Town Council Members about the submitted requests for the Change Orders received from Spinks, the Contractor, and D.W. Jessen, the Engineer. Cindy Mallett asked if there were any questions the council would like to ask of Mr. Jessen. No questions were asked. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve the submitted change orders upon two conditions:

1. Supply written warranty to the Town of Iowa of the entire Lemna system, including all aerators, beginning at the time of acceptance of substantial completion.
2. There will be no cost changes for any auxiliary service such as control panel, conduit, and wiring associated with the change in aerators.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the fourth item on the agenda and explained that we are keeping a log of recorded issues concerning Waste Management. He talked about issues that occurred today and contract terms. He talked about the option of providing garbage services ourselves at a future time.

Mayor Watkins read the fifth item on the agenda. He said that we have a proposed subdivision on Highway 90 that will be near the lateral. He gave the proposed number of structures and living quarters. He explained that nothing in the site plan shows a retention pond or drainage plans. He suggested that a permit from gravity drainage be required. Mr. Bouquet gave his opinion, to take it under review. The Mayor said that the preliminary plans need to be looked at by someone on behalf of the town and what the impact on drainage would be. Council Member Daniel Hennigan read Section 6D 3 & 6 of our Code of Ordinances. After further discussion it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve a resolution requiring Gravity Drainage Board Review. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2023-18**

**WHEREAS**, it has been brought to the attention of the Town of Iowa council members that preliminary plans have been submitted for purpose of further development in the Highway 90 west area of the Town of Iowa; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Iowa being fully aware of the serious drainage problem in that area, and

**WHEREAS**, that Gravity Drainage Board District #2 with full knowledge of drainage problems in that area and on their authority as the Parish’s Drainage Board, The Town of Iowa Council Members;

**HEREBY** requests that the Gravity Drainage Board review the plans for outflow drainage, encroachment on laterals, and possible retention ponds.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of September 11, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Mallett, MMC

The Mayor read item six on the agenda. It was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Daniel Hennigan** to approve Resolution 2023-17. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-17**

**A Resolution to Declare Property as Surplus  
& Assignment to LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program for Online Sale**

Council Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Agenda Item: Surplus Property

Presented by: Mayor Watkins

Let be 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](http://www.lamats.net/surplus) commencing the day of publication of this resolution for no fewer than 7 days until sold or withdrawn.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Minimum Value</u>
1) <u>2015 Ford Interceptor Sedan VIN 2123</u>	\$ _____
2) <u>2014 Ford Interceptor Sedan VIN 0829</u>	\$ _____
3) <u>2017 Ford Interceptor Sedan VIN 9964</u>	\$ _____
4) <u>2017 Ford Interceptor Sedan VIN 9965</u>	\$ _____
5) <u>2017 Ford Interceptor SUV VIN 6067</u>	\$ _____

2. Where the minimum value of an item is not reached or is not set, the City 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](mailto:paul@lamats.net).

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. Mayor said we have two older vehicles that need to be replaced and put for surplus. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Open-end Equity Lease Rate Quote between Enterprise Fleet Management for the lease of two 2024 Nissan Rogue and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor read item eight of the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Calcasieu Parish School Board and Town of Iowa to provide safe and secure learning environment for the placement of a fully commissioned law enforcement officer and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item nine of the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between State of Louisiana and Town of Iowa under Act 397 for the purchase of Public Works Equipment, Materials, and Tools and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item ten of the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to Opt Out of allowing for expedited temporary housing assistance and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute GOHSEP form. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item eleven of the agenda. Upon the review of Council Members of the following listed properties in the Town of Iowa it was:

1. **Moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to proceed with notification to owner of 500/502 Railroad Avenue for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to proceed with notification to owner of 218 N. Railroad Avenue for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to proceed with notification to owner of 216 N Railroad Avenue for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to send notification to owner of 505 E Second Street for Permitting and Renovation Requirements. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to proceed with notification to owner of 107 Larry Street for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to send notification to owner of 907 Granger Street for Permitting and Renovation Requirements. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to proceed with notification to owner of 212 S Bowers Avenue for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to proceed with notification to owner of 111 S Bowers Street for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **Moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to proceed with notification to owner of 110 S Bowers Street for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.
10. **Moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to proceed with notification to owner of 105 Larry Street for hearing of Condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked Town Clerk Cindy Mallett to give the financial report. Cindy Mallett reported the financials for the month of August 2023. Cindy asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Mayor asked if there were any questions. No questions or comments were made.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

ATTEST:

---

Neal Watkins, Mayor

---

Cynthia Mallett, MMC