

**Minutes**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA**  
**February 13, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

Mayor 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 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Neal Watkins; Council Members: Daniel Hennigan, Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 10 citizens.

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

Mayor Watkins announced that there were a few items that needed to be added to the agenda. 1. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, a motion to hire Jonathan Lavergne as part-time dispatcher effective February 13, 2023. 2. Motion to authorize for advertisement of David/Lightner Watershed Drainage Improvements Project and 3. Motion to apply for 2023 (TEDZ0 Tourism Enhancement /Development Zone Grant.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to amend agenda to add the three requested items. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Watkins asked if there were any amendments to the presented minutes for January 9, 2023, meeting. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting January 9, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins recognized Mr. Rodney Richard. Mr. Richard came forward and introduced himself. He said the name of their company is Building Code Inspection Services, LLC (BCIS). He mentioned the names of all the persons working for the company and gave their credentials. He stated the services his company offers, code enforcement and condemnation recommendations. He said it would be a 25-75% cost for any permitting done, with the town retaining 25% of the permit fees charged. Mayor Watkins thanked him for coming.

Mayor Watkins said that there was some old business that was tabled from last meeting that needed to be addressed. He said that he would like to appoint Mr. Eugene Bouquet as Town Attorney.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to add to the agenda, Motion to appoint Mr. Eugene Bouquet as Town Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve appointment of Mr. Bouquet as Town Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Mayor Watkins read item #1. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to hire Jonathan Lavergne as part-time dispatcher effective February 13, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #2. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to authorize for advertisement of David/Lightner Watershed Drainage Improvements Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #3. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to apply for 2023 (TEDZ) Tourism Enhancement/Development Zone Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #4. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve Resolution 2023-03, Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report. The motion passed unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-03**

Resolved that the Town of Iowa informs the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken by Town Council Members:

1. Resolved the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for January 2022-December 2022 which is attached to this resolution.
2. Set forth the following actions necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, Number LA0043656.
  - A. To continue being good environmental stewards by maintaining our wastewater treatment plant and continuing required analytical analysis in accordance with our current LDEQ permit, including monthly monitoring of influent CBOD.

Passed by a majority/unanimous vote of the Iowa Town Council Members on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC  
Town Clerk

Mayor Watkins read item #5. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with and between Building Code Inspection Services, L.L.C. (BCIS) to conduct plan review and inspections and to authorize Mayor Watkins to execute said agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item #6. He asked if anyone had any questions and stated that it may need discussion. He went on to explain that with our present website, we are currently having difficulties getting our updates and we are having issues with Code Red notifications. With this new website it would save us about \$4,000.00 a year. He asked Town Clerk Cindy Mallett to explain further on the details. Cindy Mallett reported the annual cost of Code Red and the monthly cost of website maintenance is a total of \$5,218.00. The new website that we are looking at was recommended by Louisiana Rural Water Association and has a built in notification system for only \$1,105.00 per year. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Terms of Use Agreement with and between Immense Impact, LLC for the purpose of a new website and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute said agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2023-04, a Resolution to Declare Property as Surplus & Assignment to LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program for Online Sale and authorize the sale of such items to highest bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution 2023-04**

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

Council Meeting Date: February 13, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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) 2017 Ford F-150 White Pickup	\$ 17,000.00
2) See Attached List	\$ _____
3) _____	\$ _____
4) _____	\$ _____
5) _____	\$ _____

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, Tami.mallett@americanpress.com] and forward to the LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program Administrator for listing and publication

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

**Surplus**

<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
2	3M Office Air Cleaner w/ 5 filters – Model OAC150
1	Honeywell Air Cleaner – Model 50250-S
1	Paper Cutter
1	Casio adding machine – Model HR-200RC
5	Desk Organizers- 2 wire basket, 1 plastic vertical file stand, 1 metal vertical file stand, 1 plastic 2 shelf desk organizer
4	OCE Toner Cartridges – Item # 670-5
3	Brother Drum Unit 2- DR-420 1-Dr 820
1	GBC Docubind P200 Laminator w/ Legal Size Laminating Pouches

1	Dell 19" Monitor – Model SE198WFPf
1	IBM Wheel Writer 1000 Typewriter 11- blk replacement ribbons 6- correction replacement ribbons
13	Nortel Office Phones – Model T7316E
4	Dell Precision T3610 Desktop Computer Towers – Model D0IT
3	Dell Precision T7500 Desktop Computer Towers – Model M4800
2	Room Dividers – 5'W - 4.5"T (frame is iron with cloth overlay)
1	Amco Water Meter Reader System includes: Vehicle Interactive Display Computer -Model RT686 EX Vehicle Reader System in Pelican Case
5	Chair Storage Racks – 9'x20"
1	Wall Display Table -3'6"W x 28"T x 15"D
1	Manitowoc Ice Machine – Model QD0272A Door Broken – Last time used was working
1	Lateral File Cabinet- 5 drawer 5' 6.5"T X 3' 6" W X 19"D

The Mayor and Council received reports on the Water Works financial activities. Town Clerk Cindy Mallett reported to the Council Members that, based on the reports, there is a need for an increase in utility rates. It was discussed and recommended to study the reports and at the next council meeting a resolution would be presented with new rates for water, sewer, and solid waste collection.

Town Clerk presented the financial report for the month of January. The council was presented with the annual audit of 2021-2022 for their review.

Council Member Julie Fontenot asked who is the person checking on the construction of the baseball field, the update of construction, and the completion date, Mayor Watkins said he was doing it and read a report of the progress. She said that opening day is March 25, 2023. Mayor Watkins said that they are shooting for it to be ready for that date. They also discussed Phase II of the baseball field complex and some estimated cost of this second phase. Council Member Julie Fontenot suggested that the computer tablets that were purchased years ago for the Mayor and Council Members be donated to the Senior Citizens. She said that they were never used and now is outdated and is no longer of use. Town Clerk said that she would prepare a cooperative endeavor agreement to donate them to the senior citizen center, and the council could approve it at the next meeting.

Council Member Daniel Hennigan said that certain properties are without water and people are living in them. He suggested that this could possibly be considered a nuisance issue and we could handle this problem in house instead of the Department of Health. He also talked about having a discount on the water bills if they agree to have their bill paid with auto draft. Mayor was not in favor of this because we are already in arrears and that we can possibly stay on top of the cutoffs and possibly other charitable organizations could help.

Mayor Watkins gave an update on the back ball fields. He reported that he spoke with the electrician and there is electricity on the back field for them to play at night. The other one, in the middle, will cost a considerably amount of money so they could use it for the daytime games. He said he had an estimate of 2 million to do the remaining ball field project.

Mayor Watkins stated that on the night of regular town council members he will be here at 5:30 pm for anyone wishing to talk with him.

A citizen asked about the cost of the project being 2 million. Is that for all four fields or just two? Council Members Julie Fontenot and Joe Becnel answered his questions. They explained that it will be for two fields, concession stand, parking, and bathrooms.

A citizen offered names of certain charitable organizations that could help pay customers water bills. She said she would provide us with a list.

With no further business it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

ATTEST:

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Neal Watkins, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC