

**Minutes**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA**  
**May 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas Neal Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Vernessa Guillory, Joe Becnel, Daniel Hennigan, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Police Chief Keith Vincent; and 18 citizen.

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

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

It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting May 8, 2023, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda and invited Mr. Kevin Camel, the town's hired attorney for the purpose of a lawsuit between the Town of Iowa and Tokio Marine Insurance company for damages from Hurricane Laura. Mr. Camel came forward and reported the offer of settlement from Tokio Marine Insurance Company. He explained the process of mediation and recommended the Mayor and Council accept the offer of \$300,000.00. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to accept offer of \$300,000.00 from Tokio Marine Insurance Company for the settlement of lawsuit. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda. Mr. Rodney Richard came forward and reported on each one of the following properties. Upon Mr. Richard's recommendation the following motions were made.

- a. 306 S Bowers Avenue: It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. 403 S Bowers Avenue: It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Richard reported that someone may be living in the house.
- c. 225 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street: It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. 305 Railroad Avenue: It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. 504 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street: It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. 506 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street: Mr. Richard reported the camper should be included. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. 904 Granger Street: It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to state reason why it should not be condemned. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. 414 S Sherman Avenue: It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to notify owner of property to appear for hearing to repair or be condemned, with specific emphasis on the swimming pool. The motion passed unanimously.

All notices will have the appearance date of June 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Watkins announced and introduced the appointment of Ms. Charlotte Lanthier as Iowa Fire Chief effective June 5, 2023.

Mayor Watkins read the fifth item on the agenda. Mayor explained that this was the conversation from the last meeting on drainage issues. Council Member Gerald Guidry asked why we would reject this bid and project. He asked about the grant funds awarded from Calcasieu Parish for this project. Cindy Mallett reported that the funds can be rolled over to the next year. Mayor explained that a proposed LWI project and a long-range plan to mitigate flooding would benefit the town better than this project, then the town would come back and use this project as cosmetic and beautification. Council Member Julie Fontenot said that some of the people will want to know why this is being canceled and asked when we would be able to help them and make it better for them. Mayor Watkins said it may be two to three years before this project would be done. After further discussion, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to reject bids for Project No. I-2022-201. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item six of the agenda. He asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Mayor Watkins asked Cindy Mallett to explain the reason for the resolution and the re-allocation. Cindy Mallett explained the history of the allocation of sales tax and a recommendation to allocate by percentages, on an annual fiscal basis according to the legal proposition of use for certain sales tax and as needed for projects and expenditures. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution 2023-13. The motion passed unanimously.

## RESOLUTION 2023-13

### A RESOLUTION FOR RE-ALLOCATION OF PERCENTAGES FOR THE TOWN OF IOWA'S SALES TAXES

WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa approved the collection of a one cent sales tax for  
1) Capital and Other Improvements to Water Works, Sewer and Wastewater Systems  
2) Repair of the town's Streets & Further Improvements to Park System  
3) All Other lawful expenditures including Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa approved a collection of a one cent sales tax for  
1) Maintenance & Construction of Streets, Sidewalks, and Street Lighting.  
Maintenance & Construction of Sewerage Facilities, Systems, pumps & Sewer Lines  
3) General Administration & General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa approved the collection of ½ cent sales tax for  
1) Flood Control Maintenance & Improvements  
2) Economic Development Activities,  
3) Capital Improvements and Maintenance to the Town Hall and Town Park; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Town Council has reviewed the needs of the town for the fiscal year 2023 – 2024 and deems it necessary to re-allocate the percentages of the Below allocated sales tax from:

General Fund	14%	Sales Tax I	32%
Sales Tax Parks	8%	Sales Tax II	26%
Sales Tax III	20%		

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

The percentage of sales tax shall be as follows:

General Fund	23%	Sales Tax I	23%
Sales Tax Parks	8%	Sales Tax II	26%
Sales Tax III	20%		

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

---

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. He presented the budget for 2023-2024 FY and read his budget message. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked what the Economic Development Revenue of Streams was. Mayor Watkins explained that it is a plan to help the Town of Iowa generate revenues. Further explanation and discussion was had. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to introduce Ordinance 2023-02, An Ordinance adopting an Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item eight of the agenda and discussion was had about phase II of proposed baseball complex. Comments from Council Members were made in approval of not going forward with the cost of phase II of the baseball complex. Mayor Watkins announced that \$225,000.00 is budgeted this year to repair the fields.

Mayor Watkins introduced Mr. Mike Hollier, representative of Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Hollier came forward and explained the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement for the purpose of GIS identification and record keeping. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or concerns. Nobody had any questions or concerns. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with and between the Town of Iowa and Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission State of Louisiana for the purpose of GIS identification and record keeping and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item ten of the agenda. He asked Mr. Bouquet to respond in regard to the request of Texas Gas Transmission, LLC. Mr. Bouquet said his opinion of the language in the agreement was not

sufficient. He recommended that a motion be made to approve the agreement upon his approval, with changes and modifications to the agreement. It was so **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot with the authorization for Mayor Watkins to execute said documents. The motion carried unanimously.

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 7:50 pm.

ATTEST:

---

Neal Watkins, Mayor

---

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

BUDGET HEARING  
AND  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the Town of Iowa, State of Louisiana, will meet on June 12, 2023 at seven(7:00) o'clock p.m., at its regular meeting place, Iowa City Hall Meeting Room, 115 N. Thomson Avenue, Iowa, Louisiana at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the below introduced ordinances:

Ordinance 2023-02

An Ordinance ADOPTING AN Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024

All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Handicapped persons needing assistance or aid should contact City Hall, 337-582-3535 before the meeting. Published in Lake Charles American Press.