

**Minutes**  
**Public Hearing Meeting**  
**Town of Iowa**  
**115 N. Thomson**  
**December 9, 2024**  
**Iowa, La**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Douglas Watkins called a public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Present was Mayor Watkins; Council Members Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, Daniel Hennigan, and Gerald Guidry; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 8 persons

Mayor read the title of Ordinance No. 2024-15, An Ordinance fixing meeting place, days, and time for Mayor and Town Council. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no comments or questions. Public Hearing was closed at 7:01 pm.

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647**  
**December 9, 2024**  
**7:01pm**

Mayor Watkins 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 7:01pm.

Mayor Watkins called roll. Present: Mayor Douglas Watkins; Council Members: Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, and Julie Fontenot; Absent: Council Member 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 8 citizens.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by Pledge.

It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to amend agenda to add: Motion to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between Town of Iowa and State of Louisiana and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adopt the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting November 4, 2024, and Special Meeting November 25, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor read the first item of the agenda; Old Business: Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2024-15. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adopt Ordinance 2024-15. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-15  
AN ORDINANCE FIXING MEETING PLACE, DAYS, AND TIME  
FOR MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council, pursuant to law, desire to fix and publish the place, days and time for regular meetings of the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Town of Iowa Mayor and Town Council meetings shall be held at 115 N. Thomson Avenue in City Hall Meeting Room on the second Monday, at Seven O'clock p.m., of each and every month of the calendar year 2024 and shall be designated and published in accordance with law for the official meeting day of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

THUS DONE AND INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, held on the 4th day of November, 2024.

After a public hearing was held on the above ordinance, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, on motion by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Joe Becnel to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken, and the following result was had:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vernessa Guillory

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 9th day of December, 2024

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NEAL WATKINS, MAYOR ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CYNTHIA MALLET, TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read the second item of Old Business: Motion to table Town of Iowa Comprehensive Master Plan until March 10, 2025. He suggested that during this time it can be discussed and get people's thoughts. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to table Town of Iowa Comprehensive Master Plan until March 10, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced the first item under new business was the one that was just added. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between the Town of Iowa and State of Louisiana and authorize Mayor Watkins to sign the agreement. Chief Vincent commented that the funds received will be to purchase equipment for the Police Department.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Ms. Collette Celestine came forward and made the request to Mayor and Council to approve a waiver of Ordinance 2019-07 Part 2 Section 1.1 to move a new mobile home at 305 S Bowers #A. Council Member Julie Fontenot asked if this would be the only home on the lot. Ms. Celestine said no, there is a house on the lot. She explained that this is replacing a mobile home damaged by the hurricane. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Gerald Guidry to approve waiver of Ordinance 2029-07 Part 2 Section 1.1 by Ms. Collette Celestine to move a mobile home at 305 S Bowers #A. The vote was as follows: Yeas: Joe Becnel, Gerald Guidry, and Julie Fontenot. Nays: Daniel Hennigan. Absent: Vernessa Guillory. The motion passed.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and explained why he is asking to rescind the resolution creating a Recreation Advisory Committee. He said the wording needs to be amended and it would take time to see who we could get to come onboard as committee members. Council Member Daniel Hennigan did not agree to rescind the resolution and said that it should be easy to correct the

wording. Comments and suggestions were made by Chief Vincent, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Linda Leonard. No motion was made.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2024-25. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-25

A Resolution to Declare Property as Surplus And Assign to  
LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program for Online Sale

Council Meeting Date: December 9, 2024

Agenda item: Surplus Property

Presented by: Mayor Watkins

Be It Resolved:

1. The Town of Iowa declares that the following property 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.

Description

- 1) 1-2015 New Holland 99HP T4.100 with front bucket and front forks attachment
- 2) 1-8 foot Bush Hog
- 3) 2016 Ford F-350 VIN 1FDBF3A61GEB26131

2. The Town of Iowa 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, [public.notices@americanpress.com](mailto:public.notices@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 the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2024-26. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Joe Becnel, seconded by Julie Fontenot and duly resolved:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26**  
**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
**FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**AND**  
**COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) and Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Assistance Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for a wide range of projects to improve public health, public safety, living conditions and for economic development purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for rehabilitation, improvements and new construction projects for community potable water systems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is deemed necessary and proper to submit applications to the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program and also the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded.

**THEREUPON**, the above resolution was declared adopted.

\*\*\*\*\*

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Mallett, MMC, Town Clerk of the Town of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Iowa on December 9, 2024 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CYNTHIA MALLETT, MMC  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF IOWA

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda; Adopt the new Town of Iowa Logo(Visual Identity Proposal) and remove motto. Mayor asked if there were any questions. Mr. Landry asked how much it would cost. Mayor Watkins said the cost to develop it was \$850.00. It was discussed that the only cost would be to change the emblem on the vehicles. Mr. Erik Johnson asked how old the current logo is. Mr. Eugene Bouquet said it is approximately 25 years old. Ms. Johnson sked to see the new logo. The new logo was described, and a picture was shown. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adopt the new Town of Iowa Logo and remove motto. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked Cindy Mallett to give the monthly financial report. Cindy Mallett gave the report of finances for the month of November. She also gave the report for the 2023-2024 financial audit prepared by McElroy, Quirk, and Burch.

With no further business it was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

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

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