

Minutes
Town of Iowa
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA
April 24, 2023 6:00 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 6:03 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 1 citizen.

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** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting April 10, 2023, with the amendment of removing from record the first two paragraphs of Mayor Watkins statement: beginning with Regarding and ending with irresponsible. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to request a report from Building Code Inspections Properties for the following addresses considered for condemnation. The motion passed unanimously.

- a. 306 S Bowers Avenue
- b. 403 S Bowers Avenue
- c. 225 W 1st Street
- d. 305 Railroad Avenue
- e. 504 W 1st Street
- f. 506 W 1st Street
- g. 616 N Lightner
- h. 904 Granger Street

Mayor read the second item on the agenda and said we will now discuss police vehicles. Chief Vincent explained the issue of getting vehicles and the time it takes after you order them and receive them. There was discussion between the Mayor, Chief, and Council Members about other purchase options, lease, or purchase. Chief Vincent said he will go look at the used trucks to see if they are good and buy one this budget year.

Mayor announced the next item was, discuss the budget for 2023-2024 and asked Cindy Mallett to proceed. Cindy Mallett went over the proposed projects with the estimated costs for the budget year 2023-2024. She explained that the budget presented is not complete and hasn't been balanced yet. There was discussion on where cuts can be made and where we may be able to use sales tax revenues from other funds for General fund. Cindy reported on the LCDBG application and reported that if we receive it, it will help with the cost of condemnations. Mayor Watkins discussed certain drainage projects he proposes for the Town of Iowa and amending the past awarded grants from Calcasieu Parish Road and Drainage Trust Fund. He said he

would like to use those funds to replace culverts that are not sized correctly. There was a discussion on ways to generate other revenues.

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 7:06 pm.

ATTEST:

Neal Watkins, Mayor

Cynthia Mallett, MMC