

Minutes  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson  
Iowa, LA  
December 11, 2023 at 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 p.m.

Present: Mayor Douglas N. Watkins; Council members: Gerald Guidry Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot, and Vernessa Guillory; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 11 citizens.

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

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

It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve minutes as presented for Regular Meeting, November 13, 2023, and Special Meeting November 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins recognized Mr. Mark Owens, Attorney at Law, hired to represent the Town of Iowa in regard to the town's interest in the Ground Lease for the Vanity Fair Outlet Mall. Mr. Owens came forward and explained the history of the ground lease and the deficiency of the lease today. The Town has not received valuable consideration as stated in the ground lease. Mayor added that a resolution could be reached if the parties would have conversations. Mayor Watkins said we asked for a conversation and was told that we were interrogating them and basically was told no. Mr. Owens explained to the Council that he reached out and tried to have a meeting and discuss it, Pro Quarters declined. Mayor reported there has been some building activity on the property and a stop work order was issued to Pro Quarters. He said they failed to request a building permit, which doesn't have anything to do with this ground lease issue. Questions from citizens concerning the ground lease were asked. Attorney Mark Owens answered with explanations. Mayor Watkins thanked Mr. Owens for coming.

Mayor Watkins read the first item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to introduce Ordinance 2024-01, An Ordinance fixing meeting place, days, and time for Mayor and Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda. Upon the review of inspection report, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve a Notice of Public Hearing to property owners to answer for any reason not to condemn below listed properties:

- a. 102 S Stockwell Street
  - b. 415 S. Storer Avenue
- The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the third item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to approve Resolution No. 2023-20, A Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the State of Louisiana under the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Fund Program. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Joe Becnel, seconded by Vernessa Guillory and duly resolved:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-20

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA  
UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND  
COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 Local Government Assistance Program and also the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

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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 11, 2023 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

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

Mayor Watkins read item four of the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve Lake Charles American Press as the Official Journal of the Town of Iowa for the Period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item five of the agenda. He invited Mr. Alex Guillory, Engineer with BlueWing Civil Consultants, LLC to come forward. Mr. Guillory came forward and explained the fee schedule he provided for the purpose of review and inspections of subdivision development for the Town of Iowa. There were questions and explanations for the services BlueWing would provide as the engineering firm for subdivision regulations. After discussion was had, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to amend proposed Resolution 2023-21 to add "And, an Administrative Processing Fee of 1 ½%" following the last sentence of the fourth paragraph of the resolution. The motion passed unanimously. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution No. 2023-21. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-21**  
**A Resolution appointing Town Engineer for purposes of Subdivision  
Regulations of Iowa Louisiana**

WHEREAS, the Town of Iowa, by Ordinance 82-2 shall be responsible for review and approval of all real estate subdivision plans; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Iowa, shall appoint an engineer to review and inspect any and all requirements of these subdivision regulations of the Town of Iowa.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Iowa Louisiana, for purposes herein stated appoints BlueWing Civil Consulting, LCC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with Section 4C(2) of Subdivision Regulations of Iowa Louisiana hereby adopt fee schedule for engineering services as submitted by BlueWing Civil Consultants, LLC: And an administrative processing fee of 1 ½%.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana on this 11th day of December, 2023.

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DOUGLAS N. WATKINS  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CYNTHIA MALLET, MMC  
TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins read item six of the agenda and explained that in about 2019 the town annexed a parcel of land and by error a piece of it was left off in the description. Mr. Bouquet asked about getting a letter from the office of Registrar of Voters verifying that no voters reside on the property. Cindy said that she would get the letter from the person hired to help us do this annexation. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to introduce Ordinance 2024-02, An Ordinance Annexing 0.75+/- acres into the Corporate Limits of the Town of Iowa. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve Resolution 2023-22.

Resolution 2023-22

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

Council Meeting Date: December 11 2023 Agenda item: Surplus Property

Presented by: Mayor Watkins

Be It 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.

Description

- 1) 2009 Kawasaki Motors KAF620M
- 2) HP Laser Jet Pro 400 Color M451dm

- 3) HP Laser Jet P4015dn
- 4) HP Color Laser Jet CP4025
- 5) 6 Print Cartridges for HP Laser Jet Pro Color M451dm
- 6) One HY Print Cartridge compatible for TN-227 BK. C. Y. M
- 7) 4 STIHL weed eaters KM TIOR TIOR FC95 F5 250R
- 8) 2 Office Chairs

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, [jackie.martz@americanpress.com](mailto: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:

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item eight of the agenda. Upon the request of Chief Vincent:

- a. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to hire Reatha Strickland as full-time dispatcher pending required testing. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to hire Desiree Henry as full-time dispatcher pending required testing. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins announced a report of finance be given. Town Clerk Cindy Mallett presented the report of finance.

With no further business, it was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

ATTEST:

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Dougals N. Watkins, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, Town Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that 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 January 8, 2024 at seven 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 2024-01

An Ordinance Fixing Meeting Place, Days, and Time for Mayor and Town Council

And

Ordinance 2024-02

An Ordinance Annexing 0.75+/- Acres into the Corporate Limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana