

**Minutes  
Public Hearing  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA  
October 9, 2023 7:11 p.m.**

A Public Hearing was called in compliance with all requirements as to notice and open meeting regulations.

Present: Council Members Julie Fontenot, Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, Daniel Hennigan, Mayor Neal Watkins; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; and about 6 citizens.

Mayor Watkins called the public hearing to order at 7:11 p.m. He read the first item on the Public Hearing agenda, obtain views on introduced Ordinance 2023-04, An Ordinance rescinding Ordinance 2014-03, an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana: Providing for the fixing of the salary of elected officials. He asked if anyone had any comments or questions. No comments were made. Mayor Watkins read the second item, Obtain views on introduced Ordinance 2023-05, An Ordinance providing for the fixing of the salary of Chief of Police. He asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Ms. Johnson asked if this was on the website or if there were copies. Cindy Mallett gave her copies of the introduced ordinances. Mr. Kenneth Landry asked how much it was increasing. Mayor told him 3%. No other questions or comments were made. Mayor Watkins read the third item, obtain views on introduced Ordinance 2023-06, An ordinance providing for the fixing of the salary of the Clerk. Mayor asked if there were any questions or concerns. No comments were made. Mayor Watkins read the fourth item, obtain views on Ordinance 2023-07, an Ordinance Amending the FY 2023-2024 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. He said this ordinance would provide raises for employees of the town. Ms. Johnson asked if this included the police. Mayor Watkins said yes. He asked if there were any other questions or concerns. No more comments were made. The public Hearing was closed at 7:16 pm.

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Town of Iowa  
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA  
September 11, 2023**

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 7:16 pm.

Present: Mayor Douglas Neal Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Joe Becnel, Vernessa Guillory, and Julie Fontenot; Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 6 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, September 11, 2023, and September 25, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Mayor Watkins read the only item listed under old business. Clerk Cindy Mallett explained that the budgeted amounts on this introduced ordinance 2023-08, amending the 2022-2023 budget needed to be amended before the adoption. That is why it is being introduced as amended. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to introduce Ordinance 2023-08, An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Mayor Watkins introduced Ms. Linda Leonard to discuss the Noise Ordinance and Leash Law. Ms. Leonard came forward and thanked them for cleaning the ditches and praised the success of the farmers' market. Ms. Leonard made complaints about the noise in town and the lack of animal control. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and gave them a copy of her speech. Mayor Watkins expressed his thanks for her coming and spoke to her about the lack of respect people have. Ms. Leonard asked for rules that everyone should live by. Mayor agreed. Officer Rodney Daigle commented about the issue the police department has with animal control and the frustration they have encountered.

Mayor read the second item on the agenda, Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to transfer Tori McDaniel from Full-Time to Part-Time Dispatcher effective 9-28-2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor read the third item on the agenda, Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to hire Denasja Dartest as Part-Time Dispatcher effective 9-25-2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item four of the agenda. It was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to adopt Ordinance 2023-04, An Ordinance rescinding Ordinance 2014-03, An ordinance providing for the fixing of the salary of elected officials. The motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE 2023-04**

An ordinance rescinding Ordinance 2014-03, An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana: Providing for the fixing of the salary of elected officials.

**WHEREAS,** R.S. 33:405.404.1 and the Town of Iowa Code of ordinances provides for the fixing of compensation of elected officials and all other municipal officers by ordinance.

**THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED,** by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that Section 2-65 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Iowa, is hereby rescinded

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered as a whole. A vote thereon was called for, with the following results.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the ordinance was declared adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item five of the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adopt Ordinance 2023-05, An Ordinance Providing for the fixing of the salary of Chief of Police. The motion passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE 2023-05**

**An Ordinance**

**Providing for the fixing of the salary of Chief of Police.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that the salary of the Chief of Police shall be increased by three per cent (3%).

The effective date of this ordinance shall be October 9, 2023 and shall be effective immediately upon signing by the Mayor.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered as a whole. A vote thereon was called for, with the following results:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item six of the agenda. It was **moved** by Vernessa Guillory, **seconded** by Julie Fontenot to adopt Ordinance 2023-06, An Ordinance Providing for the fixing of the salary of the Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE 2023-06**

**An Ordinance providing for the fixing of the salary of Clerk.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, that the salary of the Municipal Clerk shall be increased by three per cent (3%).

The effective date of this ordinance shall be October 9, 2023 and shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

The above and foregoing addition to the Code of Ordinances, Town of Iowa, Louisiana, has been read and adopted and is only intended as an addition to said Ordinances and the remaining Ordinances and the past enacted Ordinances are still in full force and effect.

The foregoing ordinance was read and considered as a whole. A vote thereon was called for, with the following results:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023..

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, MMC

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. It was moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory to adopt Ordinance 2023-07, and Ordinance Amending the FY 2023-2024 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE 2023-07**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AMENDING THE FY 2023/2024 BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF IOWA LOUISIANA**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana that:

The following is an amended statement of the FY23/24 Budget for the purpose of granting a three percent( 3/%) wage increase.

SECTION 1: The following is an amended statement of the probable receipts and disbursements of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and the same is hereby declared to be and is designated the adopted amended budget for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana for FY2023-2024.

**General Fund**

<b>Changes:</b>	<b>From</b>		<b>To</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Prior FY Cash Appropriated	\$ 121,677.00	to	\$ 165,831.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Administration	\$ 544,798.00	to	\$ 548,867.00
Police	\$ 2,004,904.00	to	\$ 2,043,404.00
Court Cost	\$ 224,366.00	to	\$ 225,951.00

**Sales Tax I**

<b>Revenues:</b>			
Prior YR Cash Appropriated	\$ 92,373.00	to	\$ 95,923.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$ 2,547,321.00	to	\$ 2,550,871.00

**Parks**

<b>Revenues:</b>			
Prior YR Cash Appropriated	\$ 3,807.00	to	\$ 7,053.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$ 224,707.00	to	\$ 227,953.00

**Sales Tax II**

<b>Revenues:</b>			
Prior Year Cash Appropriated:	\$ 843,972.00	to	\$ 848,912.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$ 1,623,712.00	to	\$ 1,628,652.00

**Sales Tax III**

<b>Revenues:</b>			
Prior YR Cash Appropriated	\$ 126,998.00	to	\$ 130,649.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$ 917,398.00	to	\$ 921,049.00

**City Water Works**

<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Water Utilities Expenditures	\$ 513,361.00	to	\$ 520,155.00
Waste Water Maintenance	\$ 499,219.00	to	\$ 504,795.00

SECTION 2: This section shall become effective immediately upon adoption.  
**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Board of Council Members of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in Regular Session duly convened on October 9, 2023 an amended budget for the fiscal year of 2023 and 2024 be adopted and enacted.

**THUS DONE AND INTRODUCED** at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

After public hearing was held on the above ordinance, the title having been read and the ordinance considered, motion by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken and following result was had:

YEAS: Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory, Gerald Guidry, Joe Becnel, and Julie Fontenot  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**WHEREUPON**, the presiding officer declared the above ordinance duly adopted on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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**DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR**

I certify that the above ordinance was presented to the Mayor by me on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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**CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK**

I, acknowledge receipt of the above ordinance from the Town Clerk on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR**

I, hereby approve the above ordinance on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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**DOUGLAS N WATKINS, MAYOR**

I certify that the above ordinance was received by me from the Mayor on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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**CYNTHIA MALLETT, TOWN CLERK**

Mayor Watkins asked Clerk Cindy Mallett to give the finance report. She presented the financial report for the month of September 2023.

Mayor Watkins read item seven of the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to recess regular meeting, and enter into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Watkins asked everyone to step out of the meeting room so the Council could hold their executive session. Everyone but the Council, Mayor Town Attorney, Chief of Police, and Town Clerk left the meeting room.

Mayor Watkins read item eight of the agenda. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to resume Regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Regular meeting resumed at 8:25pm.

It was **moved by Dainiel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to amend the agenda to add, upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent to accept demotion and discipline of C. Bergeron, K. Poullard C. Piper. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to accept demotion and discipline of C. Bergeron, K. Poullard C. Piper. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

ATTEST:

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Neal Watkins, Mayor

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Cynthia Mallett, MMC

#### 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 November 13, 2023 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 2023-08

An Ordinance amending the FY 2022-2023 Budget for the Town of Iowa Louisiana

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.

