

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
May 11, 2026

Before the meeting was called to order Mayor Watkins made announcements.

- a. He announced that there is an unusual amount of trash in the ditches. This has slowed the crew down from cutting grass. He asked that people would hold their trash and dispose of it in a trash can.
- b. He announced Town Clerk Cindy Mallett would be retiring at the end of this month and a replacement has not been found. He asked people to be patient as they work through this time.
- c. He talked about ordinance violations. He said that we have not been as aggressive with enforcement because of the staff limitations. He said a contractor has been hired to do the grass cutting when there is a violation and the owner would be responsible for the fee.

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 7:07pm.

Mayor Watkins called roll. Present: Mayor Douglas Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, Daniel Hennigan, and Vernessa Guillory. A quorum was established.

Also, there were present Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 23 people.

Invocation was said by Mr. Alan Weishampel, followed by the pledge.

It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to approve minutes, as submitted, for regular meeting April 13, 2026 and Special Meeting April 22, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Mallett gave a report on the town's financials. There were no questions or comments.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda, introduction of Ordinance 2026-06, An ordinance adopting an Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. Mayor Watkins presented the proposed budget and read the budget message. He announced a copy of the proposed budget is available to be picked up at city hall. He asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were received.

Mayor Watkins read the third item on the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to approve Resolution 2026-06. Mayor Watkins stated Phase II is for Alexa and Shelby Drive. He asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-06

A Resolution requesting assistance and making application to the Calcasieu Parish
Police Jury Road and Drainage Trust Fund for participation in the cost to further
remediate drainage in Southland Estates Subdivision Drainage Improvements
Phase II

WHEREAS, funding is needed to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, funding of a portion of the cost needed improvement in this phase has been committed by the Town of Iowa (20% Town/80% Parish); and

WHEREAS, drainage improvements in these areas will help in the decrease of flooding to the residents.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: All of the above and foregoing is hereby made a part of this resolution.

SECTION 2: The Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, does hereby request funding assistance and authorizes the Mayor of the Town of Iowa to make an application to the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Road and Drainage Trust Fund for participation in the cost of continued remediation of drainage Southland Estates Subdivision.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at Iowa, Louisiana, on this 11th day of May 2026.

Douglas N. Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Mallett, Clerk

Mayor Watkins read the fourth item on the agenda, hearing for the condemnation of 106 Ruby Street, Iowa, LA, owner, Jessica Lynn Hardy. Nobody came forward for hearing. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to condemn the building located at 106 Ruby Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the fifth item on the agenda, hearing for the condemnation of 103 N Storer Street, Iowa, LA, owner Bradley O. Lemonia. Nobody came forward for hearing. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to condemn the building located at 103 N. Storer Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the sixth item on the agenda, hearing for the condemnation of 101 N. Storer Street, Iowa, LA, owner Estate of Helen Marie McKay. Mr. McKay, an heir of the Estate was present. He stated as soon as they get some belongings out of the house, he will demolish the home. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Joe Becnel to condemn, continued for 90-day period. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the seventh item on the agenda, hearing for the condemnation of 319 S Lambert Avenue, Iowa, LA, owner, Estate of Wallace Carrier. Mr. Elridge Carrier came forward and requested time to begin repair of the house. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to continue the condemnation of 319 S Lambert Avenue, Iowa, LA in 90 days. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item eight on the agenda. Mayor Watkins stated the Waste Management contract will expire in November of 2026. The cost of renewing the contract with Waste Management versus the cost of the town collecting the garbage was discussed. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions. Ms. Johanson asked about the cost of dumping the garbage. Mayor Watkins said he factored in the dump fees with the cost, and the truck would be leased. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked what the savings would be per household for the town to do its own collection. Cindy Mallett said if the town collects the garbage, the cost per household, hopefully, would remain the same. Mayor Watkins said he would get the information to the Council Members for review and asked if they would respond.

Mayor Watkins read item nine on the agenda. Mayor Watkins announced that he met with CPPJ and CCOA. He said Calcasieu Parish requested that the town do a CEA, with the parish providing \$350,000.00 for the benefit of helping the Senior Citizens in Iowa to provide a building for the senior citizens to meet and hold their events. He discussed using the Iowa Community Center, possibly making alterations to the building, to be used for the senior citizens and continue using it for the needs it was designed for. He requested the Council to decide what they would like to do. There was discussion. No action was taken.

Mayor Watkins read item ten on the agenda. Upon the recommendation of Engineer Beau Desormeaux, it was **moved by** Joe Becnel, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to accept bids for the upgrade of Sewer Main Lift Station at Hwy 90, Project #5030 and award bid to lowest qualified bidder and authorize Mayor Watkins to execute all documents for the project. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions. No questions or comments were made. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item eleven on the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to hire, approve, and confirm the understanding of services by McElroy, Quirk & Burch to perform the audit services for the Town of Iowa Year ending June 30, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item twelve on the agenda. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to enter into Maintenance Agreement with and between Town of Iowa and D.O.T.D. for mowing and litter pickup. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read item thirteen on the agenda. Chief Vincent came forward and made recommendations for promotions and transfers:

- a. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot to promote Matt Doucet from SSG to LT. The motion passed unanimously. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. It was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to promote Brandy Simon to Asst. Dispatch Supervisor. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. It was **moved by** Daniel Hennigan, **seconded by** Vernessa Guillory to transfer Daniel Gaspard from reserve patrolman to part-time patrolman. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent it was **moved by** Julie Fontenot, **seconded by** Daniel Hennigan to hire Kelsey Hampton as part-time dispatcher. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent it was **moved by** Vernessa Guillory, **seconded by** Julie Fontenot. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk