

Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
June 8, 2026

Mayor Watkins and Town Council met in Regular session this date in compliance with all requirements as to notice.

Mayor Watkins opened public hearing at 7:01 pm stating this is questions or comments on the following Ordinances.

Mayor Watkins read the titles of Ordinance 2026-05 and Ordinance 2026-06. Mayor Watkins explained where the location of the property is for Ordinance 2026-05 and asked if there were any questions. There were no responses.

Mayor Watkins then read the title of Ordinance 2026-06. Chief Keith Vincent addressed his concerns on the budget. Chief Vincent gave a printout of his concerns and requests to the Iowa Town Council. Mayor Watkins, with no other questions or comments, closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Watkins then opened a call to order: Present: Mayor Douglas Watkins; Council Members: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, and Vernessa Guillory. Absent: Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel. A quorum was established.

Also, there were present Interim Town Clerk Elsie Lane; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent; and about 7 other people.

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

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

It was requested by Daniel Hennigan that a correction be made on the special meeting minutes, dated May 26, 2026. The correction made was a name change on the second agenda item from Daniel Fontenot to Daniel Hennigan. It was **moved** by Daniel Hennigan, **seconded** by Vernessa Guillory to approve the minutes for regular meeting May 11, 2026 and special meeting May 26, 2026, with the correction. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins reported that the Council has a copy of the financial and asked if there were any questions. Daniel Hennigan stated that he does not. There were no further questions or comments.

Mayor Watkins read the second item on the agenda, Condemnation and demolition hearing for 103 N. Storer, Iowa, LA, owner, Bradley LEMONIA. Mayor Watkins then asked Mr. LEMONIA if he wanted to share what he is working on. Mr. LEMONIA presented the Council with pictures of his progress. He stated that he had spoken with Mr. Cooney, Building Code Inspector and had an inspection with Jude. Mr. LEMONIA said that he did get approved of the work he has done. He informed the Council he will not get a final approval until all work is completed. Mr. LEMONIA told the Council that he has two items to complete. Town Attorney Russell Stutes III asked if he was working with a contractor. Mr. LEMONIA stated he was and he has his permits. It was motioned by **Daniel Hennigan**, seconded by **Vernessa Guillory** to follow up in 60 days, set for August 10, 2026.

Mayor Watkins read the third item on the agenda. Condemnation and demolition hearing for 106 Ruby Street, Iowa, La, owner, Jessica Hardy. Ms. Hardy informed the council that she has been doing work on

the inside and will be doing work on the outside. She informed the council that the majority of the work on the list the contractor made is done. She only has a few things left on the list. She also informed the Council that she plans on doing things that are not on the list. She stated that if she knew there was an issue she would have done the outside first. Town Attorney Stutes asked what her time frame was. Jessica Hardy requested 4 months for completion. It was moved by **Gerald Guidry**, seconded by **Daniel Hennigan** to reset hearing for October 12, 2026.

Mayor Watkins read the fourth item on the agenda. Report on 105 S. Bowers, Jennifer Singleton, Ordinance Violation Section 11-122. Mayor Watkins informed the Council that we have still not had any contact with her. Town Attorney Stutes asked if she has been served a condemnation notice. Mayor Watkins stated she has. Town Attorney Stutes recommends that we proceed with the condemnation.

Mayor Watkins read fifth item on the agenda. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-05. It was moved by **Daniel Hennigan**, seconded by **Vernessa Guillory** to adopt Ordinance 2026-05. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2026-05

An ordinance annexing certain property into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, title 33, Section 172, following the petition of Progressive Merchants, Inc. and due advertisement.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Iowa Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, in Regular Session convened:

Section 1.

That the Town of Iowa does hereby annex and incorporate into the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa the following described property, situated in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana,

To-wit;

Parcel #00268240; @190906-0000-32000001 6500@190906-0000-3200002 6500@190906-0000-3300001 6500@190906-0000-3300002 6500 39 AC INT IN, that part of S/2 SW 19.9.6 Lying N of OST (Old Spanish Trail) Less Strip 2 RDS Wide on E/2 Less R/W for Road on W/S, Less Parcel 25-1 H/W REF1 Ruby Wait B 2464 P 705-94

AND

Parcel #00265748A; 21 AC INT IN-That part of S/2 SW 19.9.6 Lying N of OST(Old Spanish Trail) Less 6.72 ACS Sold to State for R/W Parcel 25-1 Less Strip 2 Rods wide on E Side Less R/W for Road on W Side (14.28 ACS) 11.90 ACS (7.14 ACS IN FP1) (5.95 ACS IN FP1) (7.14 ACS IN FP2) (5.95 ACS IN FP 2) REF1-MRS Garnet Wait Newcomer ET AL Don B10 P159-75 REF2 – Randolph Newcomer ET AL B 2464 P 705-94 REF3-Barbara Newcomer Neal ET AL B2725 P 228-98

AND

Parcel #01333486A, further described as @190906-0000-32000001 0583, @190906-0000-32000002 0583, @190906-0000-33000001 0583; @190906-0000-33000002 0583; 1/6 INT IN- 21 AC INT IN- THAT PART OF S/2 SW 19.96 LYING N OF OST(OLDSPANISH TRAIL) LESS 6.72 ACS SOLD TO STATE FOR R/W PARCEL 25-1 LESS STRIP 2 RODS WIDE ON E SIDE LESS R/W FOR ROAD ON W SIDE (W SIDE (14.28 ACS) 2.38 ACS REF1-MRS GARNET WAIT NEWCOMER ET AL DON B10 P159-75; REF2-RANDOLPH NEWCOMER, ET AL B2464 P705-94; REF3-ASSESSED BARBARA NEWCOMER NEAL ET AL-96; REF4-RANDOLPH NEWCOMER B2631 P304-97

AND

Parcel #00259322, NE SW, N ½ SE SW, Less 4 ACS Sold Asa Foreman; SE SE SW; SE, Less 1 AC SQ in SE COR; SW SE, SW NE 24.9.7, Less 21 ACS Parcel 24-1 and 24-4 Sold to State

for R/W REF1- Ethel Baker Perry ET AL B879 P306-64 REF2- Nathan A Cormie and Addie May B 2818 P 500-99 Mailing address: 511 E Frontage RD, Iowa, LA 70647

AND

The northern, unpaved portion of the westbound I-10 Frontage Road Right-of-way, extending from the existing west boundary of the corporate limits of the Town of Iowa at said boundaries intersection with the boundary of said northern right-of-way; thence coincident with the northern, non-paved portion of the westbound I-10 Frontage Road, a distance of 3.5 miles. (18,478.65 U.S. Survey Feet).

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 13th day of April, 2026, the title having been read, and appropriate public advertisement completed:

The above ordinance was adopted at a duly convened meeting on motion of Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Vernessa Guillory, upon a vote taken as follows:

YEAS: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 8 day of June, 2026.

Mayor Watkins read the sixth item on the agenda. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-06. It was moved by **Vernessa Guillory**, seconded by **Daniel Hennigan** to adopt Ordinance 2026-06. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE IOWA TOWN COUNCIL of Iowa, Louisiana, in general session convened that:

SECTION 1: The attached detailed estimate of Revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, during the same period.

SECTION 2: The attached estimates of Expenditures by departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as a budget of Expenditures for the Town during the said period.

SECTION 3: The adoption of this Operating Budget of Expenditures be and the same is hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION 4: Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included within the 2026 to 2027 budget. Further, it is the intent of this presentation to hereby authorize the Chief Administrative Officer the power to administer these budgets within a margin of plus or minus 5%.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on May 11, 2026, the title having been read and a public hearing held on June 8, 2026.

The above ordinance was adopted at a duly convened regular meeting, June 8, 2026 on motion by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Daniel Hennigan upon a vote taken as follows:

YEAS: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot

ABSTAIN: 0

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:

TAXES	1,341,682.00
LICENSES & PERMITS	235,500.00
GRANT REVENUE	376,000.00
FINES & FORFEITURES	700,000.00
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	185,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT	132,700.00
TRANSFERS & OTHER REVENUE	396,686.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE:	3,367,568.00

EXPENDITURES:

ADMINISTRATION	740,210.00
POLICE	1,998,827.00
FIRE	215,914.00
COURT COSTS	257,115.00
MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER	70,700.00
FIRE – ADMIN	84,802.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:	3,367,568.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND:	.00

SALES TAX - WATER IMPROVEMENT

REVENUES:

TAXES	287,101.00
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	190,000.00
TRANSFERS & OTHER REVENUE	247,090.00
TOTAL SALES TAX – WI REVENUE:	724,191.00

EXPENDITURES:

EXPENDITURES	724,191.00
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TOTAL SALES TAX – WI EXPENDITURES: 724,191.00

TOTAL SALES TAX - WATER IMPROVEMENT: .00

SALES TAX - PARKS & STREETS

REVENUES:

TAXES 445,007.00
INVESTMENT EARNINGS 4,500.00
TOTAL SALES TAX – WI REVENUES: 449,507.00

EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES 314,926.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY - CITY HALL PK 134,581.00

TOTAL SALES TAX – PARKS EXPENDITURES: 449,507.00

TOTAL SALES TAX – PARKS & STREETS: .00

SALES TAX II STREET DEPARTMENT

REVENUES:

TAXES 746,962.00
GRANT REVENUE 415,528.00
INVESTMENT EARNINGS 35,000.00
OTHER REVENUE 878,262.62
TOTAL SALES TAX II STREETS REVENUE: 2,075,752.62

EXPENDITURES:

EXPENDITURES 975,752.62
CAPITAL OUTLAY – STREETS 1,000,000.00
CAP OUTLAY – SIDEWALKS 100,000.00

TOTAL SALES TAX – PARKS EXPENDITURES 2,075,752.62

TOTAL SALES TAX – PARKS & STREETS: .00

SALES TAX III

REVENUES:

TAXES 574,202.00
GRANT REVENUE 125,200.00
INVESTMENT EARNINGS 25,000.00
TRANSFERS & OTHER REVENUE 20,610.00
TOTAL SALES TAX III REVENUE: 745,012.00

EXPENDITURES:

EXPENDITURES 220,012.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY – DRAINAGE 225,000.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 300,000.00

TOTAL SALES TAX III EXPENDITURES: 745,012.00

TOTAL SALES TAX III: .00

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 1

REVENUES:

TAXES 545,571.00
GRANT REVENUE 563,281.29
INVESTMENT EARNINGS 600.00

TRANSFERS & OTHER REVENUE	1,124,504.21
TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO I REVENUE:	2,233,956.50
EXPENDITURES:	
EXPENDITURES	262,914.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY - STATION 1	1,317,210.21
TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 1 EXPENDITURES:	1,580,124.21
TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 1:	653,832.29

CITY WATER WORKS

REVENUES:

GRANT REVENUE	470,000.00
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	1,755,000.00
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	28,000.00
TRANSFERS & OTHER REVENUE	707,691.00
TOTAL CITY WATER WORKS REVENUE:	2,960,691.00

EXPENDITURES:

WATER UTILITIES EXPENDITURES	784,280.00
WASTE WATER MAINT EXPENDITURES	304,127.00
GARBAGE & TRASH	669,000.00
CAP. OUTLAY - WATER UTILITIES	282,500.00
CAP OUTLAY - WASTEWATER MAINT	920,784.00

TOTAL CITY WATER WORKS EXPENDITURES: 2,960,691.00

Total CITY WATER WORKS: .00

Mayor Watkins read the seventh item on the agenda. Motion to canvass and tabulate the returns of an election held in the Town of Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana on May 16, 2026, authorizing renewal of the levy and collection of a one percent (1%) sales and use tax in perpetuity and adopt Proces Verbal. Valla Johnson asked to explain the ordinance. Mayor Watkins read the Proces Verbal and asked Mrs. Johnson if that was clear, she responded, yes. It was moved by **Daniel Hennigan**, seconded by **Vernessa Guillory**. Mayor Watkins then called for a roll call. **Gerald Guidry, yes. Daniel Hennigan, yes. Vernessa Guillory, yes. Joe Becnel, absent. Julie Fonenot, absent.** The motion passed unanimously.

Iowa, Louisiana
June 8, 2026

The Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana, met in regular public session at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on June 8, 2026, at the regular meeting place of the Town Council, Iowa Town Hall, 115 North Thomson, Iowa, Louisiana, and the following members were present: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory

ABSENT: Joe Becnel, Julie Fontenot

The Mayor stated that the purpose of the meeting was for canvassing and tabulating the returns of an election held in the Town of Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana (the "Town") on May 16, 2026, authorizing renewal of the levy and collection of a one percent (1%) sales and use tax in perpetuity, and thereupon presented the following proces verbal, which was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS: Gerald Guidry, Daniel Hennigan, Vernessa Guillory

NAYS: None

PROCES VERBAL

BE IT KNOWN AND REMEMBERED that on this 8th day of June, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., in accordance with a resolution of the Town Council (the "Council"), governing authority of the Town, adopted on November 10, 2025, and recorded in the records of said Council, notice of which meeting was issued and published according to law, the undersigned members of the Council, being a quorum thereof, met at the regular meeting place of the Council, and according to law examined the tabulation blanks, certificates and statements which were received from the Commissioners and Commissioners-in-Charge of the election held in the Town on May 16, 2026, in accordance with said resolution, together with the transcription of the totals made by the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines in and for Calcasieu Parish to determine the following propositions:

SALES TAX PROPOSITION (RENEWAL)

Shall the Town of Iowa, Louisiana (the "Town") be authorized to continue to levy and collect a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) (the "Tax"), in perpetuity beginning July 1, 2027, upon the sale at retail, use, lease or rental, consumption and storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property and on sales of services within the Town, all as presently or hereafter defined in La. R.S. 47:301 to 47:317, inclusive, with collections from the levy of the Tax estimated to be \$1,229,206.03 for one entire year, with the net proceeds of the Tax to be dedicated and used for the following purposes: (1) maintenance and construction of streets, sidewalks and street lighting; (2) maintenance and construction of sewerage treatment facilities, systems, pumps and sewer lines; and (3) general administrative and general fund needs?

The results of said election on the Sales Tax Proposition proved to be as follows:

<u>PRECINCT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF VOTES IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF VOTES AGAINST PROPOSITION</u>
800*	71	63
801*	97	68

860S*	0	0
861E*	1	0
<u>EARLY VOTING</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>174</u>

We therefore ascertained that the majority of qualified electors of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana qualified to vote under the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana voting in said election in the Town voted **in favor** of the Sales Tax Proposition.

At the same time and place, we did examine and canvass the returns as evidenced by said tabulation blanks, certificates, and statements received from the election Commissioners and Commissioners-in-Charge, the correctness of which were sworn to by the election Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners according to law, and our finding was that the returns indicated a majority voted in favor of the Sales Tax Proposition.

Therefore, we declare that the result of said election is in favor of the Sales Tax Proposition as stated above.

In accordance with law, a resolution promulgating the aforesaid results was adopted, and the Municipal Clerk of the Council was ordered to have a copy of said resolution signed by the Mayor and published in one issue of the *American Press*, a newspaper published in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, and of general circulation in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana.

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1293, a copy of the Notice of Election is attached hereto as Exhibit A. An affidavit showing proof of publication of said notice is attached hereto as Exhibit B. We did, likewise, order that one copy of this proces verbal be sent to the Secretary of State to be recorded in the archives of the State of Louisiana, and that one copy be sent to the Clerk of Court of Calcasieu Parish to be recorded in the mortgage records of said Parish and that one copy be filed in the archives of this Council.

Statement of actual cost: The actual cost of the election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, is \$[to be completed once available].

Mayor Watkins read the eight item on the agenda. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-08. It was moved by **Daniel Hennigan**, seconded by **Vernessa Guillory**. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08

A RESOLUTION PROMULGATING THE RESULTS OF A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN THE TOWN OF IOWA, LOUISIANA, ON MAY 16, 2026.

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2026, an election was held in the Town to determine the proposition hereinafter set out; and

WHEREAS, the returns of said election were canvassed by the Council according to law and notice duly given as provided by law, and the result of said election was declared to be in favor of the Sales Tax Proposition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council, the governing authority of the Town, as follows:

SECTION 1. The statements of fact expressly contained within the preamble to this Resolution have been specifically reviewed by the Council and are found to be factually true and correct and are made resolutions of the Town.

SECTION 2. An election was held in the Town on May 16, 2026, to determine the proposition hereinafter set out; that said election was duly and properly called by the Council by a resolution adopted on November 10, 2025, and recorded in the records of said Council, that notice of said election embracing all matters required by law to be contained therein was given by publication in the *American Press*, a newspaper published in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and of general circulation in the Town on March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25, 2026, the first of said publications being not less than 45 days nor more than 90 days prior to the date set for said election; that this Council did in said resolution designate the polling places for said election and did provide for the use of voting machines in the conduct of said election; that election officials were duly selected; that each election official received the certificate of instruction of the use of the voting machines and his duties in connection therewith as required by law; that the State Custodian of Voting Machines and the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Calcasieu Parish made available on the day of the election at the polling places designated for the conduct of said election the necessary voting machines and all necessary equipment and paraphernalia required by law in connection with the use of voting machines at elections; that the Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of Court of Calcasieu Parish furnished to the election Commissioners and Commissioners-in-Charge copies of the precinct registers for each precinct or ward entitled to vote at such polling places; that the Louisiana Secretary of State prepared and certified the ballot used in the voting machines as required by law; that the proposition voted on in said election and as it appeared in said voting machine was in due form provided by law and the resolution adopted by this Council on November 10, 2025, calling said special election; that the results of said election were written on a large sheet of paper at said polling places, which sheet of paper was signed by each of the election officials designated to conduct such election at said polling places and which sheet was thereupon posted in public view at the polling places in accordance with law; that only qualified electors under the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana voted at said election; that the officials who served at said election were duly and properly appointed; that the places of all absent election officials were properly filled in accordance with law; that before opening the polls all election officials were properly sworn in accordance with law; that the polls at the voting places were opened at 7:00 a.m. and remained open and until not later than 8:00 p.m.; that after the closing of the polls the votes for and against the proposition were properly counted and tallied and the necessary tabulation blanks, certificates and statements were made by the election officials in accordance with law and the voting machines delivered to the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Custodian of Voting Machines in and for Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, and a copy of the results of said election delivered to the Clerk of the District Court of Calcasieu Parish as required by Louisiana Revised Statutes 18:1190 E; that on May 19, 2026, that being the third day after said election the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Custodian of Voting Machines, after breaking the seals and opening the voting machines used in said election did transcript the totals for the proposition voted upon at said election; and that all things whatsoever required by law to be done in connection with the holding of said election were properly and duly performed in manner and form as required by the general election laws of the State of Louisiana.

SECTION 3. In said election the following Sales Tax Renewal Proposition was voted in favor of by a majority of the electors qualified to vote and voting in said election in the Town:

SALES TAX PROPOSITION
(RENEWAL)

Shall the Town of Iowa, Louisiana (the "Town") be authorized to continue to levy and collect a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) (the "Tax"), in perpetuity beginning July 1, 2027, upon the sale at retail, use, lease or rental, consumption and storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property and on sales of services within the Town, all as presently or hereafter defined in La. R.S. 47:301 to 47:317, inclusive, with collections from the levy of the Tax estimated to be \$1,229,206.03 for one entire year, with the net proceeds of the Tax to be dedicated and used for the following purposes: (1) maintenance and construction of streets, sidewalks and street lighting; (2) maintenance and construction of sewerage treatment facilities, systems, pumps and sewer lines; and (3) general administrative and general fund needs?

SECTION 4. The results of said election shall be promulgated by publication of this resolution of promulgation one time in the American Press, a newspaper published in Lake Charles, Louisiana, the official journal of the Council and of general circulation in the Town.

Mayor Watkins called to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by **Vernessa Guillory**, seconded by **Daniel Hennigan. 7:30 pm**

/S/ Douglas N Watkins

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

/S/ Elsie Lane

Elsie Lane, Interim Town Clerk