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**Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647  
August 11, 2025**

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

Mayor Watkins announced that since Mr. Bouquet would be retiring, he requested Mr. Bouquet to interview and recommend an attorney for the position of Town Attorney. He announced that a special meeting will be held at the end of the month and a cake reception will be held for Mr. Bouquet.

Mayor Watkins announced that a bid was received today for repairs on Bowers Street. He explained that the railroad company has been working there and the jars under the road have been pushed loose. We will be making this repair as an emergency because of school traffic. The overpass will be closed for a couple of days. An announcement will be made when we know exactly when the repair will be made.

Mayor Watkins announced a parcel of property about 6 acres in size has come available. It is adjacent to the park and the owner is interested in trading the property the town owns, about 3 lots, located on Highway 90 for an even trade. The transaction will be reviewed and if it passes the Cabela test, legally, then it will be something we can do without any monetary exchange.

Mayor Watkins announced there have been discussions about annexations. Mayor Watkins said he is not in favor of annexing property for utility or any other services unless they are paying 100% of the cost for what they need. Mayor Watkins said that currently a legal entity is requesting utilities. It is outside the city limits, and they are willing to pay for the cost. He said we will need to get legal wording and a CEA in place. Mayor said he wanted to let everyone know before it is placed on the agenda.

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

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

Others present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Eugene Bouquet; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 15 people.

Invocation was said by Pastor Weishampel, followed by the pledge.

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

It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve minutes, as submitted, for regular meeting July 14, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins asked Town Clerk, Cynthia Mallett to give the financial report. Cynthia gave the financial report. She asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no comments or questions.

Mayor Watkins said, based on the fact that Mr. Gene is looking to retire, upon the recommendation of Mayor Watkins, Motion to appoint Russell J. Stutes III as municipal Attorney and Mayor's Court Prosecutor effective September 1, 2025. Mayor asked Mr. Gene to talk about this. Mr. Bouquet addressed the Mayor and Council. He said that Mr. Stutes was recommended to him by other attorneys. He spoke about the meeting he had with Mr. Stutes and the qualifications, experience, and interest in municipal law Mr. Stutes possesses. Mr. Bouquet recommended to the Mayor to appoint Mr. Stutes as the Town Attorney.

He introduced Mr. Stutes and asked him to come forward. Mr. Stutes came forward and asked if there were any questions. Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated how much he appreciated the fairness of Mr. Bouquet and that no matter what, Mr. Bouquet did not take sides. Mr. Stutes confirmed that it would not change one bit. Mayor Watkins said, upon the recommendation of Mayor Watkins, motion to appoint Russell J. Stutes III as Municipal Attorney effective September 1, 2025, upon the retirement of Mr. Eugene Bouquet. It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Daniel Hennigan** to appoint Russell J. Stutes III as Municipal Attorney and Mayor's Court Prosecutor effective September 1, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Introduction of Ordinance 2025-04, an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article III Administration, Section 2-64 of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; Providing for the fixing of the retainer/salary of Municipal Attorney. He asked if there were any questions. There were no comments or questions. Mayor Watkins announced that a special meeting will be held depending on the date that works for everyone.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda, upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, motion to hire Bryce Cloud for full-time patrol officer at rank of patrolman. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to hire Bryce Cloud for full-time patrol officer at rank of patrolman. Mayor Watkins asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. The motion passed unanimously. Chief Vincent came forward. He gave a report on the National Night Out event held last Tuesday and thanked all involved.

With no further business to discuss, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

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Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

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Cynthia Mallett MMC, Town Clerk

### **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 August 25, 2025 at Seven (7:00) 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 2025-04**

An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article III Administration, Section 2-64 of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Iowa, Louisiana; Providing for the fixing of the retainer/salary of Municipal Attorney.

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.