

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
115 N. Thomson, Iowa, LA 70647
December 8, 2025**

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

Mayor Watkins made the following announcements: 1. Announcement of LRWA Scholarship for High School and College students. Mayor read the announcement and encouraged all high school seniors to apply. 2. Update on Thomson Avenue Water Leak. Mayor announced that the town is waiting on the permit to start repairs. 3. Feather Fuel, off HWY 165, will begin putting in the water lines in January. 4. The Town is working currently in Southland estates; and working on Lambert Street for the outfall on 3rd Street and issue on Eli Street.

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

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

Also, present were Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett; Town Attorney Russell Stutes III; Chief of Police Keith Vincent and about 14 people.

Invocation was said by Council Member Joe Becnel, followed by the pledge.

It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Daniel Hennigan** to amend agenda to add Resolution 2025-19, A Resolution Opposing Carbon Capture and Sequestration in the Town of Iowa, Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously.

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

It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to approve minutes, as submitted, for regular meeting November 10, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor announced that an item on the agenda will be taken out of listed order for the benefit of persons present for the proclamation.

Mayor Watkins asked Town Clerk, Cynthia Mallett, to give the financial report. Cynthia gave the financial report for the month ending November 2025. She asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made.

Mayor Watkins invited Chief Vincent to come forward; Chief Vincent came forward. a. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to promote PTN Asia Johnson to CPL. The motion passed unanimously. b. Upon the recommendation of Chief Vincent, it was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to promote Kevin Loewer to SPL. The motion passed unanimously. c. Chief Vincent recommended the Town Council approve CEA between CPSB and Town of Iowa to provide a school resource officer for Iowa Middle School and JI Watson Elementary School. Mayor Watkins asked Town Attorney Russ Stutes if he had reviewed the document. Mr. Stutes said he has not reviewed it yet. Council Members asked questions and Chief Vincent explained that it is the same CEA the Town had with JI Watson School except that it will now cover Iowa Middle School also. Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett explained that the CEA renewal between CPSB and Town

of Iowa would be replaced by the document received that day. Town Attorney Russ Stutes said that he is running through the document very quickly and if the question is if he has a legal issue with it? He said, "Nothing is glaring at him." It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve CEA between CPSB and Town of Iowa to provide school resource officer for JI Watson and Iowa Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor announced the next item to address is Resolution 2025-19 concerning Carbon Capture. Mayor read the resolution. He asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Resolution 2025-19. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-19

A Resolution Opposing Carbon Capture and Sequestration In the Town of Iowa, Louisiana

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes its duty to protect the health, safety, property and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Iowa and to preserve the Town's natural resources, including clean air, safe drinking water, productive agricultural land, and a stable environment for current and future generations: and

WHEREAS, the Chicot Aquifer is a vital water resource not only to the residents of the Town of Iowa, but also to fifteen parishes, nearly one third of the population of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Chicot Aquifer is the single source of potable water for the residents of the Town of Iowa, with no alternative source available; and

WHEREAS, the Chicot Aquifer covers approximately ninety-five hundred square miles of the southwestern part of the State of Louisiana and is tapped by over twenty-three hundred pumping wells, making it the most pumped aquifer in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) projects, which involve the capture, transportation, and underground injection of carbon dioxide (CO₂), have raised significant public concern within the Town of Iowa and throughout the State of Louisiana regarding potential impacts on public safety, groundwater, soil stability, private property and local ecosystems: and

WHEREAS, incidents in other jurisdictions have demonstrated that CO₂ pipeline ruptures and underground storage failures can pose serious health and safety hazards, particularly in rural areas with limited emergency response capacity: and

WHEREAS, the long-term monitoring, liability, and environmental oversight of CCS projects are uncertain, and the potential risks and remaining financial burdens may ultimately be borne by local governments, landowners, and taxpayers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Iowa Louisiana, hereby formally opposes the siting, permitting, construction, or operation of any Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) project within the single source Chicot Aquifer or associated CO₂ pipeline infrastructure within the boundaries of the Town of Iowa, or within twenty five hundred feet of any business or residence, and one mile radius of any school located within the town corporate limits unless and until such technologies are independently verified by credible, peer-reviewed scientific evidence to be safe, effective, and fully supported by the informed consent of the residents of the Town of Iowa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Iowa urges the Governor of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and all relevant state and federal agencies to give full and careful consideration to the concerns of local governments and citizens when evaluating CCS proposals

THUS, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE Town Council of the Town of Iowa, Louisiana on this 8th day of December, 2025.

DOUGLAS N. WATKINS
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MALLET, MMC
TOWN CLERK

Mayor Watkins asked Ms. LaDonna to come forward. Mayor Watkins read and presented Proclamation for Russell Thomas Hardy, proclaiming September 21st as Russell Hardy Day and named the Buddy Ball Field as Russell Hardy Field. Ms. LaDonna accepted the proclamation with kind words and thanksgiving.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda, to recess into executive session. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to recess to enter executive session in regard to No. 2022-5685, Succession of Jerry Robert Lapearous V. Town of Iowa, Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting recessed at 7:32pm.

Mayor Watkins, Council Members, Town Attorney, Town Clerk entered meeting room at 7:42pm. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to resume open meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve the settlement agreement and general release of Succession of Jerry Robert Lapearous V. Town of Iowa, Louisiana. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda and asked Town Clerk Cynthia Mallett to explain the proposed animal services agreement. Cynthia explained that the CEA being renewed is a little different than in the past. She explained how Calcasieu Parish Police Jury will calculate the cost of animal services for each participant. She concluded that last year animal services cost \$25,455.00. This year's estimated cost of animal services will be about double the cost from last year. Council Member Daniel Hennigan questioned the value of the amount of services received for this cost. Chief Vincent reported on some of the past circumstances with animal services and the cost of the town providing its own animal services. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked if this agreement was year by year. Officer Erik Johnson suggested that we request more services for the increased cost. Mayor Watkins suggested that animal services come and give informative classes at the community center. Cynthia Mallett explained the term of the agreement being one year and automatically renews for an additional one year. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked that a reminder be set for October of 2026 to revisit this agreement. Town Attorney noted that if anyone of the participants included in this agreement decide not to be a part of the animal services agreement that it would increase the cost to the remaining participants. It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Agreement between Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and Town of Iowa for the purpose of animal services. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda; Discussion of violation of Ordinance Section 1-122 at the address of 105 S. bowers Ave., Iowa, LA. Mayor Watkins gave the details of the violation and the documentation showing the communication between the homeowner and the Town. Mayor Watkins said that this was a double wide mobile home that was granted a variance over a year ago and the owner did not move the old mobile home out as she said she would. There was discussion between the Mayor, Council, and Town Attorney on how to proceed. Town Attorney suggested to send a letter to appear at the next Council Meeting. All agreed. There was no further discussion.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Motion to Introduce Ordinance 2026-1, An Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium for a period of Ninety Days (90) on the granting of any permits for mobile homes in the Town of Iowa. Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Chief Vincent asked if there

were any permits given that would be given during this time. Mayor Watkins explained how the moratorium would work. He said it would be for any new permits coming with the exception of landlords for a replacement if it meets all other codes. Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated opposition based on the exception stated in the moratorium. He suggested that consideration be granted for circumstances for other residents. After all discussions, it was **moved by Vernessa Guillory, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to Introduce Ordinance 2026-1, An Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium for a period of Ninety Days (90) on the granting of any permits for mobile homes in the Town of Iowa. The vote was as follows: YEAS: Vernessa Guillory, Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, and Gerald Guidry NAYS: Daniel Hennigan ABSENT: None The motion passed.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda; Moton to Introduce Ordinance 2026-2, an Ordinance fixing meeting place, days, and time for Mayor and Town Council. Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor asked if the days and times are still good. There were no objections. It was **moved by Julie Fontenot, seconded by Vernessa Guillory** to Introduce Ordinance 2026-2, An Ordinance fixing meeting place, days, and time for Mayor and Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watkins read the next item on the agenda. Mayor Watkins explained the agreement DOTD has with municipalities for maintenance agreement, mowing and litter pickup on state right of ways. He explained that the Town would be paid for nine cycles per year with this agreement. He asked if there were any questions. No questions or comments were made. It was **moved by Joe Becnel, seconded by Julie Fontenot** to approve Maintenance Agreement with and between the State of Louisiana through the Department of Transportation and Development and the Town of Iowa for the purpose of Mowing and litter Pickup. The vote was as follows: The vote was as follows: YEAS: Vernessa Guillory, Julie Fontenot, Joe Becnel, and Gerald Guidry NAYS: Daniel Hennigan ABSENT: None The motion passed.

Mayor Watkins explained the next three items on the agenda are in conjunction. He said number 12 is contingent on 13 and 14. He asked to go to item number 13 first. Mayor Watkins explained where the location of the proposed property for annexation and stated that it had been discussed that the Town would not be providing water and sewer. He also gave details of conversations of proposed agreements if the Town Council would approve the annexation. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked about the town not having to provide water and sewer for this annexation. Mayor Watkins explained that it has always been about Economic Development. Ms. Johonson asked questions about the location of this annexation. Mayor Watkins explained exactly where the properties are and that accepting the petition is preliminary to annexation. Mayor asked if there were any questions. Council Member Daniel Hennigan asked if Mallett Buildings are included in the corporate limits. Chief Vincent and Erik Johnson made suggestions on annexation on west I-10. Council Member Daniel Hennigan stated his concerns and that he is not comfortable with the good faith efforts of the two petition requests. Mayor Watkins said that the agreements would be brought to the Council. Town Attorney Russ Stutes stated that there are safeguards that can be put in place.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to accept petition by JATKY LLP, Arnie Natalie for annexation into the Town of Iowa of a certain parcel of vacant land. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to accept petition by Lee Mallett for annexation into the Town of Iowa of a certain parcel of vacant land. The motion passed unanimously.

It was **moved by Daniel Hennigan, seconded by Joe Becnel** to approve hire of Beau Desormeaux, engineer with Domingue, Szabo & Associates, Inc. for the purpose of surveying the unpaved portion of

north and south side of west frontage roads for the application to D.O.T.D. for Annexation into the Town of Iowa. 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 8:47pm.

Douglas N Watkins, Mayor

Attest:

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 January 12, 2026 at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m., located at 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 2026-01

An Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium for a period of Ninety Days(90) on the granting of any permits for mobile homes in the Town of Iowa

AND

Ordinance 2026-02

An Ordinance fixing meeting place, days, and time for Mayor and Town Council

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.