Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting August 16, 2011

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 7:00 P.M., at the Lockport Town Hall Complex.

A. Call to Order, B.Opening Prayer, C. Pledge of Allegiance
Mayor Champagne called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was offered by Town Clerk Gerard Leonard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Champagne.

D. Roll Call
The roll was called with the following present: Mayor Champagne, Councilmen Donovan Barker, Paul Champagne, Rodney Hartman, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Also present were Police Chief Warren Vedros and Town Attorney Mitchell Theriot.

E. Approval of July 20, 2011 Minutes
Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the July 20, 2011, meeting that were distributed to all councilmen. Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Barker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for month ending July 31, 2011
Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending July 31, 2011, that were distributed to the councilmen. Councilman Champagne moved and Councilman Rogers seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Police Report
Mayor Champagne called on Police Chief Warren Vedros to report on his department's activities. Mr. Vedros distributed copies of the monthly activity report. Chief Vedros thanked the Mayor and Council for the purchase of two new police cars. Councilman Rogers noted that the number of complaints is down. Councilman Hartman asked if LP3 has been advertised for bids. Chief Vedros answered that an advertisement will be put out next week, once all equipment has been removed from the vehicle. Councilman Triche moved and Councilman Champagne seconded the motion to accept the police report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

H. GSE Report
Mayor Champagne called upon Mr. Clay Breaud of GSE, who gave the monthly engineering status report as follows:

1. <u>Wind Hardening of Town Hall Complex</u>:
Mayor and GSE met with FEMA to discuss project. FEMA is requesting additional information.

2. <u>Comeaux Drive LCDBG Sewer Application</u>:
Notice to Proceed was issued to Magnolia Construction on July 7, 2011. Work began last week. Mr. Breaud asked the Council to approve a proposed change order. Mr. Breaud explained that the existing sewer line between Comeaux Drive and Catherine Street Pump Station can be used instead of replacing it, reducing the total price by $2,735.00. This also allows workers to stay within the 10' servitude in that area. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion to accept the change order as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. <u>Elliot St. Sewer Lift Station Generator</u>:
The Town received a $35,000 grant for this project. The Town acquired servitude. Mayor Champagne suggested the Council decide on either a diesel or natural gas generator. Councilman Rogers inquired if Mr. Breaud researched the state bid list to find proposals for a diesel or natural gas generator. Mr. Breaud replied he had not, but either generator should be well within the grant amount. Mr. Breaud discussed what generators the Town currently has in place and explained what would be needed if the Town chose a natural gas generator and what would be needed if the Town chose a diesel generator. Mayor Champagne added that based on the conversation, he would choose a diesel generator. Councilman Champagne moved to install a diesel generator at the Elliot Street Sewer Lift Station. Councilman Barker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Proclamation- Constitution Week
Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the week of September 17, 2011, through September 23, 2011, as Constitution Week in the Town of Lockport. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Champagne seconded the motion to adopt the proclamation. Councilman Hartman requested that a copy of the Proclamation be sent to the Whitehouse.

J. Rene Richardel- Henry Robertson Post 83
Mr. Richardel introduced himself as representing the Lockport American Legion and also introduced Mr. Cleveland Compeaux, Commander of the Lockport American Legion. The Legion would like to host an Invitational Softball Tournament in memory of all deceased veterans of Lockport on September 16, 17, and 18, 2011 at the Lockport ballpark. Benefits of the tournament will go to scholarships for students attending local schools. Mr. Richardel asked for the Council's blessing. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion to support the softball tournament at the Lockport ballpark and give the Town's blessing. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Rodney Doucet
Mr. Doucet introduced himself as a candidate for Parish President and stated he would like to move Lafourche forward. Mr. Doucet discussed his ideas for Lafourche Parish. Mr. Doucet asked for everyone's consideration, vote, and prayers in the upcoming election.

Mayor Champagne introduced Greg Sanamo, candidate for Parish Council District 7. Mr. Sanamo gave a description of his background and qualifications. Mr. Sanamo asked for everyone's consideration when voting.

L. Discuss GOHSEP Grants
Clerk Leonard explained that a grant application to pay for the fencing around the Town Hall generator and the Upper Catherine Sewer Lift Station generator was initially approved, but disallowed when reimbursement for the project was requested. The grant was used to pay for the purchase of a camera in one of the new police units. Another GOHSEP grant was applied for to purchase Public Works items. According to a phone conversation with Eric Benoit (Lafourche Parish DHS), these items are currently being ordered. A $7000 grant will be available soon. Chief Vedros has been in discussion with Mr. Benoit regarding this grant. A proposal is being considered to use the grant to purchase camera equipment that works with a computer program, Virtual Louisiana, that maps critical infrastructure as well as an option to purchase laptop computers. Chief Vedros added that GOHSEP explained Virtual Louisiana program at the last Chief of Police conference. He then described the benefits of the cameras and program. Councilman Rogers added that he saw the presentation as well and he believes the cameras will be a great asset to the Town.

M. Discuss Street Light at Elderly Apartments
Clerk Leonard explained that the Town received a request from Ms. Rita Gisclair, a resident of the Elderly Apartments, asking for a street light to be installed on an existing pole in the back corner of the apartments, near the drainage ditch. Councilman Champagne moved and Councilman Triche seconded a motion authorizing Entergy to install a street light in the requested location. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Delta Regional Authority
A copy of the resolution was distributed to the Councilmen. The grant money will be used as additional funding for the current sewer project. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman seconded a motion authorizing submission of the grant application to the Delta Regional Authority. The motion carried unanimously.
Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion to add a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for LGAP-Local Government Assistance Program grant, due September 14, 2011, to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Councilman Champagne suggested the Town use the grant to pay for fencing around the Locks. Discussion followed regarding LGAP grants. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for LGAP grant to pay for fencing around Town's acquired property (Locks). Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Rogers seconded a motion to amend the previous motion to include funding for codification of the Town's ordinances (Municode) if the fencing project is ineligible or if there are extra funds available. The motion carried unanimously.

O. Public Hearings
Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to suspend the regular meeting and to open a public hearing on the following topics. The motion carried unanimously.

1. **To establish guidelines for electrical power hookup within the Town**

Town Attorney Mitch Theriot explained the process used by the City of Thibodaux. He also explained that the Town already has guidelines in place for electrical power hookup. Mr. Theriot recommended ensuring the building codes are followed and inspections are complete before arbitrarily issuing permits. Discussion ensued regarding inspections and permit fees. Parish

Councilman Rodney Doucet commented on SCPDC's permit process. Mr. Doucet offered to get the phone numbers to Entergy's legal and engineering departments for advice.

2. To extend Crescent Avenue to the southern end of the Town of Lockport boundary

Town Attorney Mitch Theriot described the property included in the extension, including LA 1 and the Right of Way. Mayor Champagne asked the audience for questions regarding the Crescent Avenue extension. There were no questions from the audience regarding the extension.

3. To discuss and possibly amend the C-1 Zoning Ordinance

Town Attorney Mitch Theriot explained that amending and reenacting only the first line of the current ordinance would restrict C-1 to commercial use. Property owners would be required to come before the Council for a variance if they wanted to use the property as R-1, R-2, or R-3. Councilman Rogers explained that the Town's commercial property is limited and he is asking for this amendment for the sake of the Town's tax base. Discussion followed regarding the current ordinance and the proposed ordinance. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions from the audience regarding the discussion and possible amendment to the C-1 Zoning Ordinance. There were no questions from the audience regarding the discussion and possible amendment to the C-1 Zoning Ordinance.

Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Barker seconded the motion to end the public hearing and to resume the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Ordinances

1. Guidelines for electrical power hookup within the Town

Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion to table the matter until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Crescent Avenue Extension

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Rogers seconded a motion to accept an ordinance extending Crescent Avenue to the southern end of the Town of Lockport boundary. The motion carried unanimously.

3. To discuss and possibly amend the C-1 Zoning Ordinance

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker seconded a motion to table the matter until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Q. Open topics

1. Bridge across drainage ditch from post office to library

No update.

2. Crescent Avenue speed limit – 35mph end to end

Chief Vedros reported that he is attending a meeting in September and he will know then if the speed limit can be reduced.

3. Stop Signs

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion to examine all 4-way stop signs and call for a Public Hearing discussing stop signs. Councilmen Champagne, Hartman, and Barker voted in favor of the motion. Councilmen Triche and Rogers opposed the motion.

4. Crescent Avenue extension to LA 1 south

Completed.

5. Smoke testing report

Clerk Leonard estimated half of the repairs in the second quadrant have been made. All repairs in the first quadrant have been completed. A request has been made to LA Rural Water to do testing, to include video and smoke testing, along Vacherie Street.

6. Clear trees from main drainage ditch.

No update.

7. Sidewalk repairs

Mark Adams will complete job for $1480. The brick stamp was ordered.

8. Committee for expansion of Lockport

No update.

9. "Old Town Hall" Disposition

Staging will be held Monday and Tuesday of next week. Demolition will begin Wednesday of next week.

10. Illegal Campers and Trailers

Discussed in Agenda Item "O(1)" Town Attorney Mitch Theriot announced that more campers will be notified to appear at the September court date.

11. Street repairs

No update.

12. EECDG grant to replace oldest A/C unit

The A/C units will be replaced next week. This item can be removed from the list.

13. Request for drainage assistance from Drainage District

Councilman Hartman wanted to clarify that he presented the Drainage District with almost $30,000 in drainage projects the Town already paid for. The response he was given was that the information would be given to the Drainage District's Finance Committee. The Town has received no word from the Drainage District regarding this issue.

14. Water fountain repair

Councilman Rogers spoke with the playground equipment representatives last week at the LMA Convention, who recommended a galvanized unit. Councilman Rogers is expecting a current quote on a galvanized unit from them. The Rotary Club grant deadline was July 30, 2011 and Councilman Rogers is unsure if the grant application was submitted on time.

15. Risk Management Recommendation for the Locks

Town will apply for LGAP grant to pay for fencing around the Locks.

R. Reports

1. Council

- **Councilman Rogers**- Inquired if anyone has spoken with Municode. Clerk Leonard responded that the Council must approve the code before it goes online. Councilman Rogers asked if there is a committee working on approving the Municode Ordinance book. Mr. Theriot reported that the criminal section was adjusted. Chief Vedros reported that there are still a lot of discrepancies and changes that need to be made. Clerk Leonard stated that the changes to the criminal section were made at Municode's expense, because they were discussed during a phone call with Municode. Clerk Leonard is doubtful that the discrepancies not addressed during the phone conversation will be corrected at their expense. Mayor Champagne asked the committee to reconvene and the topic will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- **Councilman Triche**- Inquired about a house on Vacherie Street that has been in the remodeling process since Hurricane Ike. Councilman Triche is worried that the structure has been weakened by removing outside walls and claims a wood pile on the property invites rodents and other pests.
- **Councilman Barker**- No report.
- **Councilman Champagne**- No report
- **Councilman Hartman**- Attended a budget workshop during the LMA Convention and noted that some changes were made to the manual. Councilman Hartman inquired if administration had noticed any of the new changes in the manual. Clerk Leonard answered that a few small changes were noted, but administration has not had the opportunity to review the manual in detail.

2. Town Attorney-No Report.

3. Mayor- The State has notified the Town that there will be an increase in fees for various violations. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman seconded a motion to call for a Public Hearing to discuss the Bonds and Fines Schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

S. Citizens Comments

- Citizen Floyd Cretini, 806 School Street, complained about drainage issues during recent heavy rains. He asked if the Town could remedy the problem. Mayor Champagne asked if there was a noticeable difference in the amount of flooding when the pumps were running. Mr. Cretini answered that there is not. He reported 5-6 inches of water on School Street every time it rains. Mr. Cretini said he had to block the street with his personal truck to prevent his house and his neighbor's shed from flooding. Mayor Champagne asked Administration to make a work order for Public Works to correct the drainage problem.

T. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular town meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Rogers to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Triche and carried unanimously at 8:50PM.

Town of Lockport

R.P. Champagne

Richard P. Champagne
Mayor

Gerard Leonard

Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk

Town of Lockport

Proclamation

WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers, in order to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity, did ordain and establish a Constitution for the United States of America: and

WHEREAS, it is of the greatest importance that all citizens fully understand the provisions and principles contained in the Constitution in order to support, preserve, and defend it against all encroachment: and

WHEREAS, the two hundred-twenty fourth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution provides an historic opportunity for all Americans to realize the achievements of the Framers of the Constitution and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities it affords: and

WHEREAS, the independence guaranteed to American citizens, whether by birth or naturalization, should be celebrated by appropriate ceremonies and activities by proclamation of the President of the United States of America in accordance with Public Law 915;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Lockport, in conjunction with the Bayou Lafourche Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, does hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23, 2011 as

CONSTITUTION WEEK

in the Town of Lockport and does urge all students and citizens of the community to study the Constitution, and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Official Seal of the Town of Lockport, Louisiana, at the Town Hall, in the Town of Lockport, on this the 16th day of August, A.D. 2011.

Richard P. Champaghe, Mayor

Attest by

Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk

It was moved by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilman Hartman, that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport is in the process of upgrading the municipal sewer collection service; and

WHEREAS, project is partially funded through grants from the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program and the Delta Regional Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Town is seeking additional funding to assist in offsetting construction costs,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Lockport Town Council does hereby authorize the Mayor to file an application with the Delta Regional Authority for supplemental assistance to be used in the upgrade of the municipal sewerage system and to further authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents in connection with said application to the Delta Regional Authority and subsequent grant award.

WHEREUPON the motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Barker, Champagne, Hartman, Rogers, and Triche.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: None.

and the resolution was declared adopted on this 16th day of August, 2011.

R.P. Champagne
Richard Champagne, Mayor
Town of Lockport

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I, Gerard Leonard, Clerk of the Town of Lockport, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Lockport, at a meeting held on the 16th day of August, 2011, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

ATTEST:

Gerard Leonard
Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk
Town of Lockport

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A LGAP – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Lockport wishes to submit an application to be considered in 2011-2012 for a Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) grant which will be used for a project consistent with the LGAP eligibility requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and / or Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Lockport is authorized to make and sign an application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, with the LGAP – Local Government Assistance Program with respect to the above-referenced project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and / or Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Lockport is authorized and directed to serve as the official representative of the Town of Lockport, to act in connection with the application and to sign any LGAP – Local Government Assistance Program grant documents to bind the Town of Lockport.

The foregoing resolution was read, considered, and is adopted this 16th day of August, 2011.

R.P. Champagne

Richard Champagne, Mayor
TOWN OF LOCKPORT

CERTIFICATE

I, Gerard Leonard, Clerk for the Town of Lockport, hereby certify that the above constitutes a true and accurate copy of a resolution, which UPON MOTION of Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilman Champagne was adopted by the following Yea and Nay vote:

YEA: Councilmen Barker, Champagne, Hartman, Rogers, and Triche
NAY:
ABSENT:

and the same was declared adopted by the Mayor on this 16th day of August, 2011.

Gerard Leonard

Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk
Town of Lockport