

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting November 15, 2011

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 7:00PM., 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, and Weldon Triche. Also present was Police Chief Warren Vedros. Councilman Craig Rogers was not in attendance.

E. Approval of October 18, 2011 Minutes

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the October 18, 2011, meeting that were distributed to all councilmen. Councilman Triche 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 the month ending October 31, 2011

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending October 31, 2011, that were distributed to the councilmen. Clerk Leonard explained that a Cash Flow Worksheet will be added to the packets as well as a monthly check register. Mr. Leonard explained the Town's current cash flow situation. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Triche 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. Councilman Barker moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to accept the police report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Champagne made a motion to move agenda item M ahead of agenda item H. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion. There were no comments from the audience and the motion carried unanimously.

M. Hugh Caffery

Mr. Caffery presented the Mayor and Council with his plans for his McCleod Plantation property. He is open to the Town annexing some of the property and would like to meet with the Committee to Expand Lockport to reciprocate information and get the annexation process started. Mr. Caffery explained that the Parish plans on purchasing about 21 acres on which to build a vocational school. He is also interested in some residential development. Councilman Triche inquired about the sewerage needs if the Town were to annex the property. Mr. Clay Breaud, GSE, gave an update on the Town's current sewer plant capacity. Mr. Breaud added that he would have to evaluate any new development to determine if the Town's sewer plant could handle the added capacity and briefly named a few options the Town has on handling the added load. Mayor Champagne informed Mr. Caffery that the Town needs a letter requesting annexation.

H. GSE Report

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

1. Wind Hardening of Town Hall Complex:

GSE has submitted additional information to FEMA and is awaiting response. The Town is soliciting qualifications for a Program Manager. Three contractors were present for the pre-bid meeting today at 10:00am. Receipt of bids is scheduled for December 6, 2011 at 10:00am.

2. Comeaux Drive LCDBG Sewer Application:

Notice to Proceed was issued to Magnolia Construction Company on July 7, 2011. Work on main trunk line and services to the right-of-way are complete. Overlay of the road is complete. Connections to houses are complete, with the exception of one. Tie-ins will be completed soon. Road work should start next week. Rehab of the pump station is approximately 50% complete.

3. Elliot St. Sewer Lift Station Generator:

The Town received a \$35,000 grant for this project. The generator has been ordered. Final plans are complete for installation and have been submitted to Kyle Loupe Electric for pricing.

4. LGAP Grant:

The Town has applied for a \$35,000 grant for sewer rehab work on Vacherie Street.

5. LCDBG Street Improvements Program:

GSE prepared estimated construction costs and probable project budget for the street program through SCPDC and LCDBG.

I. Melanie Mayer- nCourt

Ms. Mayer explained that nCourt is a company that helps towns set up a website where people can pay citations online. nCourt charges a 7% fee on top of the charge, so the website is no cost to the Town. nCourt pays all collections to the Town once weekly. Councilman Champagne moved and Councilman Hartman seconded a motion to begin using nCourt for online citation collections. The motion carried unanimously.

J. The Council authorized the Town Attorney to file a lien on businesses with delinquent Occupational License fees.

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker seconded a motion authorizing Town Attorney Mitch Theriot to file a lien on businesses with delinquent Occupational License fees. The motion carried unanimously.

K. School Street Drainage Improvements

Clerk Leonard referenced a quote in the Councilmen's packets from B&B Underground for \$43,602 to replace four culverts that are either undersized or damaged. This amount does not include engineering costs. The Council decided not to take any action on this project due to costs and the Town's current financial situation.

L. Report from Committee to Expand Lockport

This topic was covered during agenda item M.

N. Introduce Ordinance and call for a Public Hearing for Changes to Bonds and Fines Schedule.

Councilman Champagne moved and Councilman Barker seconded a motion to call for a Public Hearing to discuss and amend the Bonds and Fines Schedule to take place at the December meeting.

O. Open topics

1. Smoke testing report

No progress has been made. Some work has been done as a result of a video camera that was run down Vacherie Street. Two infiltration sites were repaired.

2. Clear trees from main drainage ditch from Crescent Ave to First Street

Two bids have been obtained to remove all trees along drainage ditch, one for \$31,000.00, the other for \$98,000.00. The Town is still waiting for the right-of-ways.

3. Committee for Expansion of Lockport

No report.

4. Street Repairs

No report.

5. Water fountain repair

Councilman Champagne moved and Councilman Triche seconded a motion to purchase a water fountain for the park. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Restrooms at Bayou-Side Park

No report.

7. Risk Management Recommendation for the Locks

No report.

8. Municode

No report.

9. Disposition of police car

Councilman Champagne suggested we sell the car to the previous bidder if the bidder is still interested in buying it; if not, the Town should re-advertise for bids.

10. Disposition of Old Town Hall site

No report.

11. nCourt collections online

Discussed during Agenda Item I.

12. House located at Vacherie and Eighth Streets

Mayor Champagne will have Town Attorney Mitch Theriot to write a condemnation letter to the owner of the property.

13. Conoco gas station

No update.

P. Reports

1. Council

- **Councilman Triche**- "Spook in the Park" was a big success. The Christmas Tree Lighting will be Friday, December 2 at 6:30PM. The Lockport KC's will give free hot dogs and refreshments to the children and each child will also receive a toy from Santa Claus. The Christmas parade will be Saturday, December 3rd at 5:30PM.
- **Councilman Barker**- No report.
- **Councilman Champagne**- No report
- **Councilman Hartman**- No report.

- 2. Mayor**- Mayor Champagne covered Councilman Roger's email regarding speed bumps along Comeaux Drive. Clerk Leonard reviewed information he found on speed bumps. Chief Vedros reported on a speed log he conducted on Comeaux Drive. He added that Comeaux Drive is a congested area and didn't think speed bumps were a good idea for the street.

Mayor Champagne referenced a Condolence Resolution for Frank Daviet that was distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Champagne moved and Councilman Hartman seconded a motion to accept the Condolence Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

S. Citizens Comments

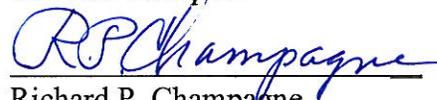
Fire Chief Carl Plaisance announced the Lockport Volunteer Fire Department's upcoming Centennial Celebration on May 19, 2012 and asked for the Town's support. Councilman Hartman made a motion to support the event, authorize the parade, and ask citizens to support and participate in this event. Councilman Champagne seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Kenny Matherne of the North Lafourche Levee & Drainage District gave a comprehensive report of Lockport area projects. Mr. Matherne introduced the Levee District's President, Mr. George Broussard, who also gave an overview of the Levee District's current events. Mayor Champagne and the Council thanked Mr. Matherne and Mr. Broussard for the report.

T. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular town meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Hartman and carried unanimously at 9:08PM.

Town of Lockport



Richard P. Champagne

Mayor



Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport recently laid to rest one of its foremost and revered citizens;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council wish to acknowledge the dedication and service to the Town of Lockport by Frank Daviet;

WHEREAS, Frank Daviet served the Town of Lockport and the surrounding community as Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman, President of the Lockport Senior Citizens Center, Past Chief and President and active member of the Lockport Volunteer Fire Department, Past Commander and active member of the American Legion Post 82, WWII Veteran, Husband, Father, and Friend;

WHEREAS, Frank Daviet is and will be greatly missed by the community he so generously served;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Town Council adopts this resolution to pay tribute to the years of service Frank Daviet dedicated to the Town of Lockport and the surrounding community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall deliver a copy of this condolence resolution to the family of Frank Daviet, and attach a copy of this resolution to the official minutes of the Town of Lockport.

READ, RENDERED, and ADOPTED by unanimous vote on the 15th day of November, 2011.


Richard P. Champagne, Mayor
Town of Lockport

ATTEST:


Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk
Town of Lockport