

Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting January 17, 2012

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 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, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Also present were Police Chief Warren Vedros and Town Attorney Mitch Theriot.

**E. Approval of Minutes**

1. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the December 20, 2011, meeting that were distributed to all Councilmen. Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the December 29, 2011, special meeting that were distributed to all Councilmen. Councilman Barker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending December 31, 2011**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending December 31, 2011, that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Rogers inquired about the transaction under vendor activity for \$6600.00 and Mr. Leonard explained that it was a voided check. Councilman Rogers 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 Rogers moved and Councilman Triche 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. Wind Hardening of Town Hall Complex:**

The "Notice of Award" was sent out on December 21, 2011, to D.L. Daigle and Company. GSE is waiting on Builder's Risk Insurance. Mr. Breaud hopes to hold a preconstruction meeting next Monday to issue a "Notice to Proceed."

**2. Comeaux Drive LCDBG Sewer Application:**

The Substantial Completion Certificate was recorded and sent to Magnolia Construction Company on December 22, 2011. The lien period will end on February 5, 2012. Mr. Bill Selig, Magnolia Construction Company, was in attendance and explained his proposal, as well as an alternate proposal to repair a damaged culvert. The Town also received a bid from B&B Underground to replace the culvert. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Champagne seconded a motion accepting B&B Underground's proposal to repair the damaged culvert, provided an explanation is given for the discrepancy in cost of materials.

**3. Elliot St. Sewer Lift Station Generator:**

The Town received a \$35,000.00 grant for this project. The generator has been delivered. Ellender Backhoe & Dozer Service is scheduled to begin formwork this week.

**4. LGAP Grant:**

The Town has applied for a \$35,000.00 grant for sewer rehab work on Vacherie Street.

**5. LCDBG Street Improvements Program:**

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

### **I. The Department of Children and Family Services**

Mayor Champagne called on Crissie Ray of the Department of Children and Family Services. Ms. Ray explained that the services her department provides is for moderate to low income families. She asked for the Council's recommendation for agencies she can leave brochures with that would be accessible by people who most likely need assistance. The Council suggested the Town Hall lobby, the Town's website, the public library, and Headstart. Ms. Ray introduced her colleague, Tina Vial, who explained her job with the Department and offered to assist anyone in need.

### **J. February Meeting Date**

Councilman Rogers moved to re-schedule the February Town Council meeting to February 15, 2012, due to the regularly scheduled meeting falling on Mardi Gras. Councilman Champagne seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **K. Municode Committee**

Mayor Champagne reminded everyone that the Committee includes Town Attorney Mitch Theriot, Chief Warren Vedros, Councilman Barker, and Councilman Triche. Mr. Theriot recommended all Councilmen review the Municode book and make a list of discrepancies or notes for the Committee to review. The Committee could then review the notes, make changes, and present a final list of changes to the Council for approval.

### **L. Stagni & Company proposal**

Councilman Hartman moved to accept Stagni & Company's two year proposal, beginning with the year ended June 30, 2012, for the not-to-exceed price of \$20,000. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **M. Resolution supporting funding for Lafourche Council on Aging**

Councilman Champagne made a motion to accept the resolution supporting funding for the Lafourche Council on Aging. There was a unanimous second from the Council and the motion carried.

### **N. Public Hearing- Zoning Change at 302 Barataria Street**

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker seconded the motion to suspend the regular meeting and to open a public hearing to discuss the zoning change. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Champagne explained the purpose of the public hearing is to change the zoning at 302 Barataria Street from C-1 Commercial to R-1 Residential. Councilman Hartman proclaimed his support for changing the zoning to R-1. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any comments from the audience. Mr. Jimmy Gouaux said he spoke to Ms. Marie Delaune, who also lives next to the site, and they both support changing the zoning to residential. Mr. David Hanley, who lives next door, said he would like to see the zoning changed to R-1. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the audience and there were none.

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

Councilman Champagne made a motion to adopt an ordinance changing the zoning from C-1 to R-1 at 302 Barataria Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hartman and it carried unanimously.

### **O. Introduce Ordinance and call for a public hearing for consideration of annexing a certain portion of ground commonly known as "The Old Company Canal Locks."**

Mr. Theriot explained that the Town would be responsible for maintaining the street that runs through the Town, as well as the bridge. Mr. Theriot recommended not annexing the Locks at this time. The Council agreed to take no action.

### **P. Open topics**

#### **1. Smoke testing report**

No progress has been made. Councilman Rogers asked to resume acting on this task.

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

The Town is still waiting for the right-of-ways.

#### **3. Committee for Expansion of Lockport**

The committee is still active. There is nothing to add at this time.

#### **4. Street Repairs**

Discussed during Agenda Item H(5).

#### **5. Restrooms at Bayou-Side Park**

No progress. Councilman Rogers asked Administration to follow-up with the Parish President in writing.

## **6. Risk Management Recommendation for the Locks**

No update. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to take this item off the list. Councilmen Barker, Hartman, Rogers, and Triche were in favor of the motion. Councilman Champagne opposed the motion.

## **7. Municode**

Discussed during Agenda Item K.

## **8. Disposition of police car**

No bids were received. Councilman Champagne suggested donating the car to Central Lafourche High School's vocational department. Mr. Theriot recommended checking with the school board first. Chief Vedros will contact the school board.

## **9. Property at 302 Baratavia (Old Town Hall site), 10. House located at Vacherie and Eighth Streets, 11. Conoco gas station**

Mr. Leonard explained that pictures and a list of addresses were sent to South Central Planning. An inspector will check these locations and send a written description of the condition of the properties.

## **12. School Street Drainage Improvements**

Councilman Rogers feels this item can be done in-house. Mayor Champagne agreed that he would like to try to do the job in-house, but reminded everyone the job will take a considerable amount of time to complete. Councilman Rogers made a motion to authorize GSE to complete the engineering and develop a scope of the work that needs to be done to correct the drainage problem. Councilman Barker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **Q. Reports**

### **1. Council**

- **Councilman Rogers-** asked if the resolution increasing court costs was submitted to the legislature. Chief Vedros answered that he has been in contact with Senator Gisclair's office, who is working on getting the bill passed. Councilman Rogers asked if the carnival parade was before the next meeting, because they have not asked the Council for permission to parade. Chief Vedros said the parade is February 18, 2012. Councilman Rogers moved to authorize the carnival parade to roll on February 18, 2012, at noon. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- **Councilman Triche-** would like the Town to look into having a fireworks display for the Fire Department's Centennial Celebration.
- **Councilman Barker-** Ruby Bradberry (resident) called because Sunrise Chicken's trash was getting in her yard. He asked Chief Vedros to remedy the problem.
- **Councilman Champagne-** No report.
- **Councilman Hartman-** No report.

**2. Town Attorney-** No report.

**3. Mayor-** No report

## **S. Citizens Comments**

Citizen Floyd Cretini thanked the Council for taking action on the School Street drainage problems. He agrees the Town can handle the project in-house.

## **T. Adjourn**

The next scheduled regular town meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Hartman to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Barker and carried unanimously at 8:51PM.

Town of Lockport

  
Richard P. Champagne, Mayor

  
Gerard Leonard, Town Clerk

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-001**

An ordinance to amend the Lockport  
Code of Ordinances so as to Add  
Section 23-31.6

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Lockport Town Council in regular session  
assembled that the Lockport Town Code of Ordinances is hereby amended  
and re-enacted so as to add Section 23-31.6

**SECTION 23-31.6 R-1 DISTRICT ADDITIONS**

The property bearing municipal address of 302 Barataria Street is  
hereby zoned as R-1.

Said Ordinance was put to a vote on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012 and the  
vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: none

ABSENT: none

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January,  
2012.

  
MAYOR RICHARD CHAMPAGNE

ATTEST:

  
GERARD LEONARD  
TOWN CLERK

## Resolution

**WHEREAS**, Lafourche Council on Aging serves the senior population, 60 years and older in Lafourche Parish and has since 1973; and

**WHEREAS**, Lafourche Council on Aging adopted and subscribes to its Mission Statement: "To make Lafourche Parish, responsive to the needs and interests of the elderly,

**WHEREAS**, Lafourche Council on Aging has as its goal to serve to the fullest extent, all aging citizens in the Parish of Lafourche, addressing independent needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the aging population in Lafourche Parish is the largest growing segment of population according to the 2010 official census; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding for Parish Council on Aging (PCOA) and Senior Center, to provide dignity and independence to the aging, has not kept up with the basic cost of living; and

**WHEREAS**, without adequate funding to keep up with the basic cost of living and the growing number of senior citizens, services to the aging are curtailed resulting in long waiting lists;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Lockport, in regular session with a quorum present, that this body will wholeheartedly support and back the proposed new funding formulas, as presented to the Louisiana Legislature in regular session 2012 for all Louisiana Councils on Aging, according to census populations 60 years and over, to operate successfully as advocates for the aging.

Adopted and approved on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012, in Lockport, Louisiana.

\* \* \* \* \*

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

WITNESS MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

  
Richard P. Champagne  
MAYOR, TOWN OF LOCKPORT

ATTEST:

  
Gerard Leonard  
CLERK, TOWN OF LOCKPORT