

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 7:00PM, at the Lockport Town Hall Complex.

A. Call to Order, B. Opening Prayer, C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Paul Champagne called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was offered by Town Clerk Danielle Williams, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Champagne.

D. Roll Call

The roll was called with the following present: Mayor Paul Champagne, Councilmen Donovan Barker, Rodney Hartman, Richard Hebert, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Also in attendance were Town Attorney Mitch Theriot, Chief of Police Warren Vedros, Ralph Sapia, Angelique Barker (Stagni & Co.), Mary Lynn Blanchard, Denise Hughes (4U), Cheryl Cavalier (4U), Hank Holland, Chris Huddleston, Kenney Matherne, Sharon Guidry, and Scott Guidry.

E. Approval of Minutes

1. November 14, 2012, Regular Meeting

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the November 14, 2012, meeting that were distributed to the Councilmen. Mayor Champagne asked that the minutes be amended to note that the 2003 Ford Crown Victoria that was declared surplus last month should have been a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria. Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. December 4, 2012, Special Meeting

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the December 4, 2012, meeting that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Hebert made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending November 30, 2012

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending November 30, 2012, that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Champagne asked for a motion to move agenda item "H" ahead of agenda item "G." Councilman Rogers so moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Annual Audit Report- Angelique Barker, Stagni & Co.

Mayor Champagne introduced Ms. Angelique Barker who presented the annual audit report. Ms. Barker announced that there were no findings in both the financial and the compliance audits. Mayor Champagne thanked Ms. Barker for delivering the audit report. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker seconded a motion to approve the annual audit report for the year ending June 30, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Police Report

Mayor Champagne called on Police Chief Warren Vedros to report on his department's activities. Chief Vedros distributed copies of the monthly activity report. Chief Vedros said the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting events were a huge success. Chief Vedros reported that sealed bids were accepted on the 2002 Crown Victoria, which was declared surplus last month, with a winning bid of \$1,555.55 by Jerry Thomassie. Councilman Hebert made a motion to accept Jerry Thomassie's bid of \$1,555.55. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chief Vedros obtained three bids for a new Ford Taurus, with Lafourche Ford of Lockport being the low-bidder. Councilman Rogers asked Mr. Theriot what the process is regarding trading in a vehicle. Mr. Theriot answered that if a vehicle is traded-in, it does not have to be declared surplus, but the Council must approve the trade-in amount. He explained that the Chief should come to the Council with the final purchase price of the new car, which details the trade-in amount of the vehicle being traded, for approval. Mr. Theriot said it was important that the trade-in vehicle and amount is clearly noted, so that anyone could see how the vehicle was disposed of. Councilman Rogers made a motion authorizing Chief Vedros to order a 2013 Ford Taurus SEL from Lafourche Ford, for a price not exceeding \$29,485.00. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

I. GSE Report

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

1. Wind Hardening of Town Hall Complex:

A meeting was held with GOHSEP to work out the final details of the change order and requests for reimbursement.

2. Comeaux/Elizabeth Street Drain Culvert Repair:

The contractor completed the culvert replacement and fences have been reinstalled.

3. School and Second Street Drainage:

The contractor has completed this work.

4. Sewer Infiltration Analysis:

An application has been submitted to DEQ requesting \$4 million in bonds (\$1 million would be forgiven) to pay for this endeavor. GSE applied for \$140,000 from Capital Outlay. DEQ's engineering and financial review should be complete within two weeks, and then it is a matter of completing paperwork to close out the loan. Foley & Judell anticipate having funds available at the end of February. They are also in the process of getting all approvals in place in case interim financing is necessary. DEQ has approved the professional service contracts for CES to complete the sewer system inspection. They can start work at any time. Councilman Rogers made a motion authorizing Administration to hire CES to complete the scope of work for the remaining three quadrants in Town. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

J. Kyle Loupe's Proposed Annexation

Mayor Champagne read a letter from Kyle and Kate Loupe dated November 16, 2012, petitioning for annexation of their property into the corporate limits of the Town of Lockport. Mr. Theriot explained that the Council will need to call for a public hearing for the proposed annexation and obtain letters from the Registrar of Voters and Clerk of Court's Office, verifying there are no voters on the property and the assessed value of the land, respectively. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Triche, to call for a Public Hearing, at the January meeting to discuss annexation of Kyle and Kate Loupe's property on Hwy 308 into the corporate limits of the Town of Lockport. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Resolutions

1. Revoking Health Insurance Benefit for Retired Employees and their Spouses

Mayor Champagne explained that the Town had to get a new insurance plan for employees, because Risk Management will no longer provide health insurance as of January 1, 2013. Due to the Town having less than 20 employees on its health insurance plan, the retired employees and their spouses will not be eligible for health insurance through the Town, as of January 1, 2013. Retired employees currently on the Town's health insurance plan will not be affected. Councilman Rogers made a motion to adopt the above stated resolution. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Requesting LADOTD to consider while in the process of renovating the McLeod bridge to reroute the road in that area to take the major curve out which has caused many fatalities for residents and visitors

Councilman Triche made a motion to accept the above stated resolution. Councilman Hebert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

L. Public Hearing to Authorize the Sale of Bond Anticipation Notes

Mayor Champagne asked the Council if they had any questions on the topic. Councilman Hartman asked Mr. Breaud, GSE, if \$500,000 was enough to cover the cost of the scope of work for the remaining three quadrants in Town. Mr. Breaud answered that it was. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience and there were none.

Councilman Triche made a motion to end the public hearing and go back into regular session. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

M. Ordinance to Authorize the Sale of Bond Anticipation Notes

Councilman Rogers made a motion to table adopting the ordinance until the next meeting. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

N. Introduce Ordinance and Call for a Public Hearing authorizing the issuance of not exceeding Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) of Sales Tax Bonds of the Town of Lockport, State of Louisiana, prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; providing for the payment thereof; awarding said Bonds to the purchaser thereof; authorizing the execution of a Loan and Pledge Agreement and other loan documents with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the "Department"); providing for the delivery of the Bonds to the Department; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing and introduce the above stated ordinance. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

O. Open topics

1. Smoke testing report

No report.

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

Councilman Rogers called on Kenney Matherne, Commissioner of Lafourche Parish Levee District. Mr. Matherne said the machine that the Levee District will use to clear trees should be available by the end of January.

3. Street Repairs

No report.

4. Restrooms at Bayou-Side Park

Councilman Rogers said he spoke with Mr. Kaufman, Public Restrooms Company, and the restrooms should be at the park by the end of January.

5. Municode

The Municode Committee is still reviewing the book.

6. Derelict/dilapidated structures

Councilman Rogers said he would like to really focus on this issue after the first of the year.

7. School Street Drainage-GSE prepared scope of work

Councilman Rogers would like the Public Works crew to complete some work in the area he that showed to the Public Works Foreman.

8. Culvert Ordinance

No report.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to add an item to the agenda- to discuss the hiring of an attorney for BP Litigation. Councilman Barker seconded the motion. There were no objections from the audience. Councilmen Barker, Hartman, Hebert, Rogers, and Triche voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Theriot explained that in April, the Town filed a short form claim and now an attorney needs to be hired to file a long form claim. Mr. Theriot recommended the Town hire Walt Leger III. He further explained that the Council needs to give the Mayor authority to enter into an agreement with the law firm. Councilman Rogers made a motion authorizing Administration to enter an agreement with Walt Leger III to represent the Town for the BP claim. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

S. Reports

1. Council

- a. Councilman Rogers reminded everyone that the Police Department received money from FEMA to repair the Old Police Department Building. He said the Chief is waiting on an estimate for repairs. Councilman Rogers said the building would make a good, secure site for the Police Department to store evidence. Councilman Rogers said he would like the Town Crew to start checking and clearing the drainage throughout town, instead of waiting until April or right before hurricane season. Councilman Rogers suggested forming a committee to discuss the process of completing drainage work throughout town. Councilman Rogers said he would also like the town to look into participating in the cost of dependent coverage for health insurance. Councilman Rogers wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.
 - b. Councilman Triche congratulated Mr. Theriot for his election win. Councilman Triche congratulated Sharon Robichaux Guidry for being elected Councilwoman and thanked Mr. Ralph Sapia for running a good race. Councilman Triche wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
 - c. Councilman Barker wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
 - d. Councilman Hartman wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and a Happy New Year.
 - e. Councilman Hebert said he was very proud to be entrusted to be interim Councilman. Councilman Hebert wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
2. Town Attorney Mitch Theriot thanked this and all previous administrations for allowing him to serve Lockport for the past 12 years as Court Magistrate and Town Attorney. Mr. Theriot said he would be happy to answer any questions the new Town Attorney may have. Mr. Theriot wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
 3. Mayor Champagne thanked Councilman Hebert for serving as interim Councilman. Mayor Champagne said that because Mr. Theriot's term begins January 1, 2013, the Town will not have a magistrate for January's court. He recommended hiring Mr. Chris Huddleston from January 1, 2013 to January 16, 2013. Councilman Rogers made a motion to hire Chris Huddleston as Court Magistrate from January 1, 2013 to January 16, 2013. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne thanked Councilman Triche, Lanny Ross, and Chief Vedros for their work for the Christmas parade. Mayor Champagne congratulated Sharon Robichaux Guidry for her Council seat win. He also thanked Mr. Ralph Sapia for running a good campaign. Mayor Champagne wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Q. Citizens Comments

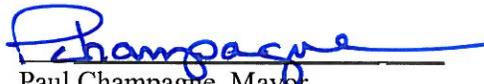
- Mr. Herbert Plank, 109 East Lafourche Street, showed pictures of the vegetative debris at the Locks. Mr. Plank asked for servitude to gain access to the Company Canal. Councilman Triche explained that Mr. Cenac owns the Canal and the Town does not have any rights to grant a servitude to the Canal.
- Ms. Denise Hughes, 207 West 13th Street, Larose, representing the organization "4U" inquired about the availability of office space in the Town Hall. Mayor Champagne asked where 4U gets its funding and if they would be able to pay rent. Ms. Hughes answered that she is a grant writer and gets funding through grants. Mayor Champagne said that it was up to the Council and her request will be considered.
- Mr. Ralph Sapia congratulated Mrs. Guidry for her accomplishments and offered his help or assistance to the town in any way it is needed. Mr. Sapia thanked Chief Vedros for his hard work on the Christmas parade. Mr. Sapia wished the Council a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.
- Mrs. Sharon Robichaux Guidry thanked Mr. Sapia and Mr. Guidroz for their good race for Council. Mrs. Guidry asked everyone to pray for the families of the victims in Connecticut. Mrs. Guidry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and said she looks forward to the first Council meeting in January.

Mayor Champagne introduced Mr. Hank Holland, owner of Baby Jane studios. Mayor Champagne showed a painting of Mr. Holland's that Mr. Holland loaned to be hung in the Town Hall. Mr. Holland said the painting was a donation. Mayor Champagne thanked Mr. Holland for his donation.

T. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Rogers and carried unanimously at 8:38PM.

Town of Lockport


Paul Champagne, Mayor


Danielle Williams, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-023

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport is a municipality subjected to the Laws of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport passed resolutions allowing employees retired under the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana and the Municipal Police Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, or their surviving spouses, the option to remain under the Hospitalization Insurance coverage of Risk Management, Inc.;

WHEREAS, two resolutions dated December 4, 1990, and dated April 16, 2002, were adopted allowing such a practice;

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport is changing health insurer carriers and the new carrier will not allow municipal retirees to continue with such coverage;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town of Lockport to end the practice of allowing retired employees the option to remain with the Town of Lockport's hospitalization insurance coverage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, effective January 1, 2013, the Town of Lockport will no longer allow employees who retire after January 1, 2013, the option to continue their hospitalization insurance with the Town of Lockport;

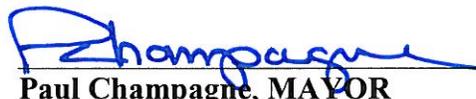
A MOTION TO ADOPT the above resolution was made by Councilman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Hartman and resulted in the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted this 18th day of December, 2012.


Paul Champagne, MAYOR
TOWN OF LOCKPORT

I, Danielle Williams, Town Clerk for the Town of Lockport, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2012-023 adopted by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on December 18, 2012, at which meeting a quorum was present.


Danielle Williams, TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF LOCKPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-024

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LADOTD) TO CONSIDER WHILE IN THE PROCESS OF RENOVATING THE MCLEOD BRIDGE TO RE-ROUTE THE ROAD IN THAT AREA TO TAKE THE MAJOR CURVE OUT WHICH HAS CAUSED MANY FATALITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

WHEREAS, the Lockport Town Council has made and continues to make requests to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development which concerns the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Parish; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty upon oath that the Governing Authority and State Officials address concerns dealing with the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens and said resolution satisfies this criteria; and

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Lockport, Louisiana convened in regular session on December 18, 2012, that it does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to consider while in the process of renovating the McLeod Bridge to re-route the road in the area to take the major curve out which has caused many fatalities for residents and visitors, Town of Lockport, Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

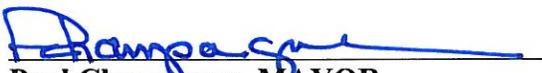
A MOTION TO ADOPT the above resolution was made by Councilman Triche, seconded by Councilman Hebert and resulted in the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted this 18th day of December, 2012.


Paul Champagne, MAYOR
TOWN OF LOCKPORT

I, Danielle Williams, Town Clerk for the Town of Lockport, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2012-024 adopted by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on December 18, 2012, at which meeting a quorum was present.


Danielle Williams, TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF LOCKPORT