

Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting April 16, 2013

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 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, Councilmembers Donovan Barker, Sharon Guidry, Rodney Hartman, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Also in attendance were Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Chief of Police Warren Vedros, Joe Paul Mayet, Mary Lynn Blanchard, Martha Cazaubon, and Scott Guidry.

**E. Approval of Minutes- March 19, 2013**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the March 19, 2013, meeting that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Triche asked to amend the minutes and change the wording from "camera" to "antenna" on page 3 of 3, item O, number 1, letter b. Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending March 31, 2013**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending March 31, 2013, that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Councilman Rogers noted that the 1% sales tax report totals include only 11 months, not the 12 months listed. 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. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Barker seconded a motion to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**H. 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:**

The change order has been approved.

**2. Sewer Infiltration Analysis:**

CES is approximately 95% complete with inspecting the sewer lines and 95% complete with inspecting manholes. Providence/GSE's engineering agreement was submitted to DEQ on March 12, 2013, for approval to begin design for the Southeast Quadrant rehabilitation. Once CES has submitted their report, an amendment will be presented to add the remaining three (3) quadrants. GSE is preparing plans and specifications for the Southeast Quadrant. A manhole and sewer line along Vacherie Street near its intersection with Ninth Street will be included with the Southeast Quadrant repairs, due to their conditions which warrant action as soon as practical. Mayor Champagne asked Mr. Breaud when he anticipated going out for bids on the Southeast Quadrant. Mr. Breaud said that it would be a few weeks, because the engineering contract has to be approved first. Councilman Rogers asked if a weight limit should be posted on Vacherie Street where the damaged manhole is located. Mr. Breaud said that since it is a state highway, the Town could write a letter to the State requesting a posted weight limit. Councilman Triche asked how the manhole would be repaired. Mr. Breaud explained that the manhole would be rebuilt with bricks.

**I. Dedicated Service Award- Claiborne Chauvin, Jr**

Mayor Champagne read aloud an award to be presented to Mr. Claiborne Chauvin, Jr, former Town Maintenance Supervisor.

**J. Environmental Associates- Mary Lytal and Matt Roth**

Mary Lytal and Matt Roth were not in attendance; therefore, this item was not covered.

**K. Joe Paul Mayet**

Mayor Champagne called on Mr. Joe Mayet to report on his properties in town. Mr. Mayet said that he has three and one half investors for the Jeandron building, but he needs six investors for the project to be financially feasible. He also has three individuals interested in purchasing a unit in the building, once it is developed and the sales prices are known. Mr. Mayet said the hurricane (Isaac) caused damage to the roofs on all his Main Street buildings. He added that the roof is a major problem for the Joseph building. In reference to the café, Mr. Mayet has a prospective restaurateur, who will evaluate the property the first week of May, 2013. Mr. Mayet also reported that Trade Winds Travel will be moving back to Lockport, but the exact location/building has not been determined. Councilman Triche inquired about what would happen to the Joseph’s building if the roof cannot be repaired. Mr. Mayet answered that it would be torn down. Councilman Hartman thanked Mr. Mayet for his report and expressed his desire to see the work progress.

**L. Proclamations**

**1. Fair Housing Month**

Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the month of April, 2013, as Fair Housing Month. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to adopt the Proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. Autism Awareness Month**

Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the month of April, 2013, as Autism Awareness Month. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to adopt the Proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

**M. Public Hearing to obtain views on the housing and community development needs of the Town and to discuss the submission of an application for funding under the State of Louisiana FY 2014-15 Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program**

Ms. Cazaubon gave a synopsis of what is happening with the new LCDBG grant. The deadline is in November, 2013. Ms. Cazaubon distributed a handout describing eligible projects and allocation of points. Ms. Cazaubon said that the public hearing is the first step of the process; the next step is to select a project, and then select an administrator and engineer. Councilman Rogers asked if restoring blighted properties to useful life would be eligible. Ms. Cazaubon answered that it would not be covered under this program. Councilman Triche asked if sidewalks and drainage fell into this plan. Ms. Cazaubon answered that only incidental projects do., but she recommended looking into the Transportation Enhancement Program. Councilman Rogers asked if projects for expansion of the Town would be eligible. Ms. Cazaubon answered that they would as long as they met all criteria.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a Public Hearing to discuss the above topic. After some discussion, it was concluded that a public hearing was called for at the March meeting. Councilman Rogers rescinded his motion.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to enter into a Public Hearing for the above topic. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Guidry and it carried unanimously. Councilman Hartman asked that Ms. Cazaubon’s earlier comments on the topic be integrated into the Public Hearing. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any further comments from the Council. Councilwoman Guidry thanked Ms. Cazaubon for her report. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any comments from the audience. Mr. Mayet asked if a Main Street Program falls under the prevue of what Ms. Cazaubon works on. Ms. Cazaubon explained that SCPDC looked into the program, but could not get funding to hire a circuit writer who would work with the small towns to help them get started in the Main Street program. Mr. Mayet said that in small towns, volunteers could help spearhead the program. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any other comments from the audience and there were none. Councilman Triche made a motion to end the Public Hearing and go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barker and it carried unanimously.

**N. Discuss leases and call for a public hearing for lease renewals between the Town of Lockport and the following:**

**1. Halifax Theatre**

**2. Friends of Traditional Louisiana Boat Building**

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing at the May 21, 2013, Town Council meeting for lease renewals between the Town of Lockport and the Halifax Theatre and the Friends of Traditional Louisiana Boat Building. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barker and it carried unanimously. Councilman Rogers asked that the property descriptions for the two properties be included in the packets for the renewals.

## N. Open topics

### 1. Smoke testing report

No report.

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

No report.

### 3. Street Repairs

Councilman Rogers asked that a several potholes be filled in front of the KC Home along Seventh Street between School and Church Street.

### 4. Restrooms at Bayou-Side Park

Councilman Triche explained his plans for the sidewalks and landscaping around the park restrooms. Mayor Champagne thanked Councilman Triche and said he would review the plans submitted by Councilman Triche. Councilman Rogers said that Mr. Kaufman (Public Restrooms Company) recommended planting shrubs along the sides of the building to prevent vandalism. Councilman Rogers added that he would go along with whatever decision is made.

### 5. Municode

No report.

### 6. Derelict/dilapidated structures

Mayor Champagne said that he was approached by the owner of a Vacherie Street property, who said the work would be done with 2-3 days of the discussion, which has not happened. Councilman Rogers said it is hard to attract businesses when there are a lot of derelict properties without anything being done to correct the problem. He would like to see Main Street/commercial properties cleaned up. Councilman Triche said the property at 805 Canal Street is in worse condition now that the owner has begun tearing down the property than it was before, due to the risk of flying debris. Councilman Triche expressed his desire to take action to remedy the problem properties.

### 7. School Street Drainage-GSE prepared scope of work

No report.

### 8. Culvert Ordinance

Councilman Rogers thinks the Parish adopted a new ordinance. He asked Administration to check on this.

## O. Reports

### 1. Council

- a. Councilwoman Guidry thanked the Mayor and Town Crew for the work that was done on Myrtle Delaune. She added that the trash pile near Mr. Rodriguez's home is still there, after a request was made to have it picked up. Councilwoman Guidry asked Mr. Huddleston if the Town could make SWDI responsible for the damaged streets, since they are not abiding by their contract. Councilwoman Guidry also mentioned that she is concerned about drainage between Justin Street and School Street on Second Street and also on Myrtle Delaune. Councilwoman Guidry read an excerpt from the December 18, 2012, minutes where Councilman Rogers requested the Town Crew begin checking and cleaning the ditches throughout Town in preparation of hurricane season. She asked if this has been done to any ditches. Mayor Champagne answered that the crew ran the machine through some ditches and pulled up some concrete culverts that were impeding drainage. Councilwoman Guidry said she spoke to Sheriff Webre earlier in the day and was told that trustees were in Lockport twice weekly, if available. Councilwoman Guidry asked to have the Town Crew devote one day, every other week, when the trustees are available, to cleaning ditches, section by section, in preparation of hurricane season. She would like a monthly report at each Council meeting of the work that is done.
- b. Councilman Hartman said he met with the Town Clerk to discuss the budget. It is anticipated that at the May meeting, the amended and proposed budgets will be presented for adoption; however, it would be desirable to have a special meeting on the second Monday of May, prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, to present the amended budget and the proposed budget. Any corrections and/or suggestions that the Council decides could be implemented and presented at the regularly scheduled May meeting. Councilman Hartman made a motion to hold a special meeting on May 13, 2013, at 7:00pm, to present the amended 2012-2013 budget and the proposed 2013-2014 budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rogers and carried unanimously. Councilman Hartman asked for the status of the replacement of the Town Maintenance Supervisor. Mayor Champagne said that no one has been hired and the help wanted ad was published again.
- c. Councilman Triche said that WAFB Baton Rouge will be in town to record their live morning show to showcase Lockport. Mayor Champagne said they will be at the Bayou Side Park on May 17, 2013 from 5:00am to 7:00am. Councilman Triche would like to show his scrapbook to show how the park has developed through the help of volunteers at no expense to taxpayers. Councilman Triche said Captain Curt's fishing rodeo has been

utilizing the handicap wharf as a fishing dock to dock the boats. Councilman Triche asked Mr. Huddleston to research the Town's liability regarding the people tying their boats to the handicap wharf and walking along a 6" board on outside the handrails. He added that if a docking facility is needed, the dock area between Pavilion 1 and Pavilion 2 can be cleaned up and used as a boat dock and a place to weigh fish.

- d. Councilman Rogers thanked everyone for addressing the drainage issue and said a lot is done that the average person may not see. Councilman Rogers said he knows the crew does a lot of work because he tracks it by viewing time sheets. Councilman Rogers asked Mayor Champagne if he has heard anything from DOTD regarding the speed limit along Crescent Avenue. Neither Mayor Champagne nor Chief Vedros have heard anything. Councilman Rogers mentioned that the boom trucks (Progressive Waste Solutions) are not following their schedule to pick up trash piles in town on the first and third Tuesday, as stated in their schedule. Councilman Rogers also mentioned that the Brownsfield Coalition project will be complete soon for the removal of the underground storage tanks behind the Ford building.
2. Chief Vedros reminded everyone of the fair this weekend. He reported that he attended a Chief's Conference in Grand Isle, where 41 Chiefs representing Southeast Louisiana were in attendance.
3. Mayor Champagne recommended Leroy Ledet be appointed as the Town of Lockport's representative to Lafourche Council on Aging. Councilman Rogers made a motion to appoint Leroy Ledet as the Town of Lockport's representative to Lafourche Council on Aging. Mayor Champagne said that Mayor Richard Champagne was honored at the Paddle the Bayou festivities and his daughters were there to accept a plaque on his behalf. He added that Mayor Champagne was instrumental in getting the Paddle the Bayou to end at the Bayou Side Park. Mayor Champagne thanked Councilman Triche and Chief Vedros for their help at the event.

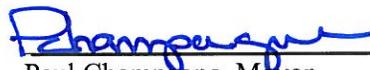
**Q. Citizens Comments-**

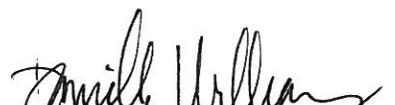
- Ms. Charlene Rodriguez thanked the Mayor and Council for their hard work and dedication.
- Ms. Mary Lynn Blanchard asked at what point is a house classified as dilapidated. Mr. Huddleston said an inspector or engineer must declare it dilapidated. Ms. Blanchard asked if the house on First and Barrilleaux was bank owned. Mayor Champagne said he would get her more information.

**T. Adjourn**

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 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 9:10PM.

Town of Lockport

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Champagne, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Williams, Town Clerk



# Town of Lockport

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** today, public health officials estimate that 1 in every 88 children in America is growing up on the autism spectrum; and

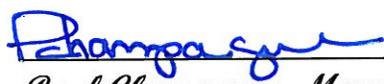
**WHEREAS,** science and society are only beginning to uncover and understand the factors behind the challenges faced by those on the autism spectrum and likewise by the families of those on the autism spectrum; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor, the Town Council, and the citizens of the Town of Lockport continue to believe that all Americans should have the chance to live full, independent lives and to follow their talents wherever they lead; and

**WHEREAS,** this month, we recognize Americans on the autism spectrum who are walking through doors of opportunity, and we recommit to opening them wider in the years ahead;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, PAUL CHAMPAGNE, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF LOCKPORT, on behalf of the Town Council and the citizens of Lockport, do hereby proclaim April as Autism Awareness Month, and I encourage each of us to learn more about autism and what we can do to support individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

*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 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D. 2013.*

  
Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by

  
Danielle Williams, Town Clerk



# Town of Lockport

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Open Housing Act (Louisiana R.S. 51:2601-2614) prohibits discrimination on housing because of race or color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Lockport has dedicated itself to bettering efforts to realize Fair Housing for the citizens of Lockport; and

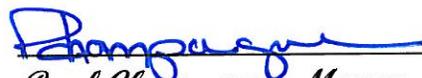
**WHEREAS,** the Lockport Town Council desires to increase the public's awareness regarding Fair Housing and the Louisiana Open Housing Act;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Paul Champagne, Mayor of the Town of Lockport, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2013, as

### **FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

in the Town of Lockport, State of Louisiana.

*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 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D. 2013.*

  
Paul Champagne, Mayor

*Attest by*  
  
Danielle Williams, Town Clerk