

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 22, 2013

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Monday, July 22, 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 Councilman Rodney Hartman, 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, Ralph Sapia, Floyd Cretini, Jr., Clay Breaud, Mary Lynn Blanchard, Mark Hughes, Barbara Hill, Mark Rodriguez, Scott Guidry II, and Scott John Guidry.

E. Approval of Minutes

1. June 18, 2013 - Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting that were distributed to the Council. Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending June 30, 2013

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending June 30, 2013, that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Hartman stated that there will possibly be some adjustments made to the end of year financial statements as a result of the audit process. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker 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. Chief Vedros distributed copies of the monthly activity report. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded a motion to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

H. GSE Report

Mayor Champagne called on Mr. Clay Breaud of GSE who gave the monthly engineering status report:

1 Sewer Infiltration Analysis:

CES is 100% complete with inspecting the sewer lines and manholes. They have submitted reports for 100% of the inspection services. Final payment to CES has been made. Plans and specifications for the Southeast Quadrant Rehabilitation were sent to LDEQ for approval. The project will include 12,600 feet of piping and 230 manholes.

On June 26, 2013, the State adopted House Bill No. 2 which awarded \$110,000 to Lockport in Priority 5 funds. These funds will likely not be available this year. The Town has submitted a request for line of credit form to complete when funding is available.

The Town applied for a CDBG grant for road improvements. That application was not selected.

I. Public Hearing - To discuss amending the Town's Culvert Ordinance to mirror the policies and procedures in the Lafourche Parish Culvert Ordinance

A motion was made by Councilman Rogers to suspend the regular meeting and to open the public hearing as described above. Councilman Barker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Champagne briefly explained the purpose of the public hearing, that is, attempt to mirror the Lafourche Parish ordinance regarding culvert installation. A copy of the parish ordinance is included in the packets that were distributed to the council. Mr. Huddleston reviewed the various aspects of the parish ordinance. Mr. Huddleston expressed some concern over the wording of some of the sections. The parish will install one driveway culvert, maximum 40' in length, for a permit fee of \$50.00. The property owner must furnish the culvert and other items needed for the installation. Culverts installed for cosmetic purposes are fully funded by the property owner, including hiring a third party to complete the installation. A permit fee of \$150.00 is required for landscaping culverts.

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion to end the public hearing and to return to the regular meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Huddleston will prepare a draft ordinance including the features similar to the desired features that are included in the parish culvert ordinance. The matter will be discussed again at a later meeting.

J. Reports

1. Council

a. Councilman Rogers reported on his attendance at the Chiefs of Police Convention. Highlights included training sessions on the responsibilities of police departments and of the Town. Chief Vedros has been elected to the position of Sergeant at Arms of the LACP. Hurricane season is here and drainage work is necessary.

b. Councilman Triche asked if any progress has been made on the request to place antennae for security cameras on the Lockport Bridge. There was no progress report. Councilman Triche asked if any progress has been made on the request to Entergy to install protective sleeves on the guy cables at the Bayou Side Park. Mayor Champagne replied that sleeves had been installed on two occasions. Entergy will be requested to replace the sleeves again.

c. Councilman Barker reported that he has received multiple calls from citizens complaining about the condition of the old church building located at the corner of Sixth and Lafourche Streets. Mayor Champagne replied that he will talk to the owners about the problem.

d. Councilman Hartman thanked Mr. Leonard for his service to the town during the absence of the Town Clerk.

e. Councilwoman Guidry inquired about the issue of garbage trucks damaging the Town's streets. Mayor Champagne replied that he has not heard back from the parish on that issue. Councilwoman Guidry then asked about various locations in Town that are in disrepair and are safety issues. Chief Vedros will do research to determine the owners of the properties. Discussion followed about several properties that are in various stages of disorder. Councilwoman Guidry inquired about a metal structure with dangerous conditions at the corner of Tenth and Barrilleaux Streets. Mayor Champagne replied that the issue will be looked into soon. Councilwoman Guidry then requested that some action be taken to prevent kids from swimming in the Company Canal in the area of the boat launch. Chief Vedros replied that he has no enforcement jurisdiction because the boat launch is located in the Parish, not in the Town of Lockport. Councilwoman asked about possibly removing the four way stop sign at the intersection of Justin and Seventh Streets. Chief Vedros replied that a public hearing needs to be held and the Stop Sign Ordinance needs to be revised to remove the sign. No action was taken at this time.

2. Town Attorney – no report.

3. Mayor - Mayor Champagne reported that he requested a change in the renewal date to December 1, 2013, for the Health Insurance Policy. This action will result in a significant savings to the Town. The Town has received a \$35,000.00 grant to be used for drainage work on School Street.

Q. Citizens Comments-

- Ms. Barbara Hill and Mr. Mark Hughes addressed the council to express concern over access to the cemetery located beyond the Company Canal Bridge. Ownership of the bridge is in question. At present, the bridge is barricaded to vehicular traffic by Lafourche Parish. Ms. Hill and Mr. Hughes have been attempting to resolve the access issue for a considerable time, by attending and speaking at Lafourche Parish Council meetings and contacting the Town of Lockport Town Hall for assistance. A temporary makeshift solution was agreed upon with the parish allowing scheduled periodic access under supervision of the parish maintenance department. All parties will continue to research this issue until resolved.
- Mr. Eugene Ryman addressed the council regarding several questions involved with zoning. Councilman Rogers explained the requirements for zoning and permitting. Mr. Ryman also inquired about the requirements for a sports bar, restaurant, or fast food franchise. Mayor Champagne replied that the Town has no restrictions. Mr. Ryman stated that he will complete his plans and submit them to the Town.
- Mr. Mark Rodriguez requested that the Town grade Myrtle Delaune Drive and apply additional limestone to improve the street.
- Mr. Ralph Sapia reported that children are riding motorized scooters on town streets. He asked if the scooters are legal. Chief Vedros replied that he hasn't seen the scooters yet. Some battery scooters are legal.
- Ms. Mary Lynn Blanchard asked if the grass will be cleared on the lot next door to her residence. Chief Vedros replied that the work will be done in seven to ten days.

T. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 7:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilwoman Guidry and carried unanimously at 8:25pm.

Town of Lockport


Paul Champagne, Mayor


Gerard Leonard, Temporary Town Clerk