

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting November 19, 2013

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was then 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 Clerk Danielle Williams, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Chief of Police Warren Vedros, Scott John Guidry, Kenney Matherne, Mary Lynn Blanchard, Charlene Rodriguez, Mark Rodriguez, and Barbara J. Hill.

E. Approval of Minutes- October 15, 2013

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the October 15, 2013, meeting that were distributed to the Councilmen. Ms. Williams explained that in the Police Report, the motion to hire Officer Michael Creamer carried, but she failed to type "the motion was voted on and carried unanimously" in October's minutes. Councilman Triche made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending October 31, 2013, 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.

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. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilwoman Guidry to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Vedros asked to have the Police Department's old copy machine declared surplus. Councilman Rogers made a motion to declare the Estudio copy/scanner/fax/printer machine, model 202L, serial CQC612784, surplus property with a zero dollar value. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Councilman Hartman proposed giving the old copy machine to the Lockport Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Champagne requested the Chief and Council to consider an agency other than LVFD with limited funds that may need a copy machine. Chief Vedros requested permission for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting to be Friday, December 6, 2013, at 6:30pm and the annual Christmas parade to roll on Saturday, December 7, 2013, at 5:30pm. A motion by Councilman Barker, seconded by Councilman Rogers, to allow the Christmas Tree Lighting to be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, at 6:30pm and the Christmas parade to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013, at 5:30pm, carried unanimously. Chief Vedros said the grant for surveillance cameras at the park is \$1,000, not \$3,000, as previously described. Councilman Rogers made a motion for Administration to appropriate the necessary funding to complete the camera installation project at the Bayou Side Park. There was a unanimous second from the Council and the motion carried. Mayor Champagne said he would bring this issue back to the Council if the cost exceeds \$5,000.

H. GSE Report

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

1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southeast Quadrant):

DEQ has concurred with the contract award to Suncoast and GSE sent the Notice of Award to the contractor on November 8, 2013. GSE is waiting on Suncoast to return contracts with insurance and bonds.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Western Quadrants):

SCPDC is submitting an LCDBG application in hopes of receiving a grant to assist in the rehabilitation of the western quadrants.

3. Sewer Rehabilitation (Western and Northeast Quadrants):

A capital outlay request for the sewer rehabilitation project was submitted last year and the Town was granted \$110,000 (Priority 5). This money has not yet been issued, so it cannot be used for the Southeast Quadrant. GSE submitted for capital outlay money again this year, hoping to increase the priority level of the \$110,000 and receive an additional \$200,000.

4. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northeastern Quadrants):

Providence/GSE will submit a proposal for an engineering agreement amendment to the Mayor for approval so that the design of the rehabilitation of the Northeast Quadrant can begin.

I. Call for a Public Hearing to request a variance in the zoning laws to disregard the side lot setbacks to allow the property owner at 616 and 618 Barrilleaux Street to build a single family home on two lots

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing to request a variance in the zoning laws to disregard the side lot setbacks to allow the property owner at 616 and 618 Barrilleaux Street to build a single family home on two lots. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

L. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne said that Thomasee would be repairing the wharf at the park. John Plaisance, Lafourche Parish Drainage District No.1, sent someone to look at the drainage ditch behind the elderly apartments. Mayor Champagne has not heard back from Mr. Plaisance. Mayor Champagne spoke with Bill Frye, Progressive Waste Solutions, and asked that only the smaller satellite trucks be used in the west side of town. Mr. Frye was going to meet with his people last week and get back with the Mayor. Mayor Champagne thanked everyone who attended the Vietnam War Exhibit last Saturday at the Bayou Lafourche Folklife and Heritage Museum. Mayor Champagne thanked Chief Vedros for delivering a Proclamation recognizing the 60th Anniversary Celebration of First Baptist Church of Lockport. Mayor Champagne added that he delivered a Proclamation to Victory Life Church for their anniversary.

2. Council

- a. Councilwoman Guidry asked if there was a better fix to the pipes that are sticking out of the ditch near Ms. Dora Champagne's home. Mayor Champagne said he would follow up. Councilwoman Guidry said the trees on Catherine Street were trimmed, but was told that they needed to be trimmed a little more. Councilwoman Guidry asked what could be done with derelict properties in town, particularly the Bradford House on Church Street. Councilman Rogers asked the town attorney to review the current ordinance on this issue and if needed propose an ordinance that puts the proper step by step procedure in place to address derelict properties. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the funds are not available at this time, but the Council would like the legal process to be in place as soon as possible. Councilwoman Guidry asked if the Police Department could turn off the ballpark lights at night. Chief Vedros said the officers do turn off the lights. Councilwoman Guidry relayed a message from Ms. Jean Chiasson about smashed culverts. Mayor Champagne reported that water does flow through those culverts. Councilwoman Guidry wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- b. Councilman Hartman thanked Representative Truck Gisclair for supporting the town in its endeavors. Councilman Hartman asked the town to look into what could be done to correct the problem on the 500 block of School Street. Councilman Hartman said he attended the Council on Aging's Thanksgiving meal and the event was very nice.
- c. Councilman Barker asked Mayor Champagne if there was an update on the old church on Sixth Street. Mayor Champagne said he spoke to the owner and was told the matter would be addressed. No timeline was given.
- d. Councilman Triche said that Spook in the Park was a success. Councilman Triche said he enjoyed the festivities at Victory Life Church's anniversary celebration. Councilman Triche was very pleased with Vietnam War Exhibit at the museum. Councilman Triche said that four out of six street lights are out along Canal Street near the park and Entergy has been contacted several times, but have not remedied the situation.
- e. Councilman Rogers asked that the organizations that participated in Spook in the Park be recognized. Councilman Rogers said the Vietnam War Exhibit was special and the museum did an outstanding job. Councilman Rogers said the Municode Committee met and they have one section left to review. Councilman Rogers thanked everyone for a great year and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

M. Citizens Comments-

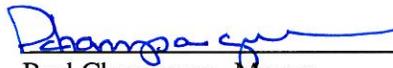
- Ms. Barbara Hill, 167 East Fontinelle Street, said that the bridge in at the Locks is open all the time and she worries about the safety of any traffic that may cross the bridge.
- Mr. Mark Rodriguez asked the Mayor and Council to send a letter to the Parish urging them to get funding for the new sports complex.
- Mary Lynn Blanchard thanked the Council for their help with the mess next door to her. Ms. Blanchard wanted to clarify that she was not asking the town to check her culvert, but wanted to know who she could call.

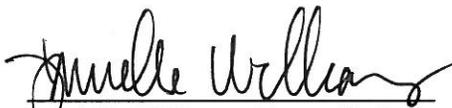
Mayor Champagne wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

N. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilwoman Triche and carried unanimously at 8:15PM.

Town of Lockport


Paul Champagne, Mayor


Danielle Williams, Town Clerk