

Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting December 17, 2013

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 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, Mary Lynn Blanchard and Floyd Cretini Jr.

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

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the November 19, 2013, meeting that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Hartman 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, 2013**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending November 30, 2013, that were distributed to the Councilmen. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. 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 Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded a motion to approve the annual audit report for the year ending June 30, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

**H. 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.

**I. 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 submitted 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.

**J. Public Hearing to allow 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 suspend the regular meeting and go to into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Triche and carried unanimously.

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council and there were none. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience. Ms. Mary Lynn Blanchard asked if the property owner would have to pay a separate fee if he builds a home on two lots. Mr. Huddleston said that the property owner already paid a surveyor to have the lots combined. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any more comments from the audience and there were none.

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

Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow 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 two lots.

#### L. Reports

##### 1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne said that John Plaisance will get with him as soon as he is available to look at the drainage ditch. Mayor Champagne said that he was told by Bill Frye, Progressive Waste Solutions, that they are working diligently on the town's request to use satellite trucks in the west side of town. Mayor Champagne reported that the property owner at 210 Ninth Street has requested to have two No Parking signs removed. The building was once a firehouse and the signs were needed at that time. Councilman Hartman made a motion to call for a public hearing to be held on January 21, 2013, to discuss the removal of two No Parking signs at 210 Ninth Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Triche and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mayor Champagne read a letter from Vision Communications, whereby channel 136 will be removed from their line-up.

##### 2. Council

- a. Councilwoman Guidry commended the Police Department and other groups on their hard work for the Christmas parade and the Tree Lighting. Councilwoman Guidry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- b. Councilman Hartman wished everyone a Blessed Christmas and a good, prosperous and Happy New Year.
- c. Councilman Barker said he did not receive a call this month in regards to the old church. Councilman Barker thanked the Council for all they do.
- d. Councilman Triche wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
- e. Councilman Rogers wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday. Councilman Rogers said that 2013 was a good year and he looks forward to tackling the dilapidated property issue, as he promised while campaigning for Council this term. Councilman Rogers asked for a report on the camera issue at the Bayou Side Park. Chief Vedros said that two cameras are working and others will be installed once testing is complete.

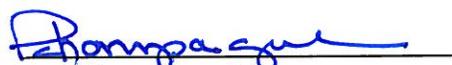
##### 3. Town Attorney

Mr. Huddleston reviewed the current ordinance regarding blighted properties. Mr. Huddleston then discussed a new state law that passed in June, 2013, whereby towns can enact a law to prescribe civil fines for blighted or abandoned property or violations of public health, housing and fire codes. Mr. Huddleston discussed the administrative procedures to be followed under the new law. Mr. Huddleston also discussed a criminal blighting statute.

#### N. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2013. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Rogers to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilwoman Triche and carried unanimously at 8:01PM.

Town of Lockport

  
Paul Champagne, Mayor

  
Danielle Williams, Town Clerk