Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting January 21, 2014

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 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. Mayor Champagne asked everyone to remember the Gouaux Family, Freemen Family, and Bourgeois Family in their thoughts and prayers. A moment of silence was observed.

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, Kenney Matherne, Scott Guidry, and Mary Lynn Blanchard.

E. Approval of Minutes- December 17, 2013
Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the December 17, 2013, meeting. Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Barker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending December 31, 2013
Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending December 31, 2013. 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. Mayor Champagne personally thanked Chief Vedros for going beyond his regular duties to help the families involved in recent incidents. Mayor Champagne said that he has heard nothing but praise concerning the Chief and the Police Department for their stellar work. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilwoman Guidry 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. <u>Sewer Rehabilitation (Southeast Quadrant)</u>:
A preconstruction conference was held on January 9, 2014. The Notice to Proceed was issued with a substantial completion date of May 19, 2014. Work should begin the first week of February.

2. <u>Sewer Rehabilitation (Western Quadrants)</u>:
SCPDC is submitting an LCDBG application in hopes of receiving a grant to assist in the rehabilitation of the western quadrants.

3. <u>Sewer Rehabilitation (Western and Northeast Quadrants)</u>:
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. <u>Sewer Rehabilitation (Northeastern Quadrants)</u>:
The engineering agreement has been executed and submitted to DEQ for approval. Surveying of the Northeast Quadrant is 60% complete and the design is approximately 25% complete.

I. Discuss Direct Deposit for Employee Payroll
Mayor Champagne announced that the town will begin issuing payroll via direct deposit. Ms. Williams added that a form will be issued to all employees explaining what will be needed from them to begin direct deposit. Councilman Rogers proposed going from weekly to biweekly payroll. Mayor Champagne said that he would discuss this with employees. Councilman Hartman said he would not want to place a hardship on anyone who depends on a weekly paycheck by switching to biweekly payroll.

J. Public Hearing to discuss the removal of two No Parking signs at 210 Ninth Street
Councilman Rogers made a motion to suspend the regular meeting and go to into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Triche and it carried unanimously.
Mayor Champagne asked the Council if there were any questions or comments regarding the removal of the signs and there were none. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience and there were none.

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

Councilman Rogers made a motion authorizing the removal of two No Parking signs at 210 Ninth Street. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

K. Reports

1. Mayor

   Mayor Champagne said that the Friends for Traditional Boat Building Center would like to host their annual Bateaux de Bois on April 12, 2014. Mayor Champagne said they will need a Letter of No Objection to sell alcohol. Councilman Rogers said he would like the Center to adhere to the town's policy as far as acquiring insurance if needed and hiring an off duty police officer. Councilman Rogers said that if the insurance is a cost to the town and constituents, then the Council needs to address that. Chief Vedros said that last year, two reserve officers volunteered their time for the event. Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow the Friends for Traditional Boat Building Center to host its annual Bateaux de Bois fundraising festival on April 12, 2014, and issue a Letter of No Objection to sell alcohol at the event. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne said that Progressive Waste is still working on the garbage truck issue. Mayor Champagne said that the North Lafourche Levee District has budgeted $200,000 to clear the trees from the drainage ditch behind the post office. This includes addressing the erosion problem along the drainage ditch. Mayor Champagne thanked Kenney Matherne, John Plaisance, George Broussard, and Lonny Babin for their work in making this happen. Mayor Champagne said the Boat Center would like to put a cover over their lugger that is behind the building. Mayor Champagne referenced the plans for the cover that were distributed to the Council. Councilman Rogers said that they must comply with sideline requirements. Mayor Champagne gave permission to the Friends for Traditional Boat Building Center to install a cover over their lugger and added that the Center is responsible for obtaining a permit for this job. Mayor Champagne invited everyone to the groundbreaking ceremony for the magnet school on January 31, 2014.

2. Council

   a. Councilwoman Guidry commended the Police Department for their work after recent events and asked everyone to continue praying for the families involved.

   b. Councilman Hartman inquired about the property where the old Town Hall building was located. Councilman Rogers asked administration to review the minutes to see if the property has already been declared surplus. Councilman Hartman asked that this topic be put on the agenda after all information regarding the status of the property is obtained. Mayor Champagne asked Mr. Huddleston to research the legal process to sell the property, if the Council so chooses. Councilman Hartman would like the Mayor and Council to stay informed of the developments on Highway 308 and added that someone from the town should be involved in discussions. Chief Vedros said he has been to meetings about the development and plans to attend other meetings.

   c. Councilman Rogers said the town needs to seriously address road repairs. He mentioned considering joining the Parish's road sales tax.

L. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Barker and carried unanimously at 7:50PM.

Town of Lockport

Paul Champagne, Mayor

Danielle Williams, Town Clerk