

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting April 15, 2014

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 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.

D. Roll Call

The roll was called with the following present: Mayor Paul Champagne, Councilmembers Donovan Barker, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Danielle Williams, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Police Chief Warren Vedros, and Mary Lynn Blanchard.

E. Approval of Minutes- March 18, 2014

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the March 18, 2014, meeting. 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 March 31, 2014

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending March 31, 2014. Councilman Rogers 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 Councilman Triche 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. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southeast Quadrant):

The contractor finished cleaning the gravity sewer lines on Wednesday, March 12, and will likely be complete with lining the main line on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. The subcontractor is on site to clean and line some of the services, most of which will not require a clean out.

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):

LDEQ approved the engineering agreement. The plans and specifications have been completed and submitted to LDDEQ for approval. Once approved, the town can set bid dates.

I. Holy Savior 5k Run- Terri Vedros

Terri Vedros requested permission to host a 5k run for Holy Savior on Saturday, May 3, 2014. She presented a map of the proposed route to the Council. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Triche, to allow Holy Savior to host a 5k run on May 3, 2014, per the approved route.

[Councilman Hartman entered the meeting.]

Councilman Triche made a motion to deviate from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rogers and carried unanimously.

Chief Vedros, on behalf of Lafourche Parish Fire Protection District #2, presented a plaque to Councilman Hartman for his service as secretary and treasurer. Mayor Champagne presented Councilman Hartman with a Proclamation from the Town of Lockport for his service to Lafourche Parish Fire Protection District #2.

J. Proclamations

1. Fair Housing Month

Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the month of April, 2014, as Fair Housing Month. Councilman Rogers 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, 2014, as Autism Awareness Month. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to adopt the Proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Discuss Sheriff's 0.2 Percent Sales Tax Proposal

Councilman Hartman explained that the Sheriff's tax proposal is intended to raise funds needed to build a new jail. Councilman Hartman explained the importance of a new jail and urged everyone to support the sales tax proposal. Mayor Champagne encouraged citizens to vote in favor of the new tax proposal. Councilman Rogers agreed that a new jail is needed and that something has to be done. Councilman Hartman made a motion that the members of the Lockport Town Council in attendance at the April 15, 2014, meeting fully support the 0.2 percent sales tax proposal to fund the construction of a new jail. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

L. Discuss Ordinance for sign requirements/restrictions

Councilman Rogers requested this item to be put on the agenda as a request from school board so the Council could discuss whether or not any sign requirements or restrictions are in place or if anything needs to be legally done to allow the school to put the signs in place. Councilman Rogers explained that the sign is a 16' high electronic sign. Councilman Rogers asked Mr. Huddleston to look into this matter to see if there are any ordinances or sign restrictions.

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

- 1. Halifax Theatre Company (current lease expires June 30, 2014)**
- 2. Friends for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building Center (current lease expires June 30, 2014)**
- 3. Christopher J. Huddleston (current lease expires June 30, 2014)**
- 4. Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office (current lease expires June 30, 2014)**

Councilman Hartman made a motion to call for a Public Hearing for the lease renewals stated above. Councilman Barker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

N. Reports

1. Mayor
Mayor Champagne announced that the Lockport Food Festival will take place April 24-27, 2014
2. Council
 - a. Councilman Rogers asked if the contractor has contacted the Town Hall regarding a catch basin on Comeaux Drive. Mayor Champagne said that the contractor has not contacted anyone and a different contractor will be asked to give an estimate.
 - b. Councilman Triche said that he was happy to see a single axle garbage truck and a tandem axle garbage truck with the axle raised running in town. Councilman Triche said that Mid-South Technologies is ordering the materials for the surveillance cameras at the park and will contact Town Hall when they come in.
 - c. Councilman Barker asked if the town was going to do anything with the planters by the tower. Mayor Champagne said that there are no plans at this time. Mayor Champagne explained that plans that were made when the planters were put in place 15 years ago, realistically could not happen. Mayor Champagne said he was open to ideas for the planters. Councilman Triche added that the plants in the planters are taken care of and are not unsightly.
 - d. Councilman Hartman said that it is close to budget time and he will be working with the Town Clerk on the amended budget for this year and next year's budget. Councilman Hartman wished everyone a Happy Easter.

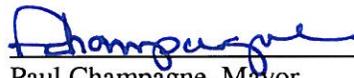
O. Public Wishing to Address the Council

- a. Brenda Gaudet with the Bayou Bell Ringers requested information on what is needed to hold a 5k in town. She is looking to host a 5k some time in April and would like to get everything together to present to the Council. Chief Vedros said the best route is to start and finish at the Bayou Side Park. Ms. Gaudet will come back to the Council with a final plan for the 5k.
- b. Michael Taylor, 1119 Ethel Street, complained about the deplorable condition of rental properties near his home. Mr. Taylor said that a former tenant left a trash pile full of baby diapers when she moved. He added that he watches drug deals and drag races down his street. Mr. Taylor said he is tired of watching illegal activities and nothing being done. Mr. Taylor said there are multiple houses tied into one sewer line. Mr. Taylor said he would like to see ordinances be enforced in town. He said he would like to see everyone follow the rules, just as he has to follow them. Chief Vedros said that people were picked up 9 times in 2 weeks, but nothing is done because there is no room in the jail.
- c. Mary Lynn Blanchard advised that there is a fire hydrant at the corner First Street and Barrilleaux Street where the land is eroding beneath the fire hydrant.

P. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Hartman and carried unanimously at 8:13PM.

Town of Lockport



Paul Champagne, Mayor



Danielle Williams, Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation

WHEREAS, RODNEY HARTMAN has dedicated himself to Lafourche Parish Fire Protection District No. 2 for eight years as its Secretary/Treasurer and eight years as its Chairman; and

WHEREAS, he resigned as Chairman at the end of December 2013; and

WHEREAS, his steadfast performance of his duties and his willingness to accept responsibilities and to form good working relationships with others has established him as a worthy and dedicated public servant; and

WHEREAS, has earned the admiration and affection of a host of residents who are proud to call him friend and neighbor, and his interest and dedication to the betterment of the community has gained him the highest regards; and

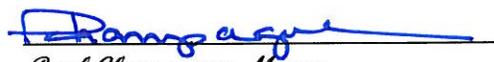
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Champagne, Mayor of Lockport, Louisiana, on behalf of the Town Council and the citizens of Lockport, am honored to present this Distinguished Service Award to

RODNEY HARTMAN

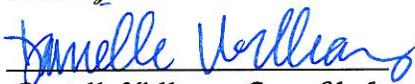
and offer to him my personal congratulations, as well as those of the Town Council and the citizens of Lockport, with great appreciation for his many years of distinguished service.



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 15th day of April, A.D. 2014.


Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by


Danielle Williams, Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the 46th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April is an occasion for all Americans -individually and collectively – to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists; and
- WHEREAS,** the law guarantees for each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home; and
- WHEREAS,** a fair housing law has been passed by the state of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement, and support of each of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lockport Town Council desires to increase the public's awareness regarding Fair Housing and the Louisiana Open Housing Act;
- WHEREAS,** barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen to freely choose a home will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Paul Champagne, Mayor of the Town of Lockport, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2014, 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 15th day of April, A.D. 2014.

Paul Champagne
Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by

Danielle Williams
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;

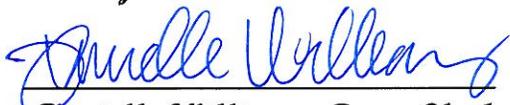
NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL CHAMPAGNE, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF LOCKPORT, on behalf of the Town Council and the citizens of Lockport, do hereby proclaim April as Autism Awareness Month, and I encourage each of us to learn more about autism and what we can do to support individuals on the autism spectrum and 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 15th day of April, A.D. 2014


Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by


Danielle Williams, Town Clerk