

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 16, 2014

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 16, 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 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 present were Town Clerk Danielle Williams, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, and Chief of Police Warren Vedros.

E. Approval of Minutes for August 19, 2014 Regular Meeting

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the August 19, 2014, meeting. Councilman Triche made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending August 31, 2014

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2014. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Triche made a motion to deviate from the agenda to allow Ms. Chris Beirs and Mr. Carol Breux from Victory Life Church to speak. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Chris Beirs introduced herself to the Council. She asked for permission to host "Glory Fest" on October 31, 2014, from 5:00pm-10:00pm, November 1 from 12:00pm-10:00pm, and November 2 from 12:00pm-6:00pm. Ms. Beirs also asked for permission to host "Rock Fest" on November 15, 2014, from 6:00pm-11:00pm. Councilwoman Guidry moved and Councilman Rogers seconded a motion to allow the events to be held on the dates and times described above. 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. Chief Vedros said that the netbooks in the police department are going out and are in need of replacement. Chief Vedros presented an estimate from Data Management Services in the amount of \$10,376.08, which includes 4 netbooks, software, a SonicWall, and technical services. Chief Vedros also presented an estimate from Digital Ally for 2 new video camera packages for the police cars, 2 body camera kits, and related software in the amount of \$11,800.00. Councilman Hartman said he supports the purchases. A motion was made by Councilman Barker and seconded by Councilman Rogers to accept the Police Report as presented and to approve the purchase from Data Management Services and Digital Alley for \$10,376.08 and \$11,800.00, respectively. Councilman Hartman asked if the purchase complied with Public Bid Law. Mr. Huddleston affirmed. 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):

Substantial Completion has been processed. Final inspection was conducted on June 3, 2014 and final payment and retainage has been paid. One more request for reimbursement from DEQ will be made for this project.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northeast Quadrant):

The bids were opened on August 14, 2014, at 2:00PM. The apparent low bidder was Suncoast Infrastructure Inc. in the amount of \$686,368.00. DEQ has concurred with the award and the contracts have been sent to Suncoast. In addition to DEQ funds, the town has LGAP funds in the amount of \$12,234 which will be used for this quadrant.

3. Sewer Rehabilitation (Western Quadrant):

SCPDC submitted an LCDBG application in hopes of receiving a grant to assist in the rehabilitation of the western quadrant.

4. 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 to be elevated to Priority 1 before it becomes available for use.

I. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne said that he received an email from Lyle Leblanc, DOTD, stating that the State buyback for the highways is going forward. This includes Vacherie Street and Hwy 655 from Rouses to the park and the roads will be brought back to standard before the town takes ownership. Councilman Triche asked if the project would include repairing the bulkheads near the museum. Mayor Champagne said that it would only include street repairs. Councilman Rogers said there is a property owner on the batture that would like to get sewerage. The property was recently purchased and has never had sewerage. Councilman Rogers said he would like the property owner to get sewerage prior to the State overlaying Main Street. Mayor Champagne said that the Solid Waste Contract Review Committee has been disbanded and he assumes the choice for garbage collection is Progressive Waste, but he has not received official word. Mayor Champagne announced that PeeWee will be officially retiring at the end of October and applications are currently being accepted for his position. Councilman Triche recommended the new hire to have a strong maintenance background. Mayor Champagne also mentioned that the relocating of the McCleod bridge project has been delayed to 2016. Mayor Champagne gave a rundown of upcoming events in town, as follows: Spook in the Park- October 31, 2014, at Bayou Side Park, Savor the Flavor- November 1, 2014, at the American Legion, Town Wide Garage Sale- October 4, 2014, Fireman's Installation at the central station in Lockport- October 11, 2014, Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade-first weekend in December.

2. Council

- a. Councilman Rogers followed up with a citizen complaint from the last Council meeting. Councilman Rogers said that he spoke with the Department of Health in Thibodaux and either a citizen has to go to Thibodaux and sign a complaint in person, or the Town of Lockport can take action through a resolution or by authorization of the Council, whereby a town official can make a written complaint on town letterhead signed by the Mayor, a Councilmember, or the Town Magistrate and they (the Department of Health) will attach the form to the letter and send it to Baton Rouge. Councilman Rogers asked to have the town crew reface stop signs on Seventh Street and Elizabeth Street. Councilman Rogers asked for an update on the cameras in the park. Councilman Triche said there is still one camera to be installed.
- b. Councilman Triche asked when the sewer plant was going to be pressure washed and painted. Mayor Champagne said the crew will get started on that project as soon as they can. Councilman Triche asked that a work order to be written to make sure that it gets done.
- c. Councilwoman Guidry asked if the crew were going to paint parking lines by the funeral home. Mayor Champagne answered yes. Councilman Triche asked if there was an ordinance that stated how many parking lots a business must provide for its customers and said that the funeral home could make a parking lot out of the vacant lot behind their building. Councilman Rogers said there is an ordinance, but the funeral home is grandfathered in. Councilman Triche asked if the town could ask the funeral home to make a parking lot. Mayor Champagne said that the he town could write a letter, but could not force the funeral home to do anything.
- d. Councilman Hartman said that he received a call from someone interested in purchasing the property where the old town hall was. Mr. Huddleston said that if the Council declares that the property is no longer needed for a public purpose and sells the property for fair market value, the property does not have to go to public bid and can be sold privately. A motion was made by Councilman Hartman and seconded by Councilman Rogers to have the property where the old town hall was located appraised. Councilmembers Barker, Guidry, Hartman and Rogers voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Triche opposed the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Hartman said that the town is spending a tremendous amount of money on the sewer lines and he does not want to see the town get in the position where it is giving away sewerage. Councilman Hartman added that residents on the town's sewage are getting a very good deal for the amount they are paying. Councilman Hartman said that in the future, after all the sewer work is done, the town should consider raising its sewer fees. Mr. Breaud, GSE, said it is not uncommon for entities to perform rate studies to determine if their current rates cover operating costs. Councilman Rogers recommended that if the sewer rate is increased, that it is not a one-time increase, but an annual step increase.
- e. Councilman Barker asked if the crew could pick up trash that is in front of the old Joseph store. Mayor Champagne said he will ask the crew to do so. Councilman Barker asked about a blue house on Canal Street that is in derelict condition. Chief Vedros said that house is not on the tax roll. Mayor Champagne said that it will be looked into to see if anything can be done.

3. Town Attorney Chris Huddleston said that Municode is now in order and all documents are ready to send off to the company, but there are a few ordinances that have discrepancies and need to be corrected. Mr. Huddleston reviewed the ordinances that he was referring to and explained the needed corrections.
- Councilman Rogers called for a Public Hearing to add the amended Sec 16-1 Ordinance to the Code of Ordinances. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Councilwoman Guidry called for a Public Hearing to amend Ordinance 251 of the Code of Ordinances. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Councilman Barker called for a Public Hearing to amend and reenact Section 2-356: Bonds & Fines Schedule. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Councilman Rogers called for a Public Hearing to Repeal Section 18-2: Transfer of traffic summons. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Councilman Hartman called for a Public Hearing to discuss and amend Section 6-16 of the Code of Ordinances. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

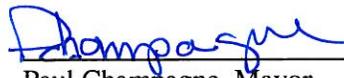
Q. Citizens Comments-

1. Mr. Kenney Matherne, North Lafourche Levee District, announced that the Morganza to the Gulf project was authorized.

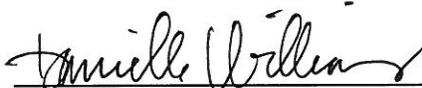
H. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 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 8:55PM.

Town of Lockport



Paul Champagne, Mayor



Danielle Williams, Town Clerk