

**Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting January 20, 2015**

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 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, Mandy Himel. 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 Mandy Himel, Town Attorney, Chris Huddleston, and Chief of Police, Warren Vedros.

**E. Approval of Minutes for December 16, 2014 Regular Meeting**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the December 16, 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 December 31, 2014**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending December 31, 2014. 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 and the annual report for 2014. A motion was made by Councilman Triche and seconded by Councilman Rogers to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Councilman Rogers recommended for everyone to look over the annual report for them discuss at the next meeting.

**H. GSE Report**

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

**1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northeastern Quadrants):**

The Notice to Proceed has been issued. Suncoast started work on December 8, 2014 and should be substantially completed before May 15, 2015. The cleaning of the lines have been completed. The AT&T line that went through the sewer on 7<sup>th</sup> Street has been removed by AT&T and repaired with the help of the Town. Suncoast will re-TV that area to make sure the repair is sufficient prior to lining it. Suncoast will be responsible for replacing the pavement, but the Town will have to maintain the traffic aggregate until the pavement is replaced.

**2. CDBG Request for Sewer Rehabilitation (Western Quadrants):**

This project was not funded through CDBG but will be funded by DEQ. Submitted automatically because of 2-year cycle.

**3. Capital Outlay Request for Sewer Rehabilitation (Western Quadrants):**

A capital outlay request for the sewer rehabilitation project was submitted the last two years and the Town was granted \$110,000 (Priority 5). This money has to be elevated to Priority 1 before it becomes available for use. A capital outlay request was submitted prior to the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to move the previously awarded up the priority list and request additional funds.

**4. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northwestern Quadrant):**

Melanie has reviewed the videos from CES for the northwestern quadrant to develop a construction e estimate. There were some lines that were not videoed at that time due to the manholes being inaccessible. Suncoast is getting us a cost to video those lines. There will be some major repairs in this quadrant, namely west of Second Street and in the Elderly Apartments. An engineering agreement and project estimate should be ready before the next meeting.

**5. Street Repairs:**

A capital outlay application was submitted for funds to pay for street repairs throughout the Town of Lockport. Capital Outlay appropriations will be determined in June 2015.

Councilman Triche asked Mr. Breaud about reinstalling a new weather seal around the man holes as they complete a project. Mr. Breaud said they do make seal rings and he can look into doing that. Mayor Champagne requested for Mr. Breaud to look into doing that.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to accept a Resolution retaining the services of Providence/GSE Associates, LLC and authorizing the Mayor, Paul Champagne, to sign and enter into an engineering agreement for Gravity Sewer System Rehabilitation, Phase III – Northwest Quadrant, Town of Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to suspend the regular meeting and to open a public hearing on the following topics. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. Public Hearing to discuss Adoption of an Ordinance and according Resolution for the Following:**

1. To approve the amended Lafourche Parish Sales and Tax Ordinance.
2. To approve an according Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign, execute, and administer any and all relevant documents.

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 and there were none.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to end the public hearing and resume regular session. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Guidry made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**J. Resolution approving the transfer state routes LA 655 and LA 655-Spur to the Town of Lockport in exchange for credits to be used to fund road repairs within the Town.**

Mayor Champagne stated that at last month's meeting Councilman Triche brought up a good point about some drainage issues on Vacherie Street. That is not included in the Resolution. It was only a verbal agreement with Mr. Lyle Leblanc with DOTD. Mayor Champagne said he would contact Mr. Leblanc for an update. Councilman Hartman stated that they will bring the street up to standards. Mayor Champagne stated DOTD estimated spending about \$1,000,000 on these improvements, and we would get about \$448,000 to be used to maintain the street repairs. Councilman Rogers asked about the current sewer repairs, and how it would affect this. Mr. Breaud said they are aware and will coordinate with DOTD. Councilman Triche stated that this would no longer be a state highway it would be Main Street and Vacherie Street. It will belong to the Town of Lockport.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Champagne entertained a motion to deviate from the agenda for the audience to address the Council. Councilman Rogers made a motion to deviate from agenda. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**Public wishing to address the Council**

1. James Bradford addressed the Council about his property on Church Street. The Council asked him to come to meeting to see where he stood with demolishing the home. Mr. Bradford said he will have the time to get the process started now. Mayor Champagne said they understand, but they wanted to know how long it would take him to complete this demolition. Mr. Bradford said it would take him about a year. He doesn't plan on rebuilding there. Mayor Champagne stated they would like him to give an update on the progress in 90 days. Councilman Hartman thanked Mr. Bradford for attending the meeting. Councilman Triche suggested to keep the neighbors in mind and make sure any loose items are tied down.

2. John Champagne with LRD#1 purposed installing a handicap accessible fishing wharf at the Bayou side Park. He stated that the LRD#1 Recreation District will fund and hold fundraisers for this wharf. He wanted the blessing of the Council. He also stated he will contact the Parish about a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

3. Barry Daviet addressed the Council about property on 404 Eighth Street. It was originally zoned commercial as an appliance store. It is now zoned residential. He wanted clarification if it can be a commercial property. He wanted to know about the procedure he would have to do for it to be zoned commercial. He is renting this place as a home right now, but in the future he would possibly want to rent it as commercial. He thinks it would be a revenue producer for the Town such as a daycare center, office, etc. Mayor Champagne stated they would look into this. Councilman Rogers stated that when he ready to rent the property as commercial, then, he should present a proposal to the Council.

4. Janis Savoie addressed the Council about a sign ordinance. She wanted to know the stipulation on the sign representation and how unsightly it is for the Town. Councilman Rogers stated there is a sign ordinance for sign placement, etc., but nothing having to do with look of it. They stated there would have to be an adoption of a new ordinance to address the way the sign actually looks.

5. Michelle Gautreaux addressed the Council about opening a Family Youth Center in Lockport to cultivate personal growth in youth. She said she knows the importance of being involved and wants to give back to the community. They were given a part of a building on Lafourche Street to open this Youth Center. She wanted to make the Council aware of what she was doing. She said "Give Nola Day" is scheduled for May 5, 2015 to be held at the Lockport Bayou Side Park. She said she will reserve the Pavilion for that date. Mayor Champagne said we will help advertise for this event through town's website and Facebook page.

6. Deanna Lafont with Entergy addressed the Council about Give Nola Day. It is a fund raising campaign where Entergy is a sponsor. Councilman Hartman asked about tree limbs and what someone had to do to resolve this issue. Ms. Lafont said they needed to contact Entergy to report this and provide the address. She said prior to storm season, they do trim around certain lines. Councilman Rogers asked about restrictions to put decorations on the poles. She stated they do not hang the decorations or brackets, but they can install the pigtales.

### **K. Reports**

Mayor Champagne suggested that we change the February meeting be changed to February 24, 2015 due to conflict with Mardi Gras Day. Councilman Barker made a motion to reschedule the February meeting for February 24, 2015. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated Municode quoted a price of \$3,475.00 plus an annual fee of \$500.00 to update our code of ordinances. He stated we would have to pay for any changes made annually. Councilman Rogers stated this has to be done to make it accessible online especially. The Public would be able to access these ordinances. We would have to adopt the new book, but any new changes we would have to pay for them once a year. Councilman Triche said it does seem like it might be costly, but it would be a good investment for the Town to educate the Public on the ordinances. Councilman Rogers made a motion to have ordinances accessible through Municode. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated Main Street Market will be March 14, 2015. He stated last week we had a pre bid meeting on the Church Street Drainage project. They will start the process at the beginning of February. He stated we have a grant funds to pay for the sewer line that has to be moved. Also, we had to install a bypass at the Elliot pump station which we will also use the grant funds.

#### **1. Council**

a. Councilman Triche stated they will get with the Town Attorney on what they would do with blighted property. He said they really need to go forth with this process. He addressed Chief Vedros about a truck that needs to be removed on Sixth Street. Chief Vedros stated they have until January 26, 2015 to move it. Councilman Triche stated the ordinance about burning things and burn pits might be need to be revisited. He also talked about painting fire hydrants. Chief Vedros said the paint is furnished by the Lafourche Parish Water District #1. He said we need to get this done. He clarified that the area in the front of Lockport Middle School is a drug free zone. Also, he stated that the vendors for the parade need to have a permit to sell things. He also suggested that we should not allow any four wheelers in Town especially for the parade.

b. Councilman Rogers stated he needs clarification on the ordinance about burning things in a container. Councilman Rogers asked if the Town can use the culvert cleaning equipment to clean out the culverts. He will send in a list of addresses for the Town to check and clean. He said he appreciated the Town fixing the issue on a catch basin grating in such a timely manner. He wished everyone a Happy Mardi Gras.

c. Councilwoman Guidry asked about the garbage cans. Mayor Champagne stated they probably won't start delivering until March. She was approached by someone about a house on Church Street on 200 block that has no drain in the front of it, and there is a water under his house when it rains. The Town will look into this. She asked if the crew can fill in the pot holes throughout Town. Also, she stated that it is almost a danger to people because of the way the delivery trucks are parking on Church Street. Councilman Hartman suggested to contact the owner of the business to help with this matter.

d. Councilman Hartman asked about the BP settlement. He understood that we were going to received funds from this settlement. Mayor Champagne said he has not heard anything regarding this matter. Councilman Hartman asked who was responsible for enforcing no parking on the levee. Chief Vedros said the Parish never passed an ordinance for no parking on the Levee. The North Lafourche Levee District does have signs for no parking. He said we can only enforce town ordinances.

e. Councilman Barker readdressed the blighted properties throughout Town. He said we have to do something. He asked if our Town Attorney could provide them with our rights with these properties. Mayor Champagnes stated that they have started the process by contacting people and inviting them to attend the town meetings. He stated that there are a few properties that we need to research who the owners of the properties are today.

f. Chris Huddleston, Town Attorney, sent information to the Council about blighted properties and dog ordinances. He suggested that they look over the information and revisit this at a later meeting.

A motion by Councilwoman Guidry was seconded unanimously by the Council, allowing the Lockport Carnival Club to parade on February 14, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

**L. Adjourn**

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015. 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 8:50 PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Paul Champagne  
Paul Champagne, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel  
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-001

The following ordinance, having been previously introduced, was offered for final adoption by Councilman Rogers, and seconded by Councilman Triche.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE LAFOURCHE PARISH SALES AND USE TAX ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF LOCKPORT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Lafourche Parish School Board is the sole collector of sales and use tax for all of the taxing authorities located in Lafourche Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Lafourche Parish School Board Sales and Use Tax Office has submitted the attached Sales and Use Tax Ordinance for approval by each entity as attached therein; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Administration of the Lafourche Parish Government that the Town Council of the Town of Lockport approve the Lafourche Parish Sales and Use Tax Ordinance for all taxing authorities located in Lafourche Parish and authorize the Mayor to sign, execute and administer any and all relevant documents.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the Town Council of the Town of Lockport convened in Regular Session on January 20, 2015, and does hereby approve the Lafourche Parish Sales and Use Tax Ordinance for the Town of Lockport and authorizes the Mayor to sign, execute, and administer any and all relevant documents.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the text of the Sales and Use Tax Ordinance is attached hereto and made a part hereof as "Exhibit A" and can be viewed by the public at the Town Hall of the Town of Lockport at 710 Church Street, Lockport, Louisiana 70374.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to Lafourche Parish School District Sales Tax Department, Attn: Amanda Granier, P.O. Box 997, Thibodaux, LA 70302; Lafourche Parish Government Department of Finance, and the Office of the Parish Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that;

SECTION 1. If any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or application of this Ordinance, which can be given affect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

SECTION 2. All Ordinances by the Town Council of the Town of Lockport conflicting with or inconsistent with the provisions of these regulations are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be published in the Official Journal of the Town of Lockport in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance, having been submitted in writing, having been read and adopted by sections at a public meeting of said council, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Barker, Guidry, Hartman, Rogers, and Triche

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this the 20th of January, 2015.

/s/ Paul Champagne \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Champagne, Mayor

ATTEST

/s/ Mandy Himel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

On motion by Councilwoman Guidry, seconded by Councilman Hartman, the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-001**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SALES AND USE TAX ORDINANCES, AS REVISED  
AND AMENDED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Lockport is authorized to assess and collect sales and use tax within its geographical boundaries, pursuant to Constitutional and/or statutory authorization;

**WHEREAS**, the Lafourche Parish School Board has been authorized by Town of Lockport, as the centralized sales and use tax collection agency for the various political subdivision of Lafourche Parish, to levy and collect sales and use taxes on behalf of Town of Lockport;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of various Acts of the Louisiana Legislation over the past several years affecting the collection of sales and use tax, the Collector has recommended certain amendments and additions to current ordinances previously adopted;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Lockport convened in regular session on January 20, 2015, and does hereby approve the Lafourche Parish Sales and Use Tax Ordinances, attached and annexed hereto, as revised and amended, effective January 1, 2015;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Lafourche Parish School Board for attachment and recordation along with the revised and amended Ordinances.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** Councilmembers Barker, Guidry, Hartman, Rogers, and Triche

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

And the resolution was declared adopted this 20th day of January, 2015.

    /s/ Paul Champagne      
Paul Champagne, Mayor

    /s/ Mandy Himel      
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

**Resolution  
2015-002**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Lockport Council agrees to accept ownership of whatever rights the State of Louisiana, through the Department of Transportation and Development (Department), may own, with the exception of any and all mineral rights, in and to the following described property and agrees to accept all future rights, obligations and liabilities, including, but not limited to, all future operation, maintenance, and repairs associated therewith, for its operation and maintenance as a town street, subject to the conditions stated herein below:

Segment 1 - The portion of state route LA 655 (known as Main Street) from its junction with state route LA 1 (known as Crescent Avenue) proceeding northwest approximately 0.78 mile to its intersection with state route LA 655-S (known as Vacherie Street) south of the Bayou Lafourche Bridge.

Segment 2 – The portion of state route LA 655-S (known as Vacherie Street) from its intersection with state route LA 1 (known as Crescent Avenue) proceeding northeast approximately 0.44 mile to its intersection with state route LA 655(known as Main Street) south of the Bayou Lafourche Bridge.

Upon satisfaction of Condition III herein below, the portion of local road known as Veterans Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue proceeding southwest approximately 0.29 mile to its intersection with a local road known as First Street

Upon satisfaction of Condition IV herein below, the portion of local road known as Barataria Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue proceeding northeast approximately 0.26 mile to its intersection with a local road known as Ninth Street

Upon satisfaction of Condition V herein below, the portion of local road known as Lafourche Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue proceeding northeast approximately 0.25 mile to its intersection with a local road known as Ninth Street

Upon satisfaction of Condition VI herein below, the portion of local road known as Canal Street from the northeast edge of the state route LA 1 bridge proceeding northeast approximately 0.18 mile to its intersection with a local road known as Ninth Street

Upon satisfaction of Condition VII herein below, the portion of local road known as Barrilleaux Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue proceeding northeast approximately 0.47 mile to its intersection with state route LA 655 known as Main Street.

Upon satisfaction of Condition VIII herein below, the portion of local road known as Church Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue proceeding northeast approximately 0.31 mile to its intersection with a local road known as Tenth Street

The Town of Lockport Council agrees to accept ownership of whatever rights the Department may own in and to the aforesaid described property at the proper time and under the conditions specified herein below:

**CONDITION I:**

Segment 1 - Provide repairs to include mill, 2 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, and restripe the resurfaced pavement for the portion of state route LA 655 (known as Main Street) to be transferred to the Town of Lockport and in accordance with the approved plans and specifications to be provided for this work.

Segment 2 - Provide repairs to include concrete patching and repair of approximately 150 feet of concrete curb for the portion of state route LA 655-S (known as Vacherie Street) to be transferred to the Town of Lockport and in accordance with the approved plans and specifications to be provided for this work.

CONDITION II: Provide \$448,901.57 in road transfer credit for the portion of state routes LA 655 and LA 655-S to be transferred to the Town of Lockport to be applied to the improvements in Condition III.

CONDITION III: DOTD shall take into the state highway system and provide repairs to include 6 inch asphaltic concrete patching, 1.5 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, pavement striping and marking to the portion of local road known as Veterans Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue to its intersection with a local road known as First Street, not to exceed the road transfer credit provided in Condition II herein above.

CONDITION IV: DOTD shall take into the state highway system and provide repairs to include 6 inch asphaltic concrete patching, 1.5 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, pavement striping and marking to the portion of local road known as Barataria Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue to its intersection with a local road known as Ninth Street, not to exceed the road transfer credit provided in Condition II unused by the performance of Condition III herein above, if any.

CONDITION V: DOTD shall take into the state highway system and provide repairs to include 6 inch asphaltic concrete patching, 1.5 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, pavement striping and marking to the portion of local road known as Lafourche Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue to its intersection with a local road known as Ninth Street, not to exceed the road transfer credit provided in Condition II unused by the performance of Conditions III and IV herein above, if any.

CONDITION VI: DOTD shall take into the state highway system and provide repairs to include 6 inch asphaltic concrete patching, 1.5 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, pavement striping and marking to the portion of local road known as Canal Street from the northeast edge of the state route LA 1 bridge to its intersection with a local road known as Ninth Street, not to exceed the road transfer credit provided in Condition II unused by the performance of Conditions III, IV and V herein above, if any.

CONDITION VII: DOTD shall take into the state highway system and provide repairs to include 6 inch asphaltic concrete patching, 1.5 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, pavement striping and marking to the portion of local road known as Barrilleaux Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue to its intersection with state route LA 655 known as Main Street, not to exceed the road transfer credit provided in Condition II unused by the performance of Conditions III, IV, V and VI herein above, if any.

CONDITION VIII: DOTD shall take into the state highway system and provide repairs to include 6 inch asphaltic concrete patching, 1.5 inch asphaltic concrete overlay, pavement striping and marking to the portion of local road known as Church Street from its intersection with state route LA 1 known as Crescent Avenue to its intersection with a local road known as Tenth Street, not to exceed the road transfer credit provided in Condition II unused by the performance of Conditions III, IV, V, VI and VII herein above, if any.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Lockport Council shall accept ownership of whatever rights the Department may own in and to the aforesaid described property as a binding agreement between the Department and the Town of Lockport Council, provided the Department complies with the relevant condition stated herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town of Lockport Council authorizes the presiding Mayor of the Town of Lockport Council to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Department and the Town of Lockport Council memorializing the agreement between the parties relative to the above stated property transfers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town of Lockport Council authorizes the presiding Mayor of the Town of Lockport Council to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the transfer of the aforesaid described property upon the satisfaction of the above stated relevant condition, each such transfer to occur and the appropriate documents to be executed upon the completion of the improvements thereto as set forth herein above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town of Lockport Council hereby represents that it has received approval from a majority of the state legislative delegation from Lafourche Parish of the actions contemplated herein.

On motion by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilwoman Guidry, the above and foregoing resolution was declared duly adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

/s/ Paul Champagne  
Paul Champagne, Mayor  
Town of Lockport Council

/s/ Mandy Himel  
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk  
Town of Lockport Council

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I hereby certify that the above and aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town of Lockport Council in regular session convened on January 20th, 2015 at which a quorum was present, given under my signature and seal of office this 20th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Mandy Himel  
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

