

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 17, 2015

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 17, 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 then led by Mayor Champagne.

D. Roll Call

The roll was called with the following present: Mayor Paul Champagne, Councilmembers Sharon Guidry, Rodney Hartman, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Councilman Donovan Barker was absent. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, and Chief of Police Warren Vedros.

E. Approval of Minutes- February 24, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the February 24, 2015, meeting. Councilman Triche asked that a correction be made to his statement on page 2 of 3 of the February 24, 2015 meeting. Councilman Triche asked that the phrase "improvement of streets" be changed to "improvement of the infrastructure on Crescent Ave". Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending February 28, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending February 28, 2015. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman 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 Councilwoman Guidry to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

H. GSE Report

Mayor Champagne stated that no one could be present to give the engineering status report, but he presented it as follows:

1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northeastern Quadrants):

Suncoast started work on December 8, 2014 and should be substantially completed before May 15, 2015. The cleaning of the lines, point repairs, and lining the mains have been completed. Suncoast will begin coating manholes and BLD will be coming to complete the lateral linings. A change order is in process for an increase of \$9,500 due to 2,000 feet being 10-inch diameter and not 8-inch diameter pipe. Suncoast is in the process of getting us pricing for manhole rings and covers.

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 1st deadline to move the previously awarded up the priority list and request additional funds.

4. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northwestern Quadrant):

The engineering agreement has been signed by Lockport and approved by DEQ. DEQ has reviewed the agreement but has stated that the right-of-way acquisition task (\$15,000.00 upset limit) is not eligible for funding. The plans and specifications are approximately 50% complete. Additional videoing is required since they were not completed previously by CES. Suncoast is getting us a proposal to do this video work. The Northwest Quad Rehab is estimated to cost approximately \$685,000.

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.

I. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne stated the blighted property, the “church building”, is being torn down. There is also a home on School Street that is making progress as well. Mayor Champagne said Main Street Market was held this past weekend, and they had a great crowd and weather. The Museum thanked the Town and Council for their help for this event. Councilman Hartman asked about the levee. Councilman Triche stated we should start seeing progress very soon that will help erosion from the boat traffic. Mayor Champagne stated the Beignet Run/5K is Saturday, March 28, 2015 which will be the same route as last year. Councilman Rogers made the motion to allow Holy Savior Catholic school to have this 5K Run. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated that we have inquired about new software from Computer Systems Development Corporation. Ms. Himel, Town Clerk, contacted LMA and other municipalities regarding this system and other systems. They said it is efficient and user friendly. Councilman Hartman stated on the accounting side, he said the reports would provide better information as well. He feels confident that this system will do what is needed for the Town. The auditors stated they would also cooperate with getting a new system in place. Councilman Hartman made a motion to allow the Mayor to sign any and all documents for the purchase of a new computer software system with Computer Systems Development Corporation. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne entertained a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss an increase in overall bonds and fines. Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing for April 21, 2015 to discuss an increase in bonds and fines. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Also, Ms. Himel stated that South Central Planning sent a permit fee schedule for residents to view on the town’s website.

2. Council

- a. Councilman Rogers stated that the work on the sewerage project is going well. He is looking forward to seeing how much we are saving on sewer fees once it is complete.
- b. Councilman Triche stated that Paddle the Bayou is coming up soon. Mayor Champagne stated Paddle the Bayou is April 12, 2015, and the Council is invited to participate.
- c. Councilwoman Guidry asked about the pickup dates being changed in Town. Mayor Champagne said he wasn’t sure when that was going to happen. Councilwoman Guidry asked about getting some new decorations for the Town. She asked about taking care of Myrtle Delaune, and Mayor Champagne said the message was passed on to the Town crew today. She wished everyone happy Easter.
- d. Councilman Hartman stated he read the annual police report. He commended the Police Department for all of their services. Councilman Hartman recommended that the Council consider approving the Town convert to a bi weekly payroll schedule with the new computer software system. It was suggested we revisit this again at a later time for a date to make the change with payroll.

N. Public Wishing to Address the Council

- a. Michelle Gautreaux, 1203 Romy Drive, stated that she wanted to give us an update on her new program, Geaux Create. Also, she thanked the Town and the Council for pushing for the Town to improve as a whole. She stated that Main Street Market went really well and made a great profit. She said she will charge a fee of \$.01 to come into the place. She said she wanted them to realize the quality of what they will be getting with the program and didn’t want it to be “free”.
- b. Kenney Matherne stated that the North Lafourche Levee approved \$336,000.00 to continue the Church Street Drainage Project.

L. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Rogers, and carried unanimously at 8:20PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Paul Champagne _____
Paul Champagne, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel _____
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk