

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting April 21, 2015

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 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 Donovan Barker, Sharon Guidry, Rodney Hartman, Craig Rogers, and Weldon Triche. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, and Police Chief Warren Vedros.

E. Approval of Minutes- March 17, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting. Mayor Champagne stated that he misspoke at last month's meeting. He said the work being done on the Company Canal lift is being done by Lafourche Parish. Councilman Hartman 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 March 31, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending March 31, 2015. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilwoman Guidry 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. Chief stated that the Lockport Food Festival went well, and they didn't have problems at all. It was a very well behaved crowd. He stated that he has been approached by residents that live in areas on Lafourche Street, Barataria Street, and Justin Street about the speeding on these heavily traveled streets. He suggested that we possibly call a public hearing to reduce the speed limit in those areas. He stated this would also help in the law enforcement side as well. He suggested reducing the speed limit from 25 to 15 mph. Mayor Champagne stated that if the Council will decide to do this, he recommends that we do all the streets at 15 mph. He stated that this is something to think about and discuss further.

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):

Suncoast started work on December 8, 2014 and should be substantially completed before May 15, 2015. The cleaning of the lines, point repairs, lining the mains, and coating of the manholes have been completed. BLD will be coming soon to complete the lateral linings.

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 65% complete. Additional videoing is required since they were not completed previously by CES. Suncoast should be videoing some of the quadrant for necessary information within the next month and a half. 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.

Councilman Rogers stated he witnessed the contractor having to come back down his street and repair a coating on the manholes. They had to come lift and pick up whatever what causing the restriction at the school. When he picked up and lifted the coating off the bottom. They had to respray and recover it. He said it brings question to the benefit on the coating. Mr. Breaud said they knows of a couple areas that have been referred to the contractor. He said surrounding parishes have used this materials and it is supposed to be really good material. Councilman Rogers said he hopes the Town doesn't get billed for this re do of these areas. After he sprayed it he did a trim job and made sure none of the coating was on the invert. He also asked about the seal on the top of the manholes covers. Mr. Breaud said they did change many riser rings. He stated if you seal manhole cover, you can possibly have some water that would go into the houses. He said you should get very minimal infiltration. He said they have not put any rubber gaskets, but they can look into doing that. He suggested that we should not look manholes covers because that might cause more problems. Councilman Rogers asked if the contractors were notifying residents about the work in the areas. He received a few complaints about residents not being notified. He stated that definitely needs to be done. Mr. Breaud asked if we could provide them with specific addresses that are complaining, and he will look into this matter. Councilman Hartman asked about the area of the first quadrant that was done. He said residents complained about toilets not being able to flush properly. Mr. Breaud suggested we converse with the sewer operator to see how the pump and everything is being operated. Councilman Triche asked Mr. Breaud about the type of material like clay pipes. Mr. Breaud stated that they will do not go on private property, and Councilman Triche understood and just wanted clarification on the completion of the project and how it might affect personal lines.

I Resolution to Accept the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environment Audit Report

A motion was made by Councilwoman Guidry and seconded by Councilman Rogers to adopt the above stated resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Proclamations

1. Fair Housing Month

Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the month of April, 2015, as Fair Housing Month. Councilman Triche moved and Councilman Hartman 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, 2015, as Autism Awareness Month. Councilman Rogers moved, and the Council unanimously seconded the motion to adopt the Proclamation.

K. Adopt Millage Rate for 2015 General Alimony Tax

Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to adopt the millage rate of 8.26 mills for the 2015 General Alimony Tax. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Councilmembers Barker, Guidry, Hartman, Rogers and Triche.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 21st day of April, 2015.

L. Call for 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 Rogers made a motion to call for a Public Hearing for the lease renewals stated above. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

M. Call for Public hearing

- 1. Obtain views on the housing and community development needs of the Town and to discuss the submission of an application for funding under the State of Louisiana FY 2015-16 Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program.**

Councilwoman Guidry made a motion to call for Public Hearing for the item stated above. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Discuss and adopt Code of Ordinance known as Municode.**

Mayor Champagne stated that the Town Attorney, Mr. Huddleston, suggested we table this Public hearing until a later meeting. Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing for Municode at the June meeting. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Guidry made a motion to suspend regular meeting and go into Public hearing. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

N. Public hearing to discuss overall increase in bonds and fines.

Chief Vedros distributed copies of bond and fine schedules from different entities in the Parish. They showed comparisons between the Town of Lockport, the Parish, and Golden Meadow. Councilman Triche stated you have to travel through Golden Meadow to get to Grand Isle. If we want people to travel through Crescent Ave, he feels we should stay consistent at least in comparison with the Parish. Councilman Hartman stated we are not looking to have the same kind of fines Golden Meadow, but he feels we need to look into this because we haven't done that in a while. This will also help our police force as well. Mayor Champagne stated that we are not trying to prevent people from passing through town for fear of possibly get a citation. He thinks we were talking about an increase of possibly \$10 to \$20 per fine and no more. He stated no specific number was ever discussed. Councilman Rogers suggested maybe go up a percentage. He stated we are equal in some fines, and cheaper in fines compared to the Parish. He stated that we can increase revenues and not put it on the tax payers. It would be on the violators. Councilman Rogers suggested we do need to look at it and make some adjustments. Councilman Triche asked who and how would we regulate the prices. Mayor Champagne stated that is strictly up to the Council. Councilman Triche suggested if we are below the Parish, we should increase, but if we are equal, then leave it alone. Mayor Champagne stated that we don't have to make a decision tonight. He said we can get public comments, and then table this hearing for a later date for everyone to look over the comparisons. Mayor Champagne recommended that we give it at least 90 days.

Mayor Champagne asked the audience if there were any comments or questions, and there were none.

Councilman Triche made a motion to end the Public Hearing, and they discuss this over the next 90 days, and resume the regular meeting. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously

O. Ordinance for an increase in overall bonds and fines.

Mayor Champagne suggested this ordinance be tabled at this time.

P. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne reminded the Council about Financial Disclosure forms that are due in May. He also said that Ethics Training has to be done as well. Mayor Champagne stated that we received one bid for 2008 Ford F150 truck in the amount of \$5,398.00. He asked Council for permission to sell it to Asia Motors, Inc. Councilman Triche made a motion to sell the truck to them. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne told Councilman Triche that he did look into the Local Road Grant application that he wants to look into applying for quarterly. Mayor Champagne stated that the road has to be a locally owned. Once we own the road, then we can look into this grant. Mayor Champagne stated that the June meeting has to be moved up because the budget has to be adopted before that date. He suggested that we meet on June 9, 2015. The Council unanimously agreed to move the June meeting to June 9, 2015. He stated that the Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Museum asked for permission to have another wedding reception at the Boat museum on June 27, 2015. Councilman Barker made a motion to allow the Boat Museum to host a wedding reception on June 27, 2015. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated that the Boat Museum will be having a Shrimp boil Fundraiser on May 6, 2015 from 11-2pm for \$12.00 a plate. He stated we will post this on the website and Facebook page. Mayor Champagne stated that we will post things on our Facebook for civic organizations. Mayor Champagne suggested that we need to start thinking about hiring another person for Town Hall. He feels that this will make the Town Hall more efficient.

2. Council

- a. Councilman Triche stated he was contacted by Ms. Marlene Toups, President of the Thibodaux-Loudun Twinning Association. They have 32 French people that will be visiting the Museum and the Boat Museum on April 30, 2015 at 4pm. They would like for some French speaking people to greet them. He mentioned that Mayor's Day would be held on April 29, 2015.
- b. Councilman Rogers- no comments.
- c. Councilwoman Guidry said that she was happy the weather cooperated somewhat for the fair. She questioned the volume of the noise at the fair. Mayor Champagne said that has been brought up already and is already being addressed with the Fair Board. She also questioned the parking situation for the fair. She suggested trying to come up with a better solution to this parking problem. Chief Vedros said to contact the police department with any issues for these functions. She stated everyone wants to see

activities such as the fair succeed, but to be more cautious about this event being held in the middle of a neighborhood.

- d. Councilman Hartman thanked the Town Council, Staff, and the community for keeping him in their prayers during this time. Councilman Hartman expressed his concern about the sewer issue and/or plumbing issues. Mayor Champagne suggested that we get addresses of these locations so we can address the issue.
- e. Councilman Barker stated that people need to take care of their properties. He wants people to improve or upgrade their properties because the value is the property is decreasing not increasing.

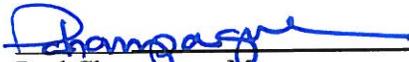
O. Public Wishing to Address the Council

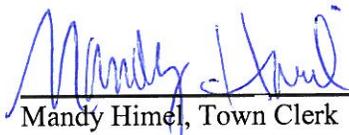
- a. Aaron Babin, Head Track Coach at Central Lafourche High School, requested information and permission to host a 5K run in town as a fundraiser for next year's track season. He wants to have it on May 23, 2015, and he has already reserved the Pavilion at the park. He stated this is the first time they do this so they are not sure about concessions or anything at this time. Mayor Champagne told him to make sure there are enough road guards, certificate of insurance, etc. Councilman Triche made a motion to allow CLHS to host a 5K run in Town on May 23, 2015. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

P. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilwoman Guidry and carried unanimously at 8:33PM.

Town of Lockport


Paul Champagne, Mayor


Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

2015-004

It was moved by Councilwoman Guidry and seconded by Councilman Rogers, that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Lockport informs the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken:

1. Reviewed the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report which is attached to this Resolution.
2. Set forth the following actions necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in LPDES Permit No. LA 0033286.
 - a. Submit Discharge Monitoring Reports indicating quality and quantity of discharge in a timely manner.
 - b. Provide the necessary funding for equipment and plant repairs and replacement as well as funding for a competent and trained staff.

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

and the Resolution was declared adopted on the 21st day of April, 2015.


Mandy Himel, Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the 47th 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, 2015, as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

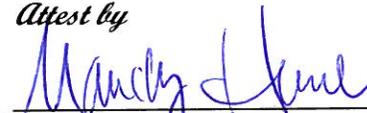
in the Town of Lockport, State of Louisiana.



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 21st day of April, A.D. 2015.


Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by


Mandy Himel, 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.

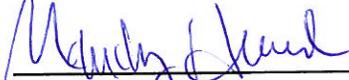


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Official Seal of the Town of Lockport, Louisiana, at the Town Hall, in the Town of Lockport, on this the 21st day of April, A.D. 2015.



Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by



Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

2015-005

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2015 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Town of Lockport:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
General Alimony Tax	8.26 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2015, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: None.

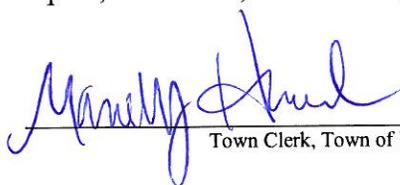


Paul Champagne, Mayor
Town of Lockport

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on April 21, 2015, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Town of Lockport, Louisiana, this 21st day of April, 2015.



Town Clerk, Town of Lockport