

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 15, 2015

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 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, Rodney Hartman, Sharon Guidry, and Weldon Triche. Councilman Craig Rogers was absent. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Police Chief Warren Vedros.

E. Approval of Minutes- August 18, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the August 18, 2015, meeting. Councilman Barker 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 August 31, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2015. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Candidates Running for Office in Lafourche Parish

1. Mr. Aaron Caillouet stated he is running for Lafourche Parish President. He addressed different things he changed when he was Parish President in the past. He stated he feels it had helped the Parish for the better. He stated he works well with people and the Council.

2. Mr. Ron Sapia stated he is running for Lafourche Parish Councilman District 7. He stated he feels we need to move forward and take care of the problems in the Parish.

3. Mr. Armand Autin stated he is running for Lafourche Parish Councilman District 7. He stated he is a community activist. He feels he knows what the Parish needs because he has been their first hand to witness different things.

4. Mr. Jimmy Cantrelle stated he is running for Lafourche Parish President. He stated he feels Lafourche Parish needs a business person to run the Parish because the Parish is headed for hard times.

Mayor Champagne thanked all the candidates for addressing the Council, and he wished them all the best of luck.

H. Ms. Wendy Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish Tax Assessor

Ms. Thibodaux stated she wanted to provide information on past and future events that may take place. She stated our millage rates are the third highest in the coastal Parishes. We are 20 percent higher than Terrebonne Parish. She said she is trying to keep the balance, and keep everyone informed. She said Lafourche Parish is very self-sufficient. She wants everyone to be aware of everything that has happened.

I. 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 stated the extra work has paid off especially on Hwy 308 because the crash rate is at zero. He stated we have some issues with the new school on Hwy 308 due to speed, but we will hopefully be able to reduce the speed soon. Councilman Hartman commended the Chief for the Day of Prayer at Town hall on Monday. A motion was made by Councilman Hartman and seconded by Councilman Triche to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Vedros asked the council to consider calling for Public hearing to reduce the speed limit to 15mph on Barataria and Lafourche Streets. He would also like to revisit Bonds and Fines. Mayor Champagne suggested that we reduce all the streets in Lockport to 15mph. Mayor Champagne also added to revisit the dog ordinance as well.

Councilman Triche made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss an increase in bonds and fines, to reduce the speed limit from 25mph to 15mph on Barataria and Lafourche Streets, and discuss dog ordinance. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, it carried unanimously.

J. GSE Report

1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northeastern Quadrants):

The final payment (including retainage) has been submitted to the Town for payment. This project will then be closed out.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northwestern Quadrant):

DEQ approved the plans and specifications. Bids were opened on September 10, 2015. Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc. (contractor on previous quads) was the apparent low bidder. A resolution of award concurrent on DEQ's approval is on the agenda.

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 of Lockport was granted \$110,000. This money was elevated to Priority 1 (General Obligation Bonds). Town of Lockport should receive forms to complete soon.

4. Street Repairs:

A Capital Outlay Application was submitted for funds to pay for street repairs throughout the Town of Lockport. \$1,200,000 was appropriated as Priority 2 (General Obligation Bonds). Town of Lockport will also receive forms to complete but not until later in the fiscal year.

5. Capital Outlay Request 2016:

A Capital Outlay request will be made for street improvements and drainage improvements on Church Street.

Mayor Champagne stated he spoke with Senator Chabert to clarify the amount of funds we will receive from Capital outlay. It was brought to our attention that we would have to have a 25% match for these funds. Mayor Champagne stated upon verifying with Senator Chabert about these funds we would not have to have the 25% percent match due to the streets all being connected to a state highway. There are based on a case by case basis.

K. Proclamation-Constitution Week

Councilman Triche made a motion to accept the above stated Proclamation and Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

L. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne stated he signed the request for a line of credit form for Capital Outlay. He stated that the Council had some agreements of the title transfer and act of servitude for the sewer lines for the elderly apartments. Councilman Hartman made a motion allowing Mayor Champagne to sign any and all documents for the elderly apartment's title transfer and act of servitude. Councilman Triche seconded, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated that Savor the Flavor will be held on October 24, 2015. He also stated that Bayou Bell Ringers will sponsor a 5K Race on September 19, 2015. On October 10, 2015, the Dominican Laity will sponsor a 5k Race. Mayor Champagne suggested that we should consider selling the old water plant building and water tank. He would like the Council to start thinking about declaring it as surplus and putting it out for bid. Mayor Champagne thanked Chief Vedros for the Day of Prayer ceremony at Town hall. He also thanked Councilwoman Guidry for providing refreshments.

2. Council

- a. Councilman Triche suggested that the Town crew rope off or block off some of the area where boat trailers will not be able to park to accommodate the Bell Ringers 5K Race.
- b. Councilwoman Guidry thanked Chief Vedros and the public for coming out. She thinks it made a fantastic success. She stated she bought flags for Christmas and would like to decorate the Town. She asked the fire department to help hang the flags on the poles again. She stated that Halloween is a Saturday this year, and we might have parking issues for Spook in the Park. Mr. Armand Autin stated that the Fire Department is very interested in providing candy for people who would like to hand out candy for Spook in the Park.
- c. Councilman Hartman- No report.
- d. Councilman Barker- No report

3. Town Attorney- no report.

4. Staff-no report.

M. Public wishing to address the Council

Mr. Ernest Bellanger, Sr. stated he wants to build a house at 509 Main Street, and he needs the approval of the Council. Mayor Champagne stated it is zoned commercial and it would need to be rezoned to R-1. This would require an ordinance change. He also stated we would need to have a set of plans for us and South Central Planning. He also stated he would need a sewer tap in that would be at his expense.

Councilman Triche asked if we had to have a public hearing to rezone from commercial to residential. Mr. Huddleston, Town Attorney, verified that we do not have to hold a Public hearing to rezone from commercial to residential. Mayor Champagne stated he needs to contact South Central Planning, and he will need a permit from the Town as well.

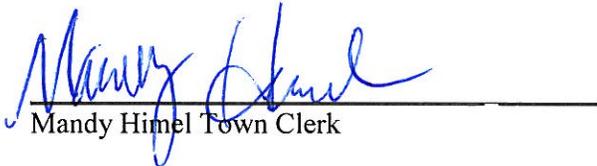
N. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 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 8:21PM.

Town of Lockport



Paul Champagne, Mayor



Mandy Himel Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation

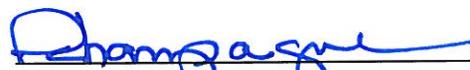
- WHEREAS,** our Founding Fathers, in order to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity, did ordain and establish a Constitution for the United States of America: and
- WHEREAS,** it is of the greatest importance that all citizens fully understand the provisions and principles contained in the Constitution in order to support, preserve, and defend it against all encroachment: and
- WHEREAS,** the two hundred-twenty eighth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution provides an historic opportunity for all Americans to realize the achievements of the Framers of the Constitution and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities it affords: and
- WHEREAS,** the independence guaranteed to American citizens, whether by birth or naturalization, should be celebrated by appropriate ceremonies and activities by proclamation of the President of the United States of America in accordance with Public Law 915;
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Lockport, in conjunction with the Bayou Lafourche Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, does hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23, 2015 as

CONSTITUTION WEEK

in the Town of Lockport and does urge all students and citizens of the community to study the Constitution, and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.



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 September, A.D. 2015


Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by

Mandy Himel, Town Clerk