

Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana

Minutes of Regular Meeting October 20, 2015

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 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 Karen Adams. 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, Weldon Triche, and Craig Rogers. Councilman Donovan Barker was absent. Also in attendance were Karen Adams, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Police Chief Warren Vedros.

E. Approval of Minutes- September 15, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting. Councilman Hartman 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 September 30, 2015

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending September 30, 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. Chief Vedros let the Council know that he did receive one of the new automobiles, and the second one will be arriving on this Friday. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions for Chief Vedros. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to approve the police report. 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 (Northeast Quadrants):

The final request for reimbursement was approved and the Town paid. This project is now closed out.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northwest Quadrant):

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. DEQ gave their concurrence on October 2, 2015.

3. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

The engineering agreement has been submitted to the Town for signatures. Once signed, it will be sent to DEQ for approval. Surveying should start within the next two weeks.

4. 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). This money has not been awarded at this time.

5. 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). The Town submitted the Line of Credit Forms in mid-September.

6. Capital Outlay Request 2016:

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

I. Proclamations:

1. Disability Awareness Month
2. Breast Cancer Awareness Month
3. Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Councilwoman Guidry moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to adopt the above three Proclamations. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Resolution to award and authorize the signing of the Construction Contract for the Northwest Quadrant and to authorize the issuance of the notice to proceed.

Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to allow Mayor Champagne to sign the above resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Resolution selecting GSE as the engineers for the Southwest Quad

Councilman Rogers moved and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to allow GSE as the engineers for the Southwest Quadrant. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Public wishing to address the council

1. Mr. Elias Basse addressed the Council to give a recap of the volunteer work he has done at the Bayouside Park. He stated he has been working with Councilman Triche on installing the cameras, and it is now completed. Everything appears to be working properly. He will get with Councilman Triche and Chief Vedros to properly train officers on how to review the material recorded on the cameras.

2. Ms. Jean Decuir with the Dominican Laity wanted to thank Chief Vedros and the Council for allowing them to have the 5k run and Rosary Walk in the Town. She also asked if they could reserve the second Saturday of October for many years to come to hold their 5k run and Rosary Walk. Also, they would like to reserve Pavilion 1 at the Bayouside Park for the event each year. Councilman Triche moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion to allow the Dominican Laity to reserve the second Saturday in October for the 5k run and Rosary walk, and the use of Pavilion 1. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne informed Ms. Decuir we would put her on the calendar for the next five years.

3. Pastor Nieves of Community Fellowship Church, Lockport addressed the Council in regards to block off 3rd Street between Lafourche Street and Barataria Street from 5pm to 9pm on Saturday, October 31, 2015, for their event, "Light The Night". Pastor Nieves also asked for permission to have this event. Mayor Champagne asked Pastor Nieves if he spoke to the residents on the streets in reference to blocking the street, Pastor Nieves stated that he spoke to the residents, and none of them have a problem with the street being blocked for the event. Councilman Hartman moved, and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to allow the street to be blocked and the event to take place. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Beau Comardelle representing Victory Life Church addressed the Council in regards to seek permission to hold the church's annual Glory Fest, October 29, 2015 - November 01, 2015. Councilman Rogers moved, and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to allow Victory Life Church to hold Glory Fest 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hartman made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilman Triche to go into a Public Hearing.

M. Public Hearing

1. Discuss reducing the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph on Barataria and Lafourche Street
2. Discuss Dog Ordinance
3. Discuss an increase in bonds and fines

1. Ms. Jacque Hughes resides down Barataria Street, stated her concerns on how fast the cars are traveling down Barataria street. She suggested either speed bumps or four -way stop signs be installed down the street. She also suggested speed bumps should be put in front of the Bayouside Park.

2. Ms. Susan Spivey resides down Lafourche Street, stated her concerns on how fast the cars are traveling down Lafourche street. She suggested putting speed bumps.

3. Ms. Jenny Hanley resides down Barataria street, stated her concerns of people flying down the street. She stated if a small child runs out into the street the car has no time to stop.

4. Ms. Michelle LeBlanc resides down Barataria Street. She stated she resides at the end of the street, and when the cars get to her house, they are traveling really fast. She would really like to see something done about this matter.

5. Mr. Ron Sapia resides in Lockport, and he suggested the speed limit should be lowered because he has found himself thinking he was speeding, and when looking at his speedometer he was only going 25mph. Councilman Triche asked what would the public recommend: lower the speed limit or more citations should be given? If that does not work then they can try to lower the speed limit or speed bumps. He stated that a sign will not slow the public down. He would like to see more radar taking place. Councilman Triche suggest that we borrow the mobile unit from the parish to detect the speed down the streets. He stated that sometimes people don't realize they are speeding.

Councilman Rogers stated 15mph would be really slow to travel down a street. He suggest to look into speed bumps when the streets are being redone. He stated the public will not speed when the police are there.

Chief Vedros stated Barataria Street was monitored for the duration of nine hours, and in that time they had 200 vehicles travel the street and out of those 200, only one was speeding. He stated by lowering the speed limit to 15mph, it will keep the people who obey the law to travel at that speed. If the speed limit is lowered

to 15 mph he believes the majority of the people will slow down. Chief Vedros stated it looks like the cars are traveling fast because the streets are congested.

Councilman Rogers stated the problem with the stop signs is that people will not realize it is a one way street, and then, they will travel the wrong way.

Mayor Champagne stated the Council has been talking about dog ordinance, and it is strictly up to the Council to adopt this ordinance.

Mr. Christopher Huddleston, Town Attorney, states the Town has a dog running at large law, but the Town has nothing on a dog that is threatening someone or chasing them. If a dog is potentially dangerous, then, the Town needs a law. The Town needs something more than just the running at large law. Homeowners' insurance are also questioning homeowners with dogs as to what breed the dog is.

Mayor Champagne stated the next discussion would be on an increase in bonds and fines. They have a schedule of the current bonds and fines in their packets from Chief Vedros.

Chief Vedros gave the Council an example of a fine from the Parish and Golden Meadow. He stated that if an increase of \$15.00 or \$20.00 across the board would be done, we would still be in line with the Parish. Chief Vedros stated if the Council sees fit for an increase, his suggestion would be an even \$20.00 across the board.

Pastor Nieves thinks it is a good idea to raise the fines.

Mr. Greg Sapia from Gheens, LA stated he thinks it is a good idea to lower the speed limit down Barataria and Lafourche Street, and if that does not work then add the stop signs.

Mayor Champagne asked for a third and final call about lowering the speed limit on Barataria and Lafourche Street, dog ordinance, and increase in bonds and fines.

Councilman Triche moved, and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Rogers made a request for the Town Attorney, Mr. Huddleston, and administration to propose a dog ordinance for the next meeting to follow Thibodaux dog laws or the parish. Also, Councilman Rogers would like to know if there are any other ordinances for any other animals in Town. Mr. Huddleston will do the research on this for Councilman Rogers.

No further action will be taken at this time for the speed limit on Barataria and Lafourche Street. Mayor Champagne said more research will be done on this matter with the speed bumps, stop signs, and the radar machine.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to increase bonds and fines by \$20.00 across the board, and Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion. It carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated at next month's meeting the Town Attorney will have an ordinance to adopt.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss an increase in bonds and fines by \$20.00 across the board. Councilman Triche seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

N. Reports

1. Mayor Champagne stated October 24, 2015 is Savor the Flavor and Election Day. He stated on October 28, 2015, the Candlelight Vigil put on by the Sheriff's Office by the Tourist Center. On October 31, 2015, Glory Fest, Spook in the Park, Light the night will take place in Town. He stated that sales tax in the overall Parish is down by about two million dollars. He thanked Councilwoman Guidry for the decorations around Town. He thanked Mr. Bryan Adams for outing the grip strips on the ramp in the meeting room. He stated we received \$1,000 from Entergy for Spook in the Park and Christmas in the Park. He stated we discussed selling the property where the old town hall used to be and the old water plant. He would like the Council to consider declaring these properties as surplus and putting it out for bid. Councilman Hartman suggested that we get the property appraised. Councilman Triche has a vision of possible swamp tour business for the property on Main Street. He stated that January 1, 2016, we will go to bi-weekly payroll. He stated that crew has been cleaning out ditches and will continue to clean out the ditches. Councilman Rogers stated we have to maintain the back hoe for other purposes throughout Town. He suggested we notify surplus out of Baton Rouge. They may have a municipality that might have some equipment that was declared surplus or even buy one on state bid.

2. Council

a. Councilman Triche stated Spook in the Park will be Saturday from 6pm to 8pm. He stated we will have 1,000 to 1,200 hot dogs. He said after Halloween we would start working on the Christmas

decorations. Councilman Triche stated Mr. Bagala who is in charge of recreation assured him more people would be able to park by the boat launch. He would like to see about putting pilings at edge of the park or see if we can enforce something where people won't tear up the cut grass.

b. Councilman Rogers stated he will be out of town for next meeting. He appreciated everything people are doing in the community. He suggested forming a committee for a neighborhood watch group. He thinks it would be nice to have around Town. He stated he received a copy of the streets to be repaired with the money from Capital Outlay. He asked for the administration to get current numbers for the list. Mayor Champagne stated everyone was given a copy of the spreadsheet for the streets. He suggested they review the spreadsheet, and look around town for any streets to be repaired. Councilman Rogers stated we really need to get things started with the streets. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

c. Councilwoman Guidry stated she thanked people for coming to the meeting. She asked in regards to the Christmas decorations, and wanted to make sure we contacted Entergy about putting the decorations on the poles. Councilman Triche stated everything was under control for the decorations. She stated she will get more decorations for the poles for Christmas time. She also stated that if anyone knew anyone who wanted to give out candy at the Spook in the park, there would be organizations providing candy for them.

d. Councilman Hartman asked about Entergy trucks around Town. Mayor Champagne didn't know anything about it, but he will call Entergy and see what they are doing. He asked about the grass levee, and he wanted to know who will handles that. Mayor champagne stated no one will ride on the levee or put a piece of equipment until the subsidence is resolved. Councilman Hartman stated the boat launch is owned by the Parish so we need to let them handle the boat launch.

3. Town Attorney- No Report.

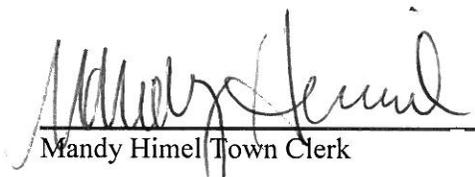
4. Staff- No Report.

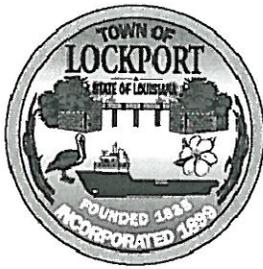
N. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Councilwoman Guidry. It carried unanimously at 8:41PM.

Town of Lockport


Paul Champagne, Mayor


Mandy Himel Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation for Disability Awareness Month

- WHEREAS,** it is important to educate children, families, and communities about disability issues and to emphasize the fact that disability is a natural part of human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** people with disabilities should have an opportunity to receive a proper education and have the ability to work, shop, play and be involved in community activities without the hindrance of prejudice and physical barriers; and
- WHEREAS,** the main goal in regarding individuals with disabilities are to “assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficient for such individuals;” and
- WHEREAS,** when the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 were passed, it represented a promise that the nation and the state would no longer underestimate the abilities of Americans with disabilities and has played a critical role in helping secure a future of enhanced opportunity with new freedom for persons with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** respect for individual dignity, personal responsibility, self-determination, and pursuit of meaningful careers, based on informed choices of individuals with disabilities, should be recognized.

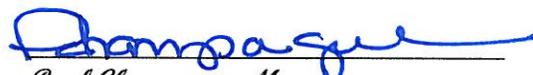
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Champagne, Mayor of Lockport, Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

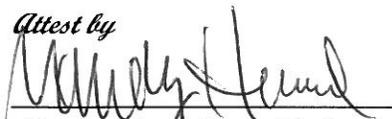
in the Town of Lockport.

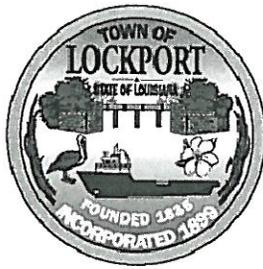


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Official Seal of the Town of Lockport, Louisiana, at the Town Hall, in the Town of Lockport, on this the 20th day of October, A.D. 2015.


Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by


Mandy Himel, Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, since the program began; in 1985 mammography rates have more than doubled for women age 50 and older and breast cancer deaths have declined; and

WHEREAS, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month remains dedicated to increasing public knowledge about the importance of early detection of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, many women still do not utilize mammography at regular intervals even though research indicates it is the best available method of detection; and

WHEREAS, the awareness campaign is sending out several key messages, most notably, the importance of early detection through annual mammography screening for women over 40; and

WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute estimates in the United States, more than 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year and over 42,000 people will die; and

WHEREAS, taking advantage of early detection methods such as mammography and clinical breast exams could help the breast cancer death rate drop by approximately 30%; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society has searched endlessly for a cure through vital research and has the mammoth task of educating our community and all Americans of the risks of breast cancer. Its many volunteers who offer support in the form of support groups, accommodations and transportation assistance, medical equipment and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Lockport Town Council does hereby recognize **October 2015** as **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**; and

BE IT FUTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Lockport Town Council urges all women and their families to get the facts about breast cancer and join in celebrating all successes and to memorialize lost battles.



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 20th day of October, A.D. 2015.

Paul Champagne
Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by

Mandy Himel
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk



Town of Lockport

Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, 1 in every 3 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime;

WHEREAS, 1 in 15 children are exposed to domestic violence each year and 90% of these children are eyewitness to this violence

WHEREAS, 653 protective orders and temporary restraining orders were issued in Lafourche Parish in 2014 to victims of domestic violence who were seeking protection from their perpetrator;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is widespread and is devastating to society as a whole, but particularly women and children;

WHEREAS, the problem of domestic violence is not confined to any group or groups of people, but crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and is sustained by societal indifference;

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse;

WHEREAS, victims should have support to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law;

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence, and to eliminate it through prevention and education;

WHEREAS, important partnerships have been formed among criminal justice agencies, allied professionals, and victim services to assist victims of domestic violence and their families;

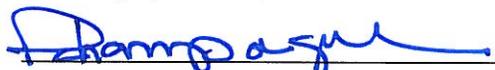
WHEREAS, our Town has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence and to address its brutal and destructive effects;

WHEREAS, our town must make ending domestic violence a priority;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that, in recognition of the important work done by domestic violence programs and victims' service providers, I, Paul Champagne, Mayor of Lockport, do hereby proclaim the month of **October 2015 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month** and urge all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, The Haven Domestic and Sexual Violence Program, and The PACT Place Supervised Visitation and Exchange Center, to work towards the elimination of violence against women. I also hereby proclaim Wednesday, **October 28, 2015 as "Paint the Town Purple"** day and urge all citizens to wear purple and decorate their homes or businesses in purple to show their support in the work to end domestic violence.



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 20th day of October, A.D. 2015.


Paul Champagne, Mayor

Attest by


Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

It was moved by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilman Triche that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION 2015-011

A resolution awarding and authorizing the signing of the Construction Contract for the "Northwest Quadrant, Gravity Sewer System Rehabilitation, CWSRF Project No. CS221120-01, DEQ Contract No. 003, Town of Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana", and authorizing the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport did receive construction bids on the Northwest Quadrant, Gravity Sewer System Rehabilitation, CWSRF Project No. CS221120-01, DEQ Contract No. 003, Town of Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the lowest and best bid was that submitted by Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc., Florence, Mississippi, in the overall Base Bid plus Alternate No. 1 Bid amount of \$283,024.76, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Lockport award the construction contract to Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc., Florence, Mississippi, in the overall Base Bid plus Alternate No. 1 Bid amount of \$283,024.76 once concurrence by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has been obtained, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Lockport be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to sign a construction contract for and on behalf of the Town of Lockport with Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc., upon receipt of the performance bond in the amount of the contract price, and

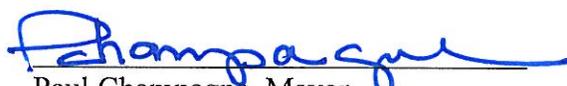
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of required certificates of insurance evidencing coverage as provided in the project specifications and upon execution and recordation of all contract documents, that the Engineer is hereby authorized to issue the Notice to Proceed to the Contractor to commence construction of the project.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers: Guidry, Hartman, Rogers, Triche

NAYS: None.

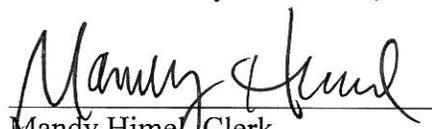
ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Councilman Barker


Paul Champagne, Mayor
Town of Lockport

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

I, Mandy Himel, Clerk of the Town of Lockport, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Lockport, at a meeting held on the 20th day of October, 2015, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted and that said Resolution is now in full force and effect.

WITNESS MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE this 20th day of October, 2015.


Mandy Himel, Clerk
Town of Lockport

It was moved by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilman Hartman that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION 2015-012

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 IV - Southwest Quadrant, Town of Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, that an engineering agreement, substantially in accordance with the form attached, is hereby approved, and that the Mayor of the Town of Lockport is hereby authorized and empowered to sign for and on behalf of the Town of Lockport, the said engineering agreement.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Councilman Barker.

and the Resolution was declared adopted this 20th day of October, 2015.



Paul Champagne, Mayor
Town of Lockport

* * * * *

I, Mandy Himel, Clerk of the Town of Lockport, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Lockport at a meeting held on the 20th day of October, 2015, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted and that said Resolution is now in full force and effect.

WITNESS MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE this 20th day of October, 2015.



Mandy Himel, Town Clerk
Town of Lockport
Lafourche Parish, Louisiana