

**Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting January 19, 2016**

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 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, 2015 Regular Meeting**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the December 15, 2015, meeting. Councilman Triche made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending December 31, 2015**

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

**G. Central Lafourche Band Booster- 5K Run**

Ms. Kay Gros representing Central Lafourche Band Booster asked for the Council's permission to hold a 5K Run in Town on February 13, 2016 starting at 8:00 am. Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow them to hold the event in Town. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Ms. Gros also asked if the Council would allow them to sell refreshments for the Lockport Mardi Gras Parade on February 6, 2016. Councilman Triche made a motion to allow them to sell refreshments for the parade, and it was unanimously seconded by the Council.

**H. 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 2016. A motion was made by Councilman Barker and seconded by Councilman Triche to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Vedros stated February 20, 2016 will be a Jambalaya cook off at the Bayou side park to raise money for the Town and the Police Department.

**I. GSE Report**

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

**1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northwest Quadrant):**

Contractor plans to start TV and cleaning on Monday, January 18, 2016. The project should be complete by June 17, 2016.

**2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):**

The engineering agreement has been approved by DEQ. Surveying has been completed. Plans and Specifications should be complete by mid-February.

**3. 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.

**4. Capital Outlay Request 2016:**

A Capital Outlay request were made for street improvements and drainage improvements on Church Street. Awards will be made in June 2016.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to accept the Change Order No.1 in total amount of \$3,915.00 for the Northwest Quadrant for the Gravity Sewer System Rehabilitation Project. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Resolution to give the Mayor the authority to sign the Audit Agreement with Stagni and Company. Councilman Hartman made a motion to allow Mayor Champagne to sign any and all documents for the Audit Agreement with Stagni and Company. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne also stated all the terms have stayed the same, and they will stay the same for the next three years according to the agreement from Stagni and Company.

K. Call for Public Hearing

1. To discuss an increase in Sewer Rates

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for public hearing to discuss an increase in sewer rates. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

2. To discuss Blighted Property Ordinance

Councilwoman Guidry made a motion to call for public hearing to discuss Blighted Property Ordinance. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

3. To discuss changes in the Town of Lockport Employee Personnel Policy Handbook

Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for public hearing to discuss changes in the Town of Lockport Employee Personnel Policy Handbook. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**L. Reports**

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne stated Suncoast is in Town marking manholes for the Sewer Project. He informed the Council that they would not get paid this week due to Biweekly payroll. He told the Council that he signed a data form for funds from Capital Outlay for the street improvements. Mayor Champagne stated that retirement for Town employees is going up to 23.25%, the police retirement is going up to 31.75% on July 1, 2016. He stated we are mandated to do this, and we don't control it. Mayor Champagne asked if there was anyone there representing the Lockport Carnival Club. Chief Vedros on behalf of the Lockport Carnival asked permission for the Lockport Carnival Club to have their annual parade February 6, 2016 at 12:00pm. Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow Lockport Carnival Club to have their annual Parade on February 6, 2016. There was a unanimous second by the entire Council. Mayor Champagne stated this year there will be no King or Queen for the parade, but they will have Mr. Armand Autin who will be the Grand Marshall. Mayor Champagne stated the Town will have to submit a name to Senator Chabert and Representative Gisclair for our Appointee for the North Lafourche Levee District. He recommended Mr. Kenney Matherne. Councilman Triche made a motion to nominate Mr. Kenney Matherne as the Town's Appointee for the North Lafourche Levee District. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne asked the Council for their input on the streets. He stated we need to prioritize the streets that need to be repaired. Councilman Triche agreed we need to prioritize the streets. Councilman Hartman stated the goal should be to repair all the streets in Town. Councilman Rogers suggested we definitely need to consider the parade routes to make sure it is safe for people who participate in the parades. Mayor Champagne asked the Council if they had any more thoughts on the selling the Water Plant property or the empty lot on Barataria Street. Councilman Rogers suggested they at least need to declare the property as surplus. Mayor Champagne suggested that we charge a fee for the rental of the Pavilions to cover all expenses to maintain them. It includes the Gazebo also. Mayor Champagne asked the Public if they thought this was an outrageous price to rent the pavilions. Mr. Wayne Bourgeois suggested the fee was too low. He suggested also charging a fee for 5K runs in Town to cover any costs associated with these events. Councilwoman Guidry made a motion to start charging a fee of \$25 starting January 20, 2016 to rent the Pavilions at the Bayouside Park. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Rogers asked if the fee would credit park expense. Mayor Champagne verified that it will credit park expense.

2. Council

a. Councilman Triche stated there are some serious pot holes in front of the School. He suggested getting the town crew to fill them. He also stated that we have a 24 hour notice for the parade parking. He wants to make sure nothing is blocked off prior to school dismissal on Friday, February 5, 2016, for safety reasons.

b. Councilman Rogers mentioned the potholes and blacktop. Mayor Champagne suggested contacting Town Hall to make work orders when needed. He asked about garbage pick up and damage to streets in the back of Town. Councilwoman Guidry stated no one has contacted her. He commended the town crew on the drainage work around Town. Councilman Rogers also stated there is a benefit for Mr. Lindell Toups in Gheens to help with medical costs.

c. Councilman Barker- no comment.

d. Councilman Hartman expressed his concern about the Lockport Carnival Club having no King or Queen this year. He feels it is a reflection on the Town of Lockport. Councilman Rogers stated he was disappointed but state it is hard times with the economy, and it costs to be a King or Queen. Mr. Wayne Bourgeois spoke on

behalf of the Lockport Carnival Club. He worked diligently to try to find a King or Queen. They ran out of time and also monetary issues.

e. Councilwoman Guidry thanked the fire department for hanging the flags on the poles. She suggested we contact the Post Office because there wasn't enough light on the building for people going there late. She wished everyone a Happy Mardi Gras.

**M. Public wishing to Address the Council**

1. Mr. George Leggett, Comeaux Drive, expressed his concern about the mailbox situation. There is a community mailbox at the front of the street. He would like everyone to have their own personal mailbox by their house to prevent mail from getting lost, etc. Mayor Champagne stated he would need to contact Post Office, but we would do what we can as well. He also expressed his concern about safety down his street because there are people who have disabilities or handicap down that street. He would like speed bumps or something down the street. Mayor Champagne stated the Town ordered some hearing impaired and handicap street signs to put down the street.

**N. Adjourn**

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. 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 it carried unanimously at 8:05 PM.

Town of Lockport

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

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

It was moved by Councilman Hartman and seconded by Councilwoman Guidry that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION 2016-001

A resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Lockport to sign an engagement agreement for auditing services for a three year term to cover auditing services by Stagni & Company, LLC for the Town of Lockport for each of the years ending June 30, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport must file yearly audit reports; and

WHEREAS, Stagni & Company, L.L.C., licensed CPAs, have efficiently performed those yearly audits; and

WHEREAS, Stagni & Company, L.L.C. has presented the Mayor with an engagement agreement for auditing services to cover audits for each of the years ending June 30, 2016, 2017, and 2018;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Lockport in regular session convened this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, that the Mayor is hereby authorized by the Lockport Town Council to sign the engagement agreement for auditing services by Stagni & Company, L.L.C. for the Town of Lockport for each of the years ending June 30, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

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

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

NAYS: 00.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 00.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 19th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Paul Champagne \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Champagne, Mayor  
Town of Lockport

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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 Town Council of the Town of Lockport, at a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, 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 19th day of January, 2016.

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