

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 15, 2016

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

E. Approval of Minutes for February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the February 16, 2016, meeting. Councilman Rogers 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 February 29, 2016

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending February 29, 2016. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Boat Museum- Mr. Tom Butler

Mr. Butler informed the Council that he was having a Crawfish Boil fundraiser on March 16, 2016. He invited everyone to attend. He asked the Council for permission to host a Boat Festival on April 23, 2016. Mr. Butler stated there will be no alcohol served, and he would notify the Council at a later date about any road interferences. Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow the Boat Museum to host their annual Boat Festival on April 23, 2016. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

H. Bayou Bell Ringers

Ms. Brenda Gaudet asked the Council for permission to host a 5K Run on September 24, 2016. Councilman Hartman made a motion to give the Bayou Bell Ringers permission to host a 5K Run on September 24, 2016. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

I. Proclamations

1. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the month of March, 2016, as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Councilman Rogers moved, and the Council unanimously seconded the motion to adopt the Proclamation. Mayor Champagne presented this Proclamation to Ms. Mary Lynn Blanchard.

2. Retired Teacher's Day

Mayor Champagne introduced a Proclamation declaring the March 17, 2016 as Retired Teacher's Day. Councilman Rogers moved, and the Council unanimously seconded the motion to adopt the Proclamation.

J. 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 for February 2016. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilwoman Guidry to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

K. GSE Report

1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Northwest Quadrant):

All cleaning and TVing of the storm drain and sewer lines is complete. Approximately 10 blocks have been lined. The point repair on Barataria should have started the week of February 15, 2016 but it was postponed. We are processing Application for Payment No. 1. The project should be complete by June 17, 2016.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

A meeting to discuss rights-of-way uncovered additional sewer lines that were previously not surveyed. Surveying has been completed on those additional areas. Plans and specifications are at 80% complete and will remain on hold until the rights-of-way and/or releases are acquired. Once the release form is approved by Lockport and Chris, Melanie will go visit property owners with Kevin to get the release forms signed.

3. Street Repairs:

A Capital Outlay Application was submitted for funds to pay for asphalt street overlay and repairs. The Town submitted information needed for the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the State and the Town. The Town is in the process of requesting a waiver to the required 25% match before executing the CEA.

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 moved and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to suspend the regular meeting and to open a public hearing on the following topics. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Public Hearing

1. Discuss an ordinance that has been introduced by the Town Council of the Town of Lockport to sell property located at 302 Barataria Street (known locally as the old town hall property) owned by the Town of Lockport by public bid for the minimum price of \$16,200 with full reservation of all Oil, Gas, or other Minerals pertaining to said property.

Mayor Champagne stated the advertisement will be in the Daily Comet, Town's Website, and the Town's Facebook page.

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

2. Adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, Louisiana, of 1999 to enact ordinances for the regulation of the sewerage system of the Town and to increase sewerage service rates.

Mayor Champagne stated we have tried to keep sewer rates as low as possible for as long as we could for the citizens. We have been able to operate with the help of the sales tax, but the sewer department should be its own profit center. We also have to increase our debt ratio as per our auditors and DEQ. We are proposing an increase from \$5.00 minimum to \$15.00 minimum and from \$1.93 per thousand to \$2.00 per thousand after the minimum. We have not gone up on sewer rates since 1994.

Mr. Baudoin asked if the improvements made to the lines will help minimize any additional cost or help decrease costs. Mayor Champagne stated the sewer lining project should decrease costs as well. He stated hopefully it will help the Sewer Plant last longer as well.

Councilman Rogers stated the increase will not cover the deficit. We hope the savings that the sewer lining will do might make up the difference. We need the increase in the sewer rates, and we are still the cheapest in Lafourche Parish.

Councilman Triche stated the increase is worth it compared to having to run your own sewer system. It would be more costly to maintain a private system.

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

Councilman Rogers made a motion to end the public hearing and go back into regular session. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, Louisiana, of 1999 to enact ordinances for the regulation of the sewerage system of the Town and to increase sewerage service rates effective May 16, 2016. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

M. Call for Public Hearing

1. Call for Public hearing to adopt an ordinance to allow the Town Council of the Town of Lockport to sell property located at 302 Barataria Street (known locally as the old town hall property) owned by the Town of Lockport by public bid for the minimum price of \$16,200 with full reservation of all Oil, Gas, or other Minerals pertaining to said property.

Councilman Hartman made a motion to call for public hearing on topic stated above. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

N. Public Wishing to address the Council

Mr. Robert Theriot of Raceland, LA. addressed the Council to give them an update on the car museum that he mentioned at an earlier meeting. He is working Mr. Troy Currault on this business. They had signed a purchase agreement to purchase the old Rouses building to open a car museum.

Councilman Armand Autin, District 7, addressed the Council with an update on the Al Robichaux Pump. He gets a report once a month on the pumps. He stated they put the pump in the budget to replace it. It should be going out for bid shortly. It is an expensive cost to replace it. He also mentioned the reservoir levels, and explained how that works. Councilman Autin asks the Council how many residents are in the Town. It consists of about 2,500 people and about 1,100 homes. Councilman Triche asked Councilman Autin if the parish planned on updating to electronic probes for the float switched. He stated it won't happen any time soon because the higher the technology the higher trained technicians you need to maintain them. Councilman Triche also asked him about building a small sea wall under the bridge where we could keep the water out due to Canal Street being a heavily traveled street. He stated it would be a great asset to the Town. Councilman Autin will take note of this and will contact the North Lafourche Levee District as well.

O. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne stated the LMA Crawfish Day is April 20, 2016. He stated we need to know who will be attending, and contact Mandy. Lockport Food Festival will be April 14-17, 2016. Paddle the Bayou is April 3, 2016. Chief Vedros stated April 2, 2016 will be a Jambalaya, Pastalaya, and Chili cook off. Mayor Champagne stated we need to start thinking about the millage rate. The reassessment won't be ready until end of May. He did recommend staying the same at 8.26 mills.

2. Council

- a. Councilwoman Guidry wished everyone a Happy Easter.
- b. Councilman Hartman asked when the Town Crew will finish digging ditches on Comeaux Drive. Mayor Champagne stated hopefully it will be completed soon, but we only rent the machine once a month. He also wished everyone a Happy Easter.
- c. Councilman Triche stated he would like that we follow up on Canal Street. He stated we gave up some of our portion from the Fair. He stated we can't continue to keep giving, and we have to look for the best interest of the Town.
- d. Councilman Rogers stated there was a conversation that took place concerning the old Rouses property that they were entertaining an idea to buy property to put an animal shelter. He feels there might be better places for an animal shelter. He stated there is another vacant place that is being considered for an animal shelter within the municipality. He asked the Council for their thoughts on the process. He asked for a resolution or letter from the Council for the Parish to approach the Council with the idea first. He asked Councilman Autin if he had any information on the animal shelter process. Councilman Autin stated he would like to see as much as we can to this area. He doesn't believe animal shelters are the same as they were in the past. They are very nice facilities. He is not aware of any decisions that have been made on the animal shelter at this time. Councilman Rogers wished everyone a Happy Easter.

P. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Hartman, and it carried unanimously at 8:10 PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Paul Champagne _____
Paul Champagne, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel _____
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-002

The following ordinance, having been previously introduced, was offered for final adoption by Councilman Rogers, and seconded by Councilman Triche.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF LOCKPORT, LOUISIANA, OF 1999 TO ENACT ORDINANCES FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF THE TOWN AND TO INCREASE SEWERAGE SERVICE RATES.

WHEREAS, the Town of Lockport must increase sewer service rates in order to cover the costs associated with operating the sewerage treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to update the ordinances regarding sewer service in the Town of Lockport;

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the Town Council of the Town of Lockport convened in Regular Session on March 15, 2016, and does hereby approve the Ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances of Lockport, Louisiana, of 1999 to enact ordinances for the regulation of the sewerage system of the town and to increase sewerage service rates.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the text of the Ordinance is attached hereto and made a part hereof as "Exhibit A" and can be viewed by the public at the Town Hall of the Town of Lockport at 710 Church Street, Lockport, Louisiana 70374.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that;

SECTION 1. If any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or application of this Ordinance, which can be given affect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

SECTION 2. All Ordinances by the Town Council of the Town of Lockport conflicting with or inconsistent with the provisions of these regulations are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be published in the Official Journal of the Town of Lockport in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall be effective May 16, 2016.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance, having been submitted in writing, having been read and adopted by sections at a public meeting of said council, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

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

NAYS: 00.

ABSENT: Councilman Barker

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this the 15th of March, 2016.

/s/ Paul Champagne _____
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Mandy Himel _____
TOWN CLERK