

**Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting June 14, 2016**

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June, 14 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, Chief of Police Warren Vedros, Mr. Bryan Adams, Ms. Karen Adams, Mr. Wayne Bourgeois, Jr, Mr. Scott Guidry, Ms. Mary Lynn Blanchard, Mr. Kenney Matherne, and Mr. Bryant Cole.

**E. Approval of Minutes for May 19, 2016 Regular Meeting**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the May 19, 2016, meeting. Councilman Triche asked that a correction be made on page 2 of 4, section I. Councilman Triche made a motion to ratify Mr. Archie Chiasson, Mr. Kenney Matherne, and Mr. Phillip Gouaux as the three nominees for the Town of Lockport's Appointee for the North Lafourche Levee District. The motion died because of lack of a second. Councilman Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending May 31, 2016**

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending May 31, 2016. Councilman Hartman 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 Councilman Barker to accept the Police Report as presented. 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 (Northwest Quadrant):**

The project is approximately 98% complete. All lines have been cleaned and lined. All service connections have been lined. All manholes have been coated.

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

Plans and specifications are at 85% complete. Releases from two property owners have been obtained. Chris is working on acquisition of two rights-of-way.

**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 has requested a waiver to the required 25% match before executing the CEA. Awaiting outcome of legislative session.

**4. Capital Outlay Request 2016:**

A Capital Outlay request were made for street improvements and drainage improvements on Church Street. Awaiting outcome of legislative session

**I. Select Official Municipal Journal for Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

Councilman Triche moved, and Councilwoman Guidry seconded a motion to select the *Daily Comet* as the Town's official journal. The motion carried unanimously.

**J. Ratification of the Property at 302 Barataria Street**

Councilman Rogers moved, and Councilman Triche seconded a motion to accept the highest bid from B and M Properties of LA, LLC in the amount of \$19,150.00 for the property at 302 Barataria Street. The motion carried unanimously.

**K. Public Wishing to address the Council**

Ms. Lena Lacoste, 202 Justin Street, expressed concerns about properties that looked like "junk yards". She feels we need to figure out how we can fix these problems. She suggested organizations to help people clean

up or help fix up their properties. She addressed the Town Council because she wants to help make the Town a better and cleaner area to live. The Town has contacted the owner of the Rouses property. He estimated it would take about six months to fix up his property. She stated she will work with anyone to help make this situation better.

Mr. Kenney Matherne thanked the Council for the support for the nomination to the North Lafourche Levee District. He stated the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 5:00pm. He stated they are still talking about the Church Street Drainage project. He stated the new Council would like an update on it.

Councilman Triche moved and Councilman Barker 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. To hear public comments on an ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2015-2016 Town of Lockport Budgets**

Councilman Hartman clarified that Column A is what was actually budgeted, and Column B was the amended budget and Column E should be the same numbers. He stated Sales Tax Revenues have gone down considerably, but it appears we are starting to level off which will help us to project good numbers for next year. We have made cuts in every department. Councilman Rogers stated some examples in the General Fund as follows: On the revenue side, we budget \$414,000.00 but received \$394,000.00. On expenditure side, we budgeted \$272,000.00, and we amended it to \$243,000.00. He stated insurance and retirement are very costly. For street repairs, we budgeted \$212,000.00, but we only spent \$92,000.00. On the transfer/inter-fund side, we transferred \$276,000.00, but we budgeted \$358,000.00. The amended budget has been adjusted to the 5 percent differential between revenue and expenses. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience and there were none.

##### **2. To hear public comments on an ordinance to adopt the fiscal year 2016-2017 Town of Lockport Budgets**

Councilman Hartman stated we tried to be as conservative as possible in every department. He stated there are no increase in salaries. Ms. Blanchard asked how much the increase in salaries is usually. Mayor Champagne stated it is usually a 3 percent cost of living raise. We are projecting \$329,000.00 in transfers from Sales Tax Fund for operating expenses. We are hoping that things turn around, and it will be better. He also stated there are no funds budgeted for Capital projects for next year. Councilman Hartman stated that derelict properties do cost money for the Town. Councilman Rogers stated we had drop in sales tax in the Town this past year, but it seems to be leveling off some. We have been very conservative for the upcoming year. Mr. Baudoin asked about bonds. Mayor Champagne stated the new sewer improvement project will be around two million dollars, but we were approved up to four million dollars in 2012. Ms. Lacoste stated we need more things in Lockport, but there is nothing to do or to spend money on. Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience, and there were none.

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

#### **M. Ordinances for Budgets**

##### **1. 2015-2016 Amended Budgets**

Councilman Rogers made a motion to adopt the 2015-2016 amended budget. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

##### **2. 2016-2017 Proposed Budgets**

Councilman Hartman made a motion to adopt the 2016-2017 budget with all proposed changes. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

#### **N. Reports**

1. Mayor  
No Report.
2. Council
  - a. Councilwoman Guidry mentioned the recent events happening in the world. She asked everyone to join in and proudly put out your flag. She stated the fire department will put out flags in the poles that were donated. She wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mayor Champagne thanked her for putting decorations around the Town.
  - b. Councilman Hartman is concerned about the things that Ms. Lacoste brought to the Council's attention. He doesn't understand how the board of Health can't help with this problem. Ms. Lacoste stated she has tried, but it is for the Town to do because it is not an immediate threat to health as per the Board of Health.
  - c. Councilman Barker- No report.
  - d. Councilman Triche asked about the "Welcome to Lockport" sign. Mayor Champagne stated it has been on order for six weeks. Councilman Triche asked about the parking at the boat launch and along the park. He is concerned about the parking for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He suggested we

should start issuing tickets for people who are violating the laws of the Town. Mayor Champagne suggested he address his concerns with Chief Vedros. He inquired about the old boat on Canal Street. Mayor Champagne has been trying to contact the owner. He suggested if the Town has to do something, then, we should charge the owner on their taxes. He asked about the Bradford House on School Street. Mayor Champagne stated it should be taken care of soon. He believed if you hit people in the hip pocket, then he thinks Lockport will change.

- e. Councilman Rogers explained the Zoning and Building Code Enforcement Contract from South Central Planning. It has been approved into the new budget in the amount of up to \$12,000.00. The task will be to enforce building codes monthly on a case by case basis. They would contact administration for any violations. They will provide us with an updated zoning map. They will be the new staff to address and handle zoning and planning issues. He feels it is a required cost because it is very hard for them to try to handle this monthly. They have reduced the cost tremendously. He stated we have to start somewhere. Councilman Rogers made a motion to give the Mayor permission to sign the contract with South Central Planning. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Rogers addressed drainage issues on Comeaux drive. He thinks a culvert might have to be reset or pulled up and fixed. He wished everyone a great and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Q. Adjourn**

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilwoman Guidry to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Triche and carried unanimously at 8:42 PM.

Town of Lockport

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

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-010**

An ordinance to amend the Lockport  
Code of Ordinances so as to Amend  
Section 2-4

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Lockport Town Council in regular session assembled that the Lockport Town Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and re-enacted so as to Amend Section 2-4 to read as follows:

SECTION 2-4

TOWN OF LOCKPORT AMENDED BUDGET

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council, on behalf of the Town of Lockport, hereby amends the 2015-2016 Budget (ATTACHMENT A) for the operation and maintenance of the Town.

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

NAYS: 00

ABSENT: 00

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this the 14th day of June, 2016.

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

ATTEST:

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-011**

An ordinance to amend the Lockport  
Code of Ordinances so as to Amend  
Section 2-3

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Lockport Town Council in regular session assembled that the Lockport Town Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and re-enacted so as to Amend Section 2-3 to read as follows:

SECTION 2-3

TOWN OF LOCKPORT BUDGET

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council, on behalf of the Town of Lockport, hereby adopts the 2016-2017 Budget (ATTACHMENT A) for the operation and maintenance of the Town.

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

NAYS: 00

ABSENT: 00

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

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

ATTEST:

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