

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 19, 2016

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July, 19 2016 at 6:00PM, 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 Donovan Barker was absent. 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. Bobbie Morris Galjour, Mr. Mark Rodriguez, Mr. Ron Sapia, Mr. Ralph Sapia, Mr. James Bradford, and Mr. Buck Hebert.

E. Approval of Minutes for June 14, 2016 Regular Meeting

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the June 14, 2016, 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 June 30, 2016

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending June 30, 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 stated there is nothing unusual to report this month. He mentioned the new game "Pokemon" they have been dealing with in Town. There are some protocol changes mandating two units on certain calls. They don't want to take any chances, but obviously there is a real threat to law enforcement itself. He had a meeting with all of his officers to address issues, and he also made arrangements if they would need any assistance through these hard times. He will email everyone about the new protocol changes. He stated we are blessed with the community with their support, and appreciates all of the gestures for the department. He stated Holy Savior will have a special prayer ceremony for the Lockport Police Department at the church at 6:00 pm Wednesday, July 20, 2016. He appreciated the Council's support as well. He attended the Chief's Conference last week. He was installed as the First Vice President of the Louisiana Chief's Association. He will become president of the Association in 2017. The Mayor congratulated the Chief on his accomplishment.

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):

Substantial Completion Inspection was conducted on June 22, 2016. There are punch list items left to complete (mainly paperwork) and the project is still in lien period. The project is approximately 98% complete.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

Plans and specifications are at 95% complete. Providence/GSE has acquired the two releases from two property owners. Chris is obtaining the other two rights-of-way. Plans will be sent to DEQ this week for approval.

3. Street Repairs:

A Capital Outlay Application was submitted for funds to pay for asphalt street overlay and repairs. Funding for this project is still questionable.

I. Resolution for the acceptance of work performed by Suncoast Infrastructure Inc. for the construction of the NW Quadrant

Councilman Triche moved, and Councilwoman Guidry seconded a motion to accept the above stated resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Public Wishing to address the Council

1. Mr. Mark Rodriguez asked the Council about the street money. He asked the Council to try to get the Road Sales Tax to pass. He suggested to get the information to Parish Councilman Autin to get it on the ballot. He feels it would be the only way to get the streets done. He stated you can't beautify the Town if we don't fix the streets.

2. Mr. Ralph Sapia stated he already made his announcement that he will qualify for Town Council. He knows a lot of issues in Town. The election is November 8, 2016. He stated please exercise your right to vote, and consider him for Town Council. Mayor Champagne wished him the best of luck in the upcoming election.

3. Councilman Autin reported to the Council about the pump at the Al Robichaux pump station. He said it is functioning at 100% now. He stated our boat launch fell through the cracks. He thinks they will really work hard to make improvements at the boat launch, and try to figure out a way to enlarge it. As Fire Chief, he represents Lockport area and other close areas, he wanted to congratulate Chief Vedros on his accomplishment. He thanked him and his department for being a tremendous asset with assistance with the fire department. He stated the contractor will possibly do a complete over lay on the streets that were damaged with the levee project in Lockport. He mentioned the can-shake that was done for the Police Officers in Dallas. He publicly thanked some firefighters: Floyd Cretini, Nick Ledet, Reola Lanegrass, Jr., and Todd Punch with help for can shake. Chief Vedros stated about \$60,000.00 was collected in Lafourche Parish.

K. Call for a Public Hearing

1. Adopt Millage Rate

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

2. Discuss the Town accepting Credit Card Payments

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

3. Adopt ordinance to amend Section 2-238 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, Louisiana, to amend and re-enact a schedule of fines and court costs for violations of certain traffic offenses, criminal offenses, and municipal ordinances to add 50 cents to the costs collected for the Louisiana Judicial College in accordance with State Law.

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

L. Reports

1. Mayor- Mayor Champagne stated the reason we had to move the meeting to 6pm because he has to go to Lake Charles this evening for a banquet tomorrow morning. The Town of Lockport is a candidate for Louisiana Rural Water Association for Wastewater System of the year (South award). He stated the Council has already given him permission to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with DOTD. It is the buy back program where the state would bring Vacherie Street (Hwy 655) from the Rita Bridge to Rouses Street (Hwy 655S) up to today's standards. Then, the Town would accept them. They would also give the Town about \$440,000.00 in credits to maintain the street and/or other streets in Town. He just wanted them to know he will officially be signing this agreement with their permission again.

2. Council

a. Councilwoman Guidry congratulated Chief Vedros on his accomplishment. She mentioned St Hilary is also having a Mass on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 7:00pm for police officers. She also stated she spoke to people about doing a lunch and supper for Police Officers for Town of Lockport, Town of Golden Meadow, City of Thibodaux, and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office next Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Lockport Fire Station. It is small businesses that have donated items for this lunch and supper. She wanted to let everyone know about this, and feels we can't do enough for them for all they do for us.

b. Councilman Hartman congratulated the Chief as well, and he appreciates him for being so active in the Louisiana Chief's Association.

c. Councilman Triche stated everyone was in the streets playing this Pokemon game. He stated he will be running for his seat for four more years to better Lockport and focus strong on blight and streets. Mayor Champagne wished him the best of luck in the upcoming election.

d. Councilman Rogers congratulated the Chief as well. He has attended most of the conferences and participated in the training they have done there. It is amazing what they have to go through for the credit hours. It is a great honor and it is well deserved. He appreciates the dedication and hard work he does for the Town. He stated he is running for Mayor. He stated he has been privileged to work under our current Mayor and current Administration for years. He feels honored to have been part of the successes that this Administration has done. It is hard to put a handle on everything they have done, but he will put a list together. We have a beautiful town and we have a lot of work ahead of us. We are in hard times financially. He has been a successful business person for 38 years, and he has a lot to offer to the community. He would really appreciate thoughts and prayers for the election. He would appreciate your vote of confidence and your vote on November 8, 2016. He thanked the Council for their participation and education. He said he has a lot to learn and more to do. He will continue to address drainage, streets, blight, business, etc. Mayor Champagne wished him the best of luck in the upcoming election.

M. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 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 Hartman and carried unanimously at 6:33 PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Paul Champagne _____
Paul Champagne, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk