

Minutes of Regular Meeting October 18, 2016

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 18, 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 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, Craig Rogers, and Donovan Barker. Also, present were Karen Adams, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Police Chief Warren Vedros, Mr. Bryan Adams, Mrs. Charlene Rodriguez, Mr. Mark Rodriguez, Mr. Beau Comardelle, Mr. Allie Rasid, Mr. Wayne Bourgeois, Mrs. Marion Barker, Mr. John Arvello, and Mr. Stephen Baudoin.

E. Approval of Minutes- September 20, 2016

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting. Councilman Triche made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for the month ending September 30, 2016

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending September 30, 2016. Councilman Rogers moved, and Council Barker 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.

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions for Chief Vedros. Councilman Rogers moved and Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion to approve the police report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Vedros asked the Town council for the approval to move part time Officer Jaime Findley into a full time position. Chief Vedros stated this would take place with the next payroll cycle and Mrs. Findley has all the credentials for the position since she has been employed part time with the police department. This has come in lieu of Officer Cullen Orgeron resigning. Chief Vedros commended Officer Orgeron for his time spent working for the Lockport Police Department. Chief Vedros stated that he understands Officer Orgeron's reason for resigning and wishes him the best.

Mayor Champagne stated the council can vote on moving Mrs. Findley into the full time police officer position, but it is at the discretion of Chief Vedros. Chief Vedros advised the council it will come at no extra cost to the Town because she is replacing Officer Orgeron. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Barker seconded the motion to move Officer Findley into the full time position to replace Officer Orgeron who has recently resigned. 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 Quadrants):

Substantial Completion has been recorded. There are outstanding punch list items left to complete and the project is out of the lien period. The project is approximately 99% complete. Suncoast has installed the majority of the liners on the punch list and installed the four full liners on School Street. The balancing change order is being presented as well as the final payment application.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

Plans and specifications are 100% complete. They have been submitted to DHH for a permit since we are installing one block of gravity sewer system. The plans and specifications have been submitted to DEQ for approval. Upon receiving approval, the Town can put the project out for bids.

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.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow Mayor Champagne to sign the change order as presented by Mr. Clay Breaud of Providence Engineering and Design, LLC, seconded by Councilman Triche, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Rogers questioned Mr. Breaud if there was any update on the four lines that were being relined. Mr. Breaud informed he did not receive anything back on the video, but that section has a bad leak. Mr. Breaud informed that the liners are going from the main line to the property line. The entire section in the public right away has been relined.

Councilman Triche questioned Mr. Breaud if the efficiency test has been done yet on the Catherine Street liftstation. Mr. Breaud informed the man who is going to be doing this has been busy with the flooding in Baton Rouge. When he gets a chance he will be here to check the liftstation. Mr. Breaud reassured Councilman Triche that it will be done.

Councilman Rogers made a motion allowing Mayor Champagne to sign the letter to reapply for the Capital Outlay for the asphaltting of the streets, overlay, and repairs of the streets in the Town. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

I. Proclamations:

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

Councilman Barker moved and Councilman Hartman seconded the motion to adopt the above Disability Awareness Month Proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Guidry moved and Councilman Triche seconded the motion to adopt the above Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman Rogers seconded the motion to adopt the above Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Call for Public Hearing:

1. To discuss the Chief of Police Salary

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

K. Public wishing to address the council

Mr. Beau Comardelle, representing Victory Life Church, is seeking the support of the council to have their 4th annual Glory Fest the last weekend in October. The festival would run from October 27, 2016 until October 30, 2016. Councilman Rogers made a motion to allow Victory Life to have its annual Glory Fest. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, it carried unanimously.

Mayor Champagne asked if anyone else would like to address the council. Mr. Mark Rodriguez asked how many times the Town applied for the funds to fix the streets. Mayor Champagne informed Mr. Rodriguez this is the second time the Town has applied. Mr. Rodriguez was thinking it was more. Mayor Champagne explained to Mr. Rodriguez the entire budget was cut when the new governor was elected.

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

L. Public Hearing

Mayor Champagne informed the public hearing is to adopt an ordinance to amend ordinance 2015-010 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, LA and to reenact a schedule of bonds, fines, and court costs for traffic offenses and a schedule of bonds, fines, and court costs for misdemeanor criminal offenses and municipal ordinance violations.

Town Attorney Chris Huddleston explained this is an ordinance that is mandated by the state. Chief Vedros explained the additional money collected is for the state, not the Town.

Mayor Champagne asked if the audience had any questions or comments. No one had any.

A motion was made by Councilman Triche seconded by Councilwoman Guidry to go back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to adopt the said ordinance 2015-010 seconded by Councilman Barker. The motion carried unanimously.

M. Reports

Mayor: Mayor Champagne informed all that the LGAP application was submitted for the tree cutting. The Mayor was formerly informed the Town will be receiving the \$35,000 from LGAP on the application that was submitted last year to purchase the excavator. Mayor stated this is strictly unofficial and the Town had not received anything in writing yet. The Mayor received an email from Mr. Ennis Johnson in regards to the road buy back. Mr. Johnson informed the mayor that the paperwork has been signed and is being sent

to the Town. Mayor Champagne informed all the money would be given to the Town in credits. Once everything is in, it will be up to the next council to decide how to use the credits. The buyback consist of Vacherie Street to the Rita bridge, and from the Rita bridge to Rouses. These roads would no longer belong to the state. The Town of Lockport would own them. The state will bring them up to today's standards before turning them over to the Town. Councilman Rogers asked if the funding the state gives the Town is mandated to the list or can it be prioritized. Mayor Champagne informed he does not recall giving the state a list of streets. Attorney Chris Huddleston did advise there was a list turned in with the top three priorities. Mayor Champagne informed the council a public hearing needs to be called to amend the ordinance in reference to the square footage of property and the distance to stay off the property line. The square footage needs to be changed from 5,000 square feet to 3,500 square feet, it has been discussed in the past, but never has been amended. The distance from the property line must be changed from 10 feet to 5feet.

Councilman Triche made a motion to call for a public hearing to amend the ordinances and make the required changes in Municode. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barker, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne recommended to the council to consider reducing the speed limit to 15 mph down all streets in Town. The Mayor also suggested putting speed bumps on Canal Street. Councilman Triche informed that the speed limit for Canal Street is currently 15 mph. The Mayor has been approached several times to bring this matter up to the council. Councilman Barker stated that they definitely have speeding going on down Vacherie Street. The Mayor stated there is speeding down all streets in Town. He knows it is impossible to catch all speeders. Chief Vedros has also received complaints about the speeding down the streets and the residents would like to attend the meeting when this matter will be discussed. Councilman Rogers has received complaints also, he suggested the speed bumps would work better than lowering the speed limit, especially on Canal Street. Councilman Rogers stated the problem in the past with speedbumps was liability issues, but now he knows places where the parish has installed them, and Golden Meadow is now installing speed bumps. Councilman Rogers stated the residents who live down the one way streets are looking for lowered speed limits to 15 mph. The mayor stated the speed limit should be consistent through Town. Mayor Champagne asked the incoming council consider reducing the speed limit down the streets in Town and speed bumps on Canal Street. Councilman Triche suggested a public hearing should be called to discuss the speed limits for the streets in Town. Councilman Triche also brought up the cost it would be to change all the signs and/or add speed bumps. Mayor Champagne stated it does not compare to someone burying a child or grandchild.

Council:

Councilman Triche- He would like to invite everyone to Spook in the Park on October 31, 2016 and asked anyone who would like to help. There will be hotdogs and chili provided by the Town. The popcorn will be served and provided by the Lockport Fire Department. Councilman Triche extended a "Thank You" to Mr. Bryan Adams for purchasing a blighted property and cleaning it up.

Councilman Rogers- Please go out and exercise your vote. I know there is not much time left before the election and this month has been a busy month. This is a very important election and we need change and good decision making for this Country. I am sick of the media and newspaper. I would like to thank the Council and Mayor for all of the accomplishments the Town has made the last 16 years. I am looking forward to the possibility of becoming the next Mayor of Lockport. The political and business world are no comparison, but I feel with my knowledge of business, budgets, finances, and employees I can bring good things to the Town. I am asking you all please consider me for your next Mayor of Lockport. Councilman Rogers thanked the Mayor.

Councilman Barker- He stated he is sorry he will not be able to serve with the next Mayor.

Councilman Hartman- Councilman Barker had a successful surgery, and we are glad to see he is doing so well. Would like to extend his best wishes to Pastor Danny of Victory Life Church.

Councilwoman Guidry- She thanked the Mayor for the proclamations, especially for the Breast Cancer proclamation. She will get with Mr. Wayne Bourgeois this week to put up the fall flags. She thanked Mr. Bourgeois and the fire department for their help. She would like to urge people to go out and exercise their right to vote and to please look for qualifications. She wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

Mayor Champagne asked if anyone else in the audience would like to address the council:

Mr. Wayne Bourgeois wanted to remind everyone about Trunk or Treat at Lafourche Ford on Thursday, October 27, 2016. He would like to request the help of the police department as he did last year. He stated it was a success last year. Also, the fire department will attend Spook in the Park and make the kettle corn. He also informed that the Community Crusaders extends the offer to the elderly or people who cannot afford to purchase candy but would like to give it out.

Mayor Champagne thanked Mr. Bourgeois and the fire department for their generosity.

Mayor Champagne asked if anyone in the audience would like to address the council:

Mr. Stephen Baudoin asked if the drainage problem on Vacherie Street was part of the buyback plan. Mayor Champagne told Mr. Baudoin he does not believe it is a state issue, so it would not be included in the buyback. The Mayor did inform Mr. Baudoin he will look into it. Mr. Baudoin asked why the sewer lines that were recently lined not an issue before. Clay Breaud, of Providence Engineering and Design, LLC explained when they videoed it showed that the service had leakage. The service may have gotten damaged when the ditches were cleaned or the cleaning of the ditches revealed the problem with the services. Mr. Breaud informed that only so much can be seen with the video. Mr. Baudoin questioned the additional cost.

Mr. Breaud informed it was not in the contract.

Councilman Triche advised about eight months ago, he informed someone with the state about the drainage issue on Vacherie Street. Councilman Triche spoke to a guy that was in Town this week with the state and was informed the cement would be broken up and re-cemented. He was told it would not be feasible to overlay the cement. Councilman Triche informed the state worker when it rains 6th Street and Vacherie Street flood. The state will look into widening the drain.

Councilman Rogers stated he was able to watch the video, and it's a long process. They must finish the project before we can define the problem. He stated he is not sure if the problem on Vacherie Street has occurred since the debris was cleaned out.

Mr. Stephen Baudoin stated Vacherie Street is a main road through Town.

N. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Triche to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Councilman Hartman. It carried unanimously at 7:58 P.M.

Town of Lockport


Paul Champagne, Mayor


Karen Adams, Deputy Clerk