

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting November 15, 2016

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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 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 Mandy Himel Town Clerk, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Chief of Police Warren Vedros, Wayne Bourgeois, Jr, Bryan Adams, Karen Adams, Sue Sue Bollinger, Allie Rasid Sr, Floyd Cretini, Jr, Junior Adams, Frank Curole, Scott John Guidry, and Mary Lynn Blanchard.

E. Approval of Minutes for October 18, 2016, Regular Meeting

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the October 18, 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 October 31, 2016

Mayor Champagne asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the financial statements for the month ending October 31, 2016. Councilman Hartman moved and Councilman 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. Councilman Rogers asked the Chief if it would be possible to get a comparison of calls annual to date from last year to this year. Councilman Triche asked the Chief if the speeding has decreased in Town. Chief Vedros stated it has in some areas. He stated while they are present of course they slow down. Councilwoman Guidry asked about the redesigning of the police report. Chief Vedros stated they will be changed to show charts and percentages monthly, and then, a yearly one at the end of the year. Chief Vedros asked the Council for permission for the 25th Annual Christmas Parade to roll on December 3, 2016 at 5:30pm. He stated December 2, 2016 at 6:30 will be the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Park. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers to allow the Lockport Christmas Parade to roll on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 5:30 pm. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Rogers stated they will be at the park Saturday and Sunday to put Christmas decorations. If anyone would like to volunteer, please just show up. A motion was made by Councilman Rogers and seconded by Councilman Hartman 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 only outstanding items are the videos of the final service liners and the clear lien certificate. Once received, we can process the final payment which is retainage only and close out this project.

2. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

Plans and specifications are 100% complete. 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 State Capital Outlay application was submitted for funds for the construction of asphalt street overlay and repairs.

4. Drainage Improvements between Church and School Streets:

A State Capital Outlay application was submitted for culvert installation in the canal behind the post office and elderly apartments.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to advertise for bids for the Southwest Quadrant for the Sewer Rehab Project. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

I. Proclamation

Epilepsy Awareness Month

Councilman Triche made a motion to adopt the above stated proclamation. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

J. Donovan Barker Day

Mayor Champagne read a Proclamation honoring Councilman Donovan Barker. On February 23, his Birthday, was declared "Donovan Barker Day" in the Town of Lockport. He was presented with a plaque honoring his 32 years of service, a framed Proclamation, and a key to the Town. Councilman Barker stated he enjoyed these 32 years. They thanked him for his service.

K. Resolutions

1. Adopt the Lafourche Parish Emergency Operations plan.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to pass the above stated resolution. Councilman Triche seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

L. Public Wishing to address the Council

Mr. Wayne Bourgeois asked about the changes for the width and areas requirements for the ordinances to be adopted. Mayor Champagne stated we have been following the guidelines for a while now, but it was never put into Ordinance form. We are cleaning up our ordinances.

Councilman Rogers made a motion to go into Public Hearing. Councilman Barker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

M. Public Hearing

1. TO DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 38-1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF LOCKPORT, LOUISIANA, TO AMEND PART (C) REGARDING THE PAY SCALE FOR THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN THE TOWN OF LOCKPORT.

Councilman Hartman asked if they can table this item. They will discuss it at a later time. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Frank Curole stated he thinks Chief Vedros does a good job, and he thinks he deserves a raise. Mayor Champagne stated there is no change in salary at this time. They will discuss at a later date. Mr. Curole stated everyone needs to work together. You have to be your own person, and you work for the public not a certain group of people.

2. TO DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 48-59(d) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF LOCKPORT, LOUISIANA, TO DECREASE THE MINIMUM LOT WIDTH AND AREA REQUIREMENTS AND TO DECREASE THE MINIMUM SIDE YARD REQUIREMENT.

A motion by Councilman Barker, seconded by Councilman Hartman, was made calling for a public hearing on the above topic. The motion carried unanimously.

3. TO DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 42-6(c)(2)(a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF LOCKPORT, LOUISIANA, TO DECREASE THE MINIMUM LOT AREA REQUIREMENT

They tabled #1 until further notice, #2 and #3 above topics until December 20, 2016 meeting.

A motion by Councilwoman Guidry, seconded by Councilman Triche, was made calling for a public hearing on the above topic. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Mayor

Mayor Champagne asked for the Council to entertain a motion to officially zone the Rouses property at 1428 crescent Ave, Tract A of Felicia Plantation, as commercial. Mr. Huddleston stated the property was annexed before Rouses was built. When it was annexed, it was supposed to be in the documents that it was zoned as commercial. However, it was omitted from the documents. According to our zoning ordinance, anything that comes in the Town is supposed to be zoned as R-1. We need to officially make this property C-1. Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing to officially zone the above stated property as commercial. Councilman Triche seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne stated we need to adopt the 2017 fee schedule from South Central Planning. Councilman Rogers made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss adopting the new fee schedule from South Central Planning. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Champagne congratulated Stephen Baudoin, Wayne Bourgeois, and Chief Vedros on the election. He stated it is most important to exercise your right to vote on December 10, 2016. He congratulated Mr. Doug Foreman on being selected as Louisiana Deputy Sheriff of the Year in the state. He wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

2. Council

a. Councilman Triche stated we will have a very nice Christmas on the Bayou side. He stated Spook in the Park was a great success. He would like to thank Rouses and Entergy for their donation to make this event happen. He also recognized a young gentleman named Bennett Knight. He would like to give him a certificate of appreciation for volunteering at Spook in the Park. He stated it was overwhelming to see a young man so polite and willing to help nonstop for two hours. We need to recognize more young children in this community. He congratulated Wayne and Mr. Baudoin on their win. He said it is very important to go out and vote. Councilman Triche congratulated Chief Vedros for the election. He stated government works at a snail pace, but if you keep at it then it will happen. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

b. Councilman Rogers thanked everyone for their vote of confidence. He stated December 10, 2016 is an important day for him and the Town. He stated absentee voting will be a very important role in this election with the holiday season. He asked everyone to consider going out to vote. He thanked everyone who volunteered for Spook in the Park. He appreciates everything. He feels the park is important to the community, and keep promoting it. He thanked everyone for their support. He stated that Mr. Donovan was his inspiration, his lead guy, and the one who gave us the drive and insight about the position. He showed him how things progress on the political side. He appreciated everything he has taught him. He has learned quite a bit from him and previous administration as well. He thanked Mayor Champagne for his service of 24 years. He showed him how to handle issues within the Town, and opened his eyes to many situations he wasn't familiar with. He thanked him for the vote of confidence to serve as Mayor Pro Temp, the person to step up and handle things when Mayor Champagne could not be present. He appreciates his consideration for that honor. He will miss his talent on the Council. He wished him and his family best wishes. He served with Councilman Triche for all his years. He stated it was a wonderful partnership. He was very happy and proud when he won 16 years ago. He was able to serve and give back to the community. His parents have given him great advice. He stated he hopes he can work with the future Council. He thanked Councilwoman Guidry and Councilman Hartman. He thinks it would be a great team. He looks forward to the new council's energy. He said it will be a learning process for everyone. He stated the Attorney and Town Staff has done a wonderful job. He feels we have honorable and dedicated employees. He thanked them for their services. He is positive about trying to win this election. He stated his heart is in it. He wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

c. Councilwoman Guidry congratulated everyone for the election. She thanked the Fire department for putting up the flags. She asked if they could put the Christmas ones up the week of the Christmas Parade. She thanked everyone for helping with Spook in the Park. She thanked everyone who attended the meeting, and she hopes we see it more often. In 1968, she stated her Dad was able to serve with Mr. Donovan as alderman. She stated she is honored to have served with Mr. Don as a Councilwoman. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

d. Councilman Hartman thanked the people of Lockport for having confidence in him to serve as a Councilman. He thanked everyone who ran for office. It is an honor to serve the people of Lockport. He congratulated all the people elected. He thanked Councilman Triche for his years of service for the work he has done for the Town and the Park. He served for 12 years with Mr. Donovan helped him to figure things out and how things should be in regards to finance and the budget. It was an honor to serve with Don, and he wished him and his family all the best of luck in the future. He wished everyone happy Thanksgiving.

e. Councilman Barker stated he appreciated the voters of Lockport for electing him to this Council 8 times. He said it has been enjoyable. He served with good mayor, good councilmembers, and good police departments. This is a great town, and anyone who doesn't appreciate it shouldn't be living in Lockport. His eight terms have been great. It was a pleasure to lose one time because it made you come back stronger and better.

3. Town Attorney- No comment.

4. Staff- No comment.

M. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 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 7:50 PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Paul Champagne

Paul Champagne, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel

Mandy Himel, Town Clerk