

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 18, 2017

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 7:00PM, at the Lockport Town Hall Complex.

A. Call to Order, B. Opening Prayer, C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Edward Reinhardt called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was offered by Mandy Himel. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Reinhardt.

D. Roll Call

The roll was called with the following present: Mayor Edward Reinhardt, Councilmembers Stephen Baudoin, Sharon Guidry, Rodney Hartman, and Wayne Bourgeois, Jr. Councilwoman Bobbie Galjour was absent. Also present were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Chief David Harrelson, Jr., Allie Rasic, Sr., Junior Adams, Lucy Orgeron, and John Champagne.

Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to deviate from agenda to give Representative Gisclair an opportunity to speak to the Council and the public. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to deviate from the regular agenda. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Representative Gisclair stated the Capital outlay House Bill 2 was signed by the Governor, and it is not Act 4 page 56 as an item for the Town of Lockport. It is \$990,000 for road repairs, and not requiring matching funds. Hopefully, you will get \$990,000 without having to put up any funds. He stated the Mayor and Town Foreman took him around Town and showed him the conditions of the roads. Mayor Reinhardt stated he appreciated his help and everyone else to make this happen. Representative Gisclair stated the former Chief and the Mayor went to Baton Rouge and did some lobbying. He also they showed them around, and coming face to face to Baton Rouge really helps. Representative Gisclair also stated the Mayor was new at the game. He was like a young horse, and we held you back. He wished them well. He stated Senator Chabert was instrumental in making this happen as well. He said it does help to come to Baton Rouge. He doesn't know exactly when the money will be here, but it is signed, sealed, and delivered. Councilman Bourgeois asked if it was in the bonding phase now. He confirmed that it is in the bonding phase. The State has to sell the bonds.

Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to go back to the Regular Agenda. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes for June 13, 2017, Regular Meeting

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the minutes for June 13, 2017. Councilman Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Minutes for June 14, 2017 Special Meeting

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the minutes for June 14, 2017. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to accept as presented. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

G. Approval of the Financial Statements for the month ending June 30, 2017

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the Financial Statements ending June 30, 2017. Councilman Hartman made a motion to accept the financial statements as presented. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

H. Police Report

Mayor Reinhardt called on Chief Harrelson to report on the department's activities. Chief Harrelson distributed copies of the monthly activity report. Councilman Bourgeois asked the Chief if everything was going well as far as accessing anything. Chief Harrelson stated it is going well. He also offered help if he needs it. A motion was made by Councilman Bourgeois, and seconded by Councilman Hartman to accept the Police Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Harrelson made a recommendation for their open police officer position. He recommended Mr. Brad Ross. Councilman Bourgeois asked the Chief if the position was advertised. Chief Harrelson stated it was advertised, and he received ten applications. He stated he was the most qualified. Councilman Hartman asked for a rundown of his service in law enforcement. They called upon Mr. Brad Ross. Mr. Brad Ross, 105 Romero St. Bourg, addressed the Council on his qualifications. Mayor Reinhardt asked if Mr. Ross knew we have special election coming up in October. Mr. Ross stated yes he was aware. The Mayor stated there were no guarantees on who was going to win. He asked if he knew if something changes that he can be changed too. The Mayor wanted him to have an idea of what was going on. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to accept the Chief's recommendation to hire Mr. Brad Ross. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Sgt. Ricky Breaux addressed the Council, and he stated he will not be running in a special election for the Chief of Police's position.

I. Providence Report

Mayor Reinhardt called on Clay Breaud of Providence, who gave the monthly engineering status report as follows:

1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

The contractor has cleaned and videoed the sewer mains in the Southwest Quadrant. The contractor is hoping to have all of the main liners installed by July 21st. The manhole coating crew should start work the week of July 17th. The subcontractor should be installing cleanouts where the long service liners are to be installed the week of July 17th. A change order is being prepared for additional work related to constructing additional manholes.

2. Street Repairs:

A State Capital Outlay application was submitted for funds for the construction of asphalt street overlay and repairs. House Bill No. 2 was signed by the Governor. The funds for this project are a Priority 1 item. However, the state has to issue bonds prior to distributing funds.

3. 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. This project did not make it into House Bill No. 2.

A small discussion took place between the Mayor, Council, and Mr. Breaud.

J. Mr. Kevin Bellanger- South Central Planning

Mr. Kevin Bellanger addressed the Council on permitting. The Council has to decide if they want to go with South Central Planning or the Parish for permitting/building codes. He stated they have been with the Town for 10 years. He stated they give the program to us for free and also free support. He stated they have 6 certified building inspectors. They have 15 employees dedicated to permitting. They have had zero blemishes. He explained the different departments and services of South Central Planning. Councilman Bourgeois stated we would not be doing the 80/20 like we are doing right now. We would have to pay about \$825.57 per month. The Town would keep 100% of what we collect with the new pro-rata share agreement. Councilman Baudoin and Councilman Bourgeois stated they will be abstaining from any vote. Councilman Hartman stated we are mandated by the state and the federal government to require permits.

K. Mr. Tony Breaux- Lafourche Parish Government

Mr. Tony Breaux address the Council on permitting. They have two certified buildings inspectors. They have five girls in the office as well. They would send someone to work with Mandy or whoever deals with permits. They have the manpower to get inspections done. We would have to pay for the mypermitnow program if we go with the Parish. It would be about \$260 per month. We would also have to give the Parish 75% of what we collect, and the Town would keep 25%. Councilman Bourgeois stated the Town had been using South Central Planning over the last ten years which is before most of them took office. Councilman Bourgeois stated the Mayor wanted him and the Town Clerk, Mandy, to meet with the Parish to see what they would be able to offer at the beginning of the year. Mr. Jimmy Cantrelle, Parish President, stated it isn't a competition. He stated keep the money in Lafourche Parish. He feels the Parish can serve the Town well.

L. Reports

a. Mayor

Mayor Reinhardt thanked Representative Gisclair for coming to the meeting and helping us get the money. He stated if he runs for anything he has his support and Lockport should support him too. He thanked Mr. Cantrelle, Mr. Tony, and Mr. Kevin for coming to the meeting. We did a smoke test in Town. He talked to Mr. Jeff Lasseigne to discuss the buildings on Main Street. He stated the Maintenance crew and the ladies in the office are doing a good job. Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to get the Boat museum appraised to have an idea on how much the property is worth if they decide to buy the property. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to get property appraised up to \$1000. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Council

1. Councilman Baudoin stated he has a meeting at South Central Planning considering the Brownsfield program which can help with blighted properties. He also asked what other properties in Town are on the list for blighted properties. Mayor Reinhardt stated there is a man in back of town that he would like to help as well with his property. Councilman Baudoin started research on the nuisance problem.

2. Councilwoman Guidry stated she spoke with the Mayor about lighting at Town Hall and the park. She will get in touch with Michelle Gautreaux with Geaux Create. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

3. Councilman Hartman stated he went to the North Lafourche Levee District Meeting. They have Lockport to Larose on their discussions. They want to bring the levees up to 7 and 9.

4. Councilman Bourgeois thanked everyone for coming. He thanked Mr. Gisclair. He thanked Mr. Jimmy, Tony, and Kevin for coming. He stated the fire district no. 2 had a member who has resigned. Mr. Henry Cancienne would not be seeking another term, and he recommended Mr. Todd Hebert. Mr. Cancienne, 209 Belle Vue, addressed the Council. Mr. Hebert, 220 Superior Dr, addressed the Council. They serve a two year term as appointment by the Town Council and the Mayor. They have to live within the boundaries of the Fire District. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to appoint Mr. Todd Hebert to the Fire District No. 2 board to move to the Parish Council for ratification. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Bourgeois stated Night Out Against Crime will be August 1 @ 6pm at the Ball Park. It is hosted by the Lockport Police Department, Lockport Fire Department, Community Crusaders of Lafourche, Lockport Rotary Club, and the Lockport Carnival Club. He also stated LA Safe meeting will be held at the Lafourche Parish Government Complex on July 26, 2017 @ 6pm. He stated the Louisiana State Firemen's Association Conference will be taking place in Houma. Mr. Chris Boudreaux will be taking over as President. Councilman Bourgeois asked if he could get the agenda a little earlier or if it can be emailed. He stated we are losing a good employee, Ms. Karen Adams. He wished her the best in her future endeavors. He asked the Mayor if he started advertising for this position. The Mayor stated he cross trained someone for her position. The Mayor stated this is why we cross train. Councilman Bourgeois asked if all criteria was met since it is one of the five jobs with a description and requirements. The Mayor stated all yes all criteria has been met. The Mayor stated she has been doing good in the few days she has been in the position. Councilman Bourgeois asked how many employees we have. Mayor Reinhardt stated we have three in the front and four in the back. He stated John and Tony are full time. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for a public hearing to look into the possibilities of removing the no parking signs with boat trailers that are next to the Bayouside Park. Someone complained about the parking, and asked him to look into this. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

c. Town Attorney- no comment.

d. Staff- No comment.

M. Public Wishing to Address the Council

1. Mr. Floyd Cretini, 914 Ethel Street, addressed the Council about issues with his property and the sewer. He stated he was not notified of this work that took place on his property. Discussion took place between the Mr. Cretini, the Council, Mayor, and Mr. Breaud, our engineer.

2. Mr. Mark Rodriguez, Myrtle Delaune Dr, thanked them for all the work they did to get the money for the streets. He stated to remember his street because he has been fighting for six years.

3. Mr. Jonathan Cretini, 413 Ninth St, addressed the Council about street drainage issues. He also asked about road work. He asked if they are taking the existing road out or recapping it. The Mayor stated it would be overlay. Councilman Bourgeois stated \$990,000 isn't enough to go far if you have to dig it out and recover it. It is basically a band aid while we try to find a long term solution. Mr. Cretini stated the higher the road goes, the lower his property goes. He doesn't want lake in his front yard. Mayor Reinhardt stated we are working on drainage too.

4. Ms. Mona Folse, 512 Barrilleaux St, addressed the council about the gentleman who had no food or electricity. She works with social services, and she works with the elderly. A small discussion took place.

3. Mr. Shane Eschete, 213 Catherine St, addressed the Council about speeding down his street. He asked if the Council can lower the speed to 15 mph. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for a public hearing to reduce the speed on all of Catherine Street from 25 mph to 15 mph. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilman Bourgeois stated Mr. Kenney Matherne, our representative on the NLLD, advised him the money was moved for A1 to fund the entire project 100%. It went from \$500,000 to \$1.2 million, and the levee will be 9 feet all the way across.

N. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Hartman to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Edward Reinhardt

Edward Reinhardt, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel

Mandy Himel, Town Clerk