

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting August 21, 2018

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 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, Bobbie M. Galjour, Wayne Bourgeois, Jr., and Rodney Hartman. Also present were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Chief David Harrelson, Jr., Allie Rasid, Sr., Dona Breaux, Linda Arcement, Bruce Arcement, Katelyn Stewart, Chelsey Stewart, Ray and Rosary Gaubert, Sheri Ryan, and Jason Punch.

E. Approval of Minutes for July 18, 2018, Regular Meeting

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the minutes for July 18, 2018. Councilman Hartman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Bourgeois did not vote.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for month ending July 31, 2018

Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to accept the financial statements for the month ending July 31, 2018. Councilman Bourgeois moved, and Councilman Hartman seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. It carried unanimously.

G. Police Report

Mayor Reinhardt called on the Chief to report on the department's activities. Chief Harrelson distributed copies of the monthly activity report. A motion was made by Councilman Bourgeois and seconded by Councilwoman Guidry to accept the Police Report as presented. It carried unanimously. Chief Harrelson thanked the people who joined them for Night out against Crime.

H. Providence Report

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

1. Sewer Rehabilitation (Southwest Quadrants):

This project is complete and closed out.

2. Street Repairs:

The state approved the project to go to bids. The prebid conference will be held on August 28th and the bid will be on September 13th.

3. Sewer Rehabilitation (Sewer Force Main and SCADA):

Surveying is completed, and design was begun. The project is now on hold per the mayor.

4. Comeaux/Catherine Street Drainage Improvements:

The right-of-way has been staked out and flagged. Residents have begun removing items that were encroaching on the right-of-way. Clearing by Town of Lockport should be coordinated with the drainage district so that it doesn't have to be done twice.

5. Infiltration Investigation:

In lieu of the sewer force main project, the mayor would like to concentrate on finding as many of the infiltration problems as possible. Infiltration cannot be eliminated but it can be reduced. Since the sewer mains and manholes are not the problem, the problems must exist in the services. It is too expensive to video every service in town, so manhole monitoring systems are being discussed. The monitoring will help pinpoint which blocks need to be further investigated via camera, smoke, visually, etc.

Discussion took place.

I. Sewer Operator Report

Mr. John Arvello addressed the council and the public. He stated if the pumps are efficient to handle it when it is not raining, then we need to fix the leaks.

Mayor Reinhardt asked if anyone wanted to come up and ask questions to Mr. Breaud.

Mr. Brian Rivet, Gheens, LA, stated he is on a sewer/water board. He stated the problem we are having here is all over. He stated you have to work it out a little at a time. He stated it will get fixed, but it takes time.

Mr. Ralph Sapia, 310 Fourth Street, talked about an issue he had about a month and half ago. He came today, but he found out more knowledge about the sewer at this meeting. He asked about the discussing sewer rates. Mayor Reinhardt stated he will be asking to table this tonight.

Mr. Ray Gaubert, Lockport, La, expressed his concerns with Mr. Breaud and the council, and he wanted to know when he would be able to flush. Discussion took place.

Ms. Sandra Beirs, 1100 Catherine Street, asked about how long before her niece's toilet will flush. Discussion took place. She also asked about smoke testing, and she wanted to know why people's toilets don't flush. LRWA does this testing for the town. Smoke testing is done to determine infiltration on the public and private sides. She also asked about the pump in the back of Catherine Street. More discussion took place.

Ms. Rosary Gaubert, 506 Elizabeth Street, feels there is an exception to every rule. She stated they wanted to put a sewer treatment plant, but she said the council voted against it. She also stated they would have paid the sewerage every month. Councilman Bourgeois stated for the record they did not vote against it, they asked to look into it because there is a law against it. She expressed her frustration with their sewer issues. She asked about the lift pumps. The town attorney will verify and look into these pumps. Mr. Huddleston stated we can't spend public money on private property. Discussion took place. Mayor Reinhardt stated we will check into this as soon as possible, call a special meeting, and then vote on this to see what we can do.

J. Public Hearing to discuss sewer rates

Councilman Hartman made a motion to table this. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

K. Reports

a. Mayor

Mayor Reinhardt talked about prebid meeting for the streets and bid opening on September 13. He will talk to the guy from the post office about the bridge and the culverts. He asked the council about the rent price on the building up front. Councilman Baudoin is concerned about parking in that area. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to set bid price at \$600 per month. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Reinhardt asked the council for a resolution to support the NLLD to apply for federal funding of the Morganza project. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to accept the resolution. There was a unanimous second. Mayor Reinhardt asked Councilman Bourgeois to clear the air, and he asked if there was any truth to moving the fair out of Lockport. Councilman Bourgeois stated the fair board did decide to relocate the festival to the fair grounds in Raceland. The festival will not be located in the town anymore. It will be located for the next two years under the overpass in Raceland. It will be the fourth weekend in April this coming year, but then, it will be the third weekend in April after that due to Easter. He stated it will be the next two years because after that the current parish president is saying that the new ground will be able to hold it where the new complex will be built. There are many things that came into this. He stated the road's issue with the rides on the roads. Another issue was some of the rides were too big. They would have hit different things. He stated multiple issues came into play with the fair board such as is it a fundraiser or a community event. He stated the community doesn't support it all that well which is why the organizations don't make that much funds off of it. With the 6.5 organizations that are involved, there were very little funds were being made as far as the amount of work that goes in. He stated the softball tournament that the fire department puts on has a \$12,000 profit compared to the \$6,500 profit for the organizations and \$2,000 profit for the town from the fair. The fire department tends to put out two weeks' worth of work for the fair because they get very little help from other organizations. He stated they are not making the money or getting the help. He stated at the pavilion it will be a lot less expensive, less set up because the stage is already there, no tents, cement for parking, and multiple other things. He stated parking was an issue especially with the old Rouses being sectioned off. He stated there were multiple different complaints throughout the weekend that the police department had to deal with over and over again. He knows quite a few residents in town will be disappointed, and just as many will be excited. He said this has been talked about for years for relocation like across the bayou and other places. In two years, it would have been moving either way. He stated there is not enough money being made to even throw the fair. Mayor Reinhardt asked when it does come back over here, it will not be Lockport? Councilman Bourgeois stated that is correct, it will be in the parish not Lockport. Councilman Bourgeois stated the town would get a max of \$3000, and the rest of the organizations would get the rest. The festival paid the deputies directly. The town used to get more, but it was going toward the deputies. He stated at the board meeting all the board members passed to move the festival unanimously. No organization voted against it for multiple reasons that were discussed. He is asking for the council, Mayor, Chris, and everyone to think about, does the town want to be a member of this organization. He stated in the bylaws, the money is disbursed by the board. So next year the board can say well the town really didn't do anything, so they get nothing. He stated do we want to take on the liability of this without ever getting anything back. He stated he personally doesn't think the festival will come back into the town. He thinks it will hurt that weekend of tax revenues because the corner store sold more beer than the fair did which is why the fair didn't make the money, the town did. Councilman Hartman stated he thinks the town should walk away. Mayor Reinhardt stated he agrees with Councilman Hartman with the liability and all, it doesn't make sense. Councilman Bourgeois asked for this to be put on the agenda for next month so we don't forget about it. Councilman Baudoin asked if the town has any investment in the fair. Councilman Bourgeois stated no organization has any investment. Mayor Reinhardt stated he has been talking to Dwayne with NLLD.

b. Council

1. Councilman Baudoin stated the rain has created issues for citizens, but he was able to talk to someone with DOTD about the Deblanc memorial. He is waiting on more information.
2. Councilwoman Guidry thanked everyone for coming. She likes to see people coming to the town meeting because she thinks it is an important thing. She wished everyone a happy labor day.
3. Councilwoman Galjour- no report.

4. Councilman Hartman stated the state grant money has to be part of the budget. Councilman Hartman made a motion to call for a public hearing to amend the budget. Councilman Bourgeois seconded, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Hartman also touched on the issue of the parking at the park and boat launch.

5. Councilman Bourgeois thanked administration for taking care of the things he has called in. He stated there will be a blue mass held at the co-cathedral of St Joseph in Thibodaux on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 11:00 am. He also mentioned we should put lights on under the pavilions. He has gotten complaints about people sleeping in the park. Mayor Reinhardt stated he would look into that for him, and leave some lights on as well. Councilwoman Guidry also stated there were people going through her garbage, and she stated for everyone to be cautious. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss fences and to change how it is worded in the zoning ordinance. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for a public hearing to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph for all town owned streets except school zones. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss the ordinance about the parking of vehicles with boat trailers by the park. This motion failed for lack of a second. Councilman Bourgeois stated he would like to discuss an ordinance for any conventions/training that the town pays for all employees which includes Council, Mayor, etc, then, they would have to attend 80-100 percent of the seminars. He stated he read LMA articles. He stated there was a city where everyone was going to conventions, and no one was attending the seminars. They were just going to get free travel. He stated he is just trying to be ahead with this. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss this policy. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

c. Town Attorney-no comment.

d. Staff- no comment.

L. Public wishing to address the Council

1. Ms. Linda Arcement, Lafourche Street, addressed the council about fences. She is also concerned and questioned about burning in town. Small discussion took place.

2. Brian Rivet, Gheens La, addressed the council about changing at least part of Lafourche Street from a one way street to two way street. He stated he would like to get back in the gas business and open a convenient store at 205 Crescent Ave (old Conoco station). He complimented the Mayor and council for running a good meeting and working together.

3. Ms. Sandra Biers, 1100 Catherine Street, asked about a culvert and drainage project that took place years ago through grant money. She wants to know what happened with this money and the grant. The administration stated they would see what they can find for her. Small discussion took place.

M. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Baudoin to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Hartman. It carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:44PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Edward Reinhardt

Edward Reinhardt, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel

Mandy Himel, Town Clerk