

**Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting December 20, 2022**

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 6:00PM, at the Lockport Town Hall Complex.

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

Mayor Barry Plaisance called the meeting to order. The meeting was streamed through Facebook Live. The opening prayer was offered by Mandy Himel. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Plaisance.

**D. Roll Call**

The roll was called with the following present: Mayor Barry Plaisance, Councilmembers: Ernest Boudreaux, Gary Acosta, Rodney Hartman, and Bobbie Galjour. Councilman Tyler Detillier was absent. Also present were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Police Chief David Harrelson, Jr., Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Dona Breaux, Ernest Savoie, Bryan Adams, Laquita Meek, Jeff Gamble, Karen Gamble, Karen Adams, Gail Andras, and Alan Badeaux.

**E. Public Swearing in of Mayor**

Mr. Chris Huddleston performed the swearing in presentation for Mayor Barry Plaisance.

**F. Approval of Minutes for November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Mayor Plaisance asked for approval of the minutes for November 15, 2022. Councilman Boudreaux made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Acosta seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

**G. Approval of Financial Statements for month ending November 30, 2022**

Mayor Plaisance asked for a motion to accept the budget to actual financial statements for the month ending November 30, 2022. Councilman Acosta moved, and Councilman Hartman seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. It carried unanimously.

**H. Public wishing to address the Council**

1. Mr. Ernie Savoie, Boat Museum, asked if the town can go shut the water off due to the upcoming freeze. Mayor Plaisance stated there is a plan in place to shut off the water at the Boat Museum.
2. Mr. Jeff Gamble, Elliot Drive, asked for updates on the repairs of the Boat Museum.
3. Ms. Gail Andras, Sycamore Street, addressed the Council about an incident that happened in Lockport regarding her son. Chief Harrelson stated nothing can be discussed due to this being an ongoing investigation.
4. Mr. Alan Badeaux, Canal Street, addressed the Council about replacing the trees and planting in the park.

**I. Police Report**

Mayor Plaisance called on the Chief to report on the department's activities. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galjour and seconded by Councilman Boudreaux to accept the police report as presented. It carried unanimously. Councilman Acosta asked the Chief about the police car situation, and the officers taking the cars home and using them while off duty. Discussion took place.

**J. Providence Report**

Mayor Plaisance called upon Ms. Caillouet, she presented the monthly engineering status report.

**1. SE Quad Service Linings:**

The final payment along with the final request for reimbursement was sent to Mandy on December 13<sup>th</sup>, so we can close out this project and stop drawing down on the DEQ loan.

**2. Comeaux Drainage Improvements: (No change since last month.)**

**3. Church St./School St. Drainage Improvements: (No change since last month.)**

**K. Appointments**

1. Town Attorney- Chris Huddleston
2. Town Clerk- Mandy Himel
3. Town Supervisor- Mike St Pierre
4. Mayor's Court Magistrate/Administrative Hearing Officer- Gene Gouaux III

Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to accept the appointments as recommended. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**L. Announce December 24, 2022 and December 31, 2022 will be considered holidays, and all employees who work will receive holiday pay.** Mayor Plaisance informed the Council of this change.

**M. Discuss appraisal reports on the Boat Museum and the Playhouse**

Mayor Plaisance stated the appraisal at 101 Main Street (the Playhouse) is valued at \$20,000.00. The appraisal at 202 Main Street (the Boat Museum) is valued at \$99,000.00. These values will be the minimum

amounts that the town will accept for bids. The town will accept sealed bids at a later date. Discussion took place.

**N. Call for public hearing to adopt an ordinance to amend section 2-238 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, Louisiana, to amend and re-enact a schedule of court costs.** Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to call for public hearing. Councilman Boudreaux seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**O. Call for public hearing to discuss all forms of public records requests and fees associated with the requests.**

Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to call for public hearing. Councilman Boudreaux seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**P. Change the meeting date in February 2023 from February 21, 2023 to February 14, 2023.**

Councilman Acosta made a motion to change the meeting date. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

#### **Q. Reports**

1. Mayor Plaisance talked about all the meetings he attended with parish officials and representatives with various organizations since he has been in office. He talked about the lighting in the park and the ongoing process with FEMA. He spoke with an Entergy representative about giving notice to residents when they have to shut off the power to make repairs. He had an interview with HTV to promote our Town and the Christmas Parade. He attended the Drainage District No. 1 meeting, and they have agreed to give the town \$13,600.00 to cover half of the cost of the new culvert cleaner. He met with Dwayne Bourgeois with NLLD about current and future projects within the town. He stated we are working on a list of properties that need to be addressed to cut their grass, clean their yards, or condemn their structures. It will take time. He stated there was a drainage issue that was addressed where the culvert was completely blocked on Comeaux Drive. The two new town maintenance trucks have been delivered to the dealership. He spoke about adjudicated properties in town. He stated three hundred street signs have been ordered, and we will start to replace them since the hurricane. He mentioned they need to start considering appointing a five-member zoning committee. He started to go through the ordinances that will need to be updated.

#### 2. Council

- a. Councilman Acosta asked about town hall hours this week. He also expressed his concerns for citizens with the cold weather.
- b. Councilman Boudreaux told Mayor Plaisance that it was a good meeting.
- c. Councilwoman Galjour welcomed Mayor Plaisance. She stated she met with the Mayor several times. She talked about fence permits.
- d. Councilman Hartman reiterated to Chief Harrelson that their comments are constructive criticism. They all wished everyone a safe, warm, and Merry Christmas.

3. Town Attorney- no report.

4. Staff- The Town Clerk gave a report about the meeting she attended along with the Mayor with Tax Assessor, Wendy Thibodeaux. She gave an update on the millage and exemptions that will take effect this upcoming year.

#### **P. Adjourn**

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Boudreaux to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Acosta. It carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:57 PM.

/s/ Barry Plaisance  
Barry Plaisance, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel  
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk