

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 17, 2018

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 17, 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, and Rodney Hartman. Councilman Wayne Bourgeois, Jr was absent. Also present were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, Assistant Chief Ricky Breaux, Allie Rasid, Sr., Buck Hebert, Becky Gautreaux, Dona Breaux, and Christopher Tarride.

E. Approval of Minutes for June 12, 2018, Regular Meeting

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the minutes for June 12, 2018. Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for month ending June 30, 2018

Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to accept the financial statements for the month ending June 30, 2018. Councilman Hartman moved, and Councilman Baudoin seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. It carried unanimously.

G. Police Report

Mayor Reinhardt called on the Assistant Chief to report on the department's activities. Assistant Chief Breaux distributed copies of the monthly activity report. A motion was made by Councilman Baudoin and seconded by Councilwoman Galjour to accept the Police Report as presented. It carried unanimously.

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):

The clear lien certificate has been received but the contractor needed to revise the last request for payment. This request will be recommended for processing sometime this week.

2. Street Repairs:

Final plans and specs have been submitted to the state for approval on July 9, 2017. Approval has to be received prior to going out to bid.

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

Surveying is complete and design has begun.

4. Comeaux/Catherine Street Drainage Improvements:

Public meeting was held on July 12th with residents to be affected. Surveying is scheduled for week of July 16th.

I. Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for LGAP-Local Government Assistant Program

Councilman Hartman made a motion to accept the above stated resolution. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to go into public hearing. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

J. Public Hearing to discuss reducing the speed limit down Barataria Street from Crescent Ave to First Street from 25 to 15 mph.

Mr. Ron Plaisance, 811 Barataria Street, stated there are a lot of people speeding down the street. He would like the speed limit to be lowered for the safety of the kids.

Ms. Jessica Plaisance, 811 Barataria Street, stated she was there for the same thing. She wants the speed limit lowered. She wants all the back of town streets lowered for the safety of the kids.

Ms. Mary Jane Orgeron, Third Street, sees the traffic fly by back there. She would hate to see one of the children get hit by a car. She suggested four way stop signs as well.

Ms. Laura Brouillette, 256 Elizabeth Street, does not want the speed limit lowered. She stated the same would happen regardless of the speed. She also wants to ensure the safety of our children as well. She feels the police department should give more tickets. She doesn't think lowering the speed limit will fix the problem.

Ms. Dona Breaux, 212 Barrilleaux Street, does not want the speed limit lowered. She stated if we don't watch it, then people will move out of town. Small discussion took place.

Councilwoman Galjour suggested 20 mph for all the streets. Small discussion took place about different suggestions to help this situation.

Chris Tarride, 820 Main Street, stated there is a big variance between 10 mph when something hits something. He stated 20 mph is pretty much the standard for residential streets. He stated there should a speed limit to satisfy the safety of the citizens.

Mayor Reinhardt asked the public three times if anyone would like to address the Council. No one answered.

Councilman Hartman made a motion to get out of public hearing. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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

Councilman Hartman made a motion to go into public hearing. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

K. Public Hearing to discuss authorization of subdivision of the batture property currently owned by Ashly Bruce Simpson and Mary Patricia Gouaux Simpson into two lots.

Mr. Bruce Simpson, 930 Main Street, stated he has a preliminary survey of the property at this time. He stated he doesn't own 100% of the property. Councilman Baudoin stated he doesn't think there will be any issues with this subdivision. He stated the division of the property will meet all of our standards and requirements. Small discussion took place.

Mayor Reinhardt asked the public three times if anyone would like to address the Council. No one answered.

Councilwoman Guidry made a motion to get out of public hearing. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to call for public hearing on this above stated topic for the October meeting. Councilwoman Guidry seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

L. Reports:

a. Mayor Reinhardt stated he has been talking to NLLD director, Dwayne Bourgeois, discussing the culvert, and he will give us more update on where we stand with that next month as far as moneywise. He stated he talked to Mr. Rayne with the drainage district. He stated they are all willing to help, but we have to see where we stand on who is going to give what. We will also need to make a resolution and cooperative endeavor agreement to try to get this done in one, but right now it looks we are going to get this in two. We won't know anything until we hear from Mr. Dwayne. The meeting the other night was to let people know to start moving their stuff. Mayor Reinhardt stated it is a lot of waiting for meetings to be held. He stated surveying will be done next week. People understand they have to move their stuff, and we not taking anyone's land. We are letting them keep up their fences until 30 days before the project starts. That is something we had to do, but it wasn't discussing what we are going to do, and how we are going to do it. Mr. Rayne Porche, Drainage District #1, asked if he could be notified when we have any other meetings regarding this so he and other board members can attend. Mayor Reinhardt stated we got bid contracts for street improvements in last week. We sent it off to the state, and now we are just waiting for them to approve them. They will send a letter, and then we can bid it out. Mayor Reinhardt stated he would like to see about getting a motion to rent out one of the buildings up front, the small one, the old police station. The town clerk stated in order to rent out a building, the town has to advertise this in the paper with a minimum bid (rental) amount as well. It has to be the normal bid process. Councilwoman Galjour asked who comes up with the rental price. The council sets the minimum bid rental price. Mayor Reinhardt stated they can go by square footage, or just go look at the building. Councilman Baudoin asked if the building next to it belongs to the town or the parish. Mayor Reinhardt stated the building belongs to the Town. Councilwoman Galjour asked if the town has any umbrella insurance that covers all the buildings. The town clerk stated the town does have insurance on the building. Any tenants in the buildings have their own liability insurance with the town as additional insured. Mayor Reinhardt stated this is something we are looking into, and we are trying to keep everyone happy. Councilwoman Guidry stated the building was redone with money received from the hurricane that was to be used specifically to make repairs to this building. Mayor Reinhardt stated if anyone wants to rent it out, then if they want to change anything they have to pay for it. Mayor Reinhardt stated he can let the council know exactly what size the building is for next meeting. He stated if they want to look in it, then call town hall, and we can take you over there. The town clerk stated we can take pictures, and she can email them to the council. Mayor Reinhardt suggested to the council to call for a public hearing to discuss sewer rates. He knows no one likes to hear it, but we might have to go up. We do have a lot of issues with the old plant like cracks on the side. We are still working to try to find leaks. Councilman Hartman made a motion to call for a public hearing to discuss sewer rates. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to change the permit to bring the

sewer sludge to Hugh Caffrey's property on Mccloud. It costs \$5,750.00 to change the permit. The town clerk explained the beneficial use permit. We want to change the location of where we bring the sludge only. Mr. Breaud explained about the permit and the process. Councilman Baudoin stated we should have savings because there won't be as much travel time. The town clerk also explained the savings for the town with this type of permit. Councilwoman Galjour made a motion to change location for the sewer sludge permit. Councilman Hartman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Reinhardt stated he sees the paper in front of him where people are questioning about a bridge by the library. We are trying to get culverts. We had to reverse that because he was told the best thing to do is to work on Comeaux Drive and Catherine Street first. Councilwoman Galjour asked whose property that is for. Mayor Reinhardt stated we have a right of way for the drainage, but it is really for the library and the post office up to the back of the fence. She stated her thought was if we can get the ok to have it built, then, maybe we can get some type of grant from a company. She stated some company would want to put their name on this bridge. Councilwoman Galjour asked if we can look into it. Mayor Reinhardt stated we would look into it. Councilman Baudoin asked what type of bridge. Councilwoman Galjour stated they have been asked by the elderly that want to go to the library for services and activities to have access to the library without going on the highway. She is thinking some kind of wooden bridge. We are in the logistics of who owns the property, where we are going to get the money, etc. We want to let the people know we are looking into it. Mayor Reinhardt stated he would talk to the people at the library.

b. Council

1. Councilman Baudoin stated at the last meeting he brought up about Hwy 308 and naming part of it after Jeffrey Deblanc. He stated Chris did some research on this, and he informed him there are two options. We do have to get with transportation department with the state. He tried to contact them, and he said his voice messages are on deaf ears. He isn't getting any response. He asked if anyone here had any connections with the highway department in Bridge City. The town clerk stated we do have a connections, and she would contact them.

2. Councilwoman Guidry asked a question regarding a fence. She stated someone asked her if they replace their cyclone fence basically keeping it in the same area but replacing the type of material. She asked if it required a permit. Mayor Reinhardt stated they don't need a permit, but it has to go by code because you have to be so high. The town clerk asked if it would be the same height. Councilwoman Guidry stated it would not block anyone's view at all. Mayor Reinhardt only if they add on walls or changing windows, roofing, would require permits. The town clerk stated the Parish is different from South Central Planning. Councilwoman Guidry stated she knows there could be a reason they couldn't have all attended, but she was floored when she found out Saturday that this drainage meeting took place. She stated this was all in our town meeting last go round that this meeting would take place for Comeaux and Catherine. She had to find out on the street Saturday it had taken place the Thursday before. She does not think anyone was notified, but again, maybe they couldn't as a council be there. She stated they could have been told the meeting is held on this date, but she really thinks they need to be informed of these things. She stated you act stupid when the people who voted you in tell you about this. Mayor Reinhardt asked Councilwoman Guidry when she found out about it before or after. Councilwoman Guidry stated she found out Saturday, and it happened Thursday. Mayor Reinhardt stated it was all over Facebook, and we put it out to everybody. Councilwoman Guidry stated she doesn't read Facebook often. Councilwoman Guidry stated they maybe could not have attended, and she understands that. She stated we as a council should have been informed this meeting was going to take place on Thursday. She stated you could have told us we couldn't come, and she understands why. She knows how that can be with different violations, but she said they still should be informed. She stated they are in the blind here. Councilman Baudoin stated he found out today about 3pm. He knew there was a meeting coming. Mayor Reinhardt stated this meeting was to inform them, but the next meeting they will be invited. Councilwoman Guidry stated again they may not have all been able to attend because of violations. Mayor Reinhardt stated to call. He stated Mr. Hartman comes here, and he tells them everything he needs to know. Councilwoman Guidry stated to the Mayor she works from 8am till past 8pm all week last week. He stated to pick up the phone and call him. She stated you want to call me. He stated he is here and out there looking for things. He works part time, and he stated he is out there every day. He stated all you have to do is pick up the phone and call. She stated why you can't pick up the phone. He stated Stephan comes sometimes too. Mayor Reinhardt stated you think I have to call you for every little thing, but I come to the meeting and tell you everything. He stated all you have to do is call, and I will answer any questions you want. Councilwoman Guidry stated he hollers at her. Mayor Reinhardt stated if she would come to all the meetings, she would have heard him one time when he said this is the number you call 532-3117. Councilwoman Guidry stated she heard him because she was at that meeting. She stated he can call her. She asked why he couldn't call her. Councilwoman Guidry stated it's done. She thanked everyone for coming. She appreciated it.

3. Councilwoman Galjour stated you would prefer us to call you, and ask if there is anything going on as opposed to you calling us. She stated she isn't going to call you and say "hey we have any lawsuits going on". She stated if there is something that you think we should know, pick up the phone and call me or sent me a txt message. Mayor Reinhardt stated you can call Mandy which I am pretty sure you do already pretty often. She knows everything because I tell her everything. Mayor Reinhardt stated you have to pick up the phone also too. He stated you have time to go on vacations, but you can't come in and talk. Councilwoman Guidry stated she has a life. Councilwoman Guidry stated life is short because you saw about your brother. She had cancer 14 years ago so if she gets a chance to go on vacation she will. Mayor Reinhardt stated you are still a councilman that should come to the meetings. He stated she missed eight meetings. Councilwoman Galjour stated she was questioned by someone with a permit issue today. She stated they went to the town, and the town told her to go the parish. Then, the parish said to go to the town. She asked who someone goes to if they need a permit. Mayor

Reinhardt stated if they live in town, they come here. If they live out of Lockport, they go to the parish. The town clerk stated they are in the transition process with the parish, but they do need to come to the town.

4. Councilman Hartman stated he is off a couple days of week. He does try to come by and visit for a little while with Mandy or the Mayor. He thinks in order to get informed, he thinks a phone call from us to either Mandy or the Mayor would be in order. He stated they have other things going on. They are here. So if we are interested in what is going on, he thinks they have to take the initiative to make a call. It wouldn't be practical to have Mandy and the Mayor call five of us. It is our responsibility. Councilman Baudoin stated we need to have a two way communication. He stated we can all improve on communication. He thinks we need to look within ourselves to see what we can do to improve communication. Councilman Hartman stated the emails can be a little better from the Mayor through Mandy if there is something going on. Councilwoman Galjour stated it is unfortunate we can't communicate. Mayor Reinhardt stated when he decided to run he knew it was part time. He is here everyday using his own gas and his own truck. He is doing everything he can everyday to help this town. He did this for the people. He stated there isn't much going on in here, it is going on out there. He stated he doesn't have to be out there every day, but he wants to. He doesn't ask anybody for more money or anything. He stated if you want to know anything, just call me. I see something you really need to know, he will call them. Councilman Baudoin stated put the shoe on the other foot, what happens if something comes up and you weren't told. He stated they don't need to know every little thing, but they need to know some things.

c. Town Attorney- no Comment.

d. Staff- The town clerk stated she will put all information regarding the Comeaux/Catherine Street drainage project on the Town of Lockport's website, www.townoflockport.com. She stated everything from here on out will be on the website.

M. Public wishing to address the Council

1. Ms. Becky Gautreaux, 410 Lee Drive, Thibodaux, La, works for the LSU Ag Center, and she gave the Council some handouts. She stated we have a push with the LSU Agcenter to create healthy communities. She thought Lockport could possibly be interested. She is the area's nutrition agent with the Agcenter. She covers Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish. Her job is to make people healthy. She stated it is difficult because she can talk until she is blue in the face about what we should be eating and how we should be eating, but if the environment is not conducive to that, it will be difficult. She would like to know if they would be interested or willing to create Lockport as a healthier community. She stated if they say no she will move up the bayou to the next town. She thought Lockport would be cool because her dad went to school here, and it is a cute little town. Councilwoman Galjour stated she would love to see Lockport healthier. She stated she had a patient today, and her hygienist went to her feeling sorry for her patient because her patient was crying because this hurt and that hurt. She stated "if she got her lazy ass up and walked every once and a while". She stated she can't feel sorry for people who just don't get up and move. She apologized to everyone. Ms. Gautreaux stated another reason she choose Lockport is because the Mayor was redoing all the sidewalks. She stated this would increase the walk ability for Lockport so the kids could have a walk to school day. She stated it would be beat to have a crosswalk or a blinking light to cross Hwy 1 to make it safer. She stated this is her ideas. If they don't think the residents of Lockport would be ready to make a change or be involved in this then she totally understands. Mayor Reinhardt stated she can give it a shot and pass out fliers or send some letters out to get an idea. He stated he also had a guy that called him last week that wanted to start bicycling through town. Councilwoman Galjour asked what is involved with it. She mentioned about the senior citizens asking for a bridge to go to the library, but they can't get there. Councilman Baudoin asked once the survey will be done, then what will she propose she can offer. Ms. Gautreaux stated the ones that want to get active and be part of a workgroup where people will get together to make changes such as an empty lot that can be spray painted to make kids more active. She stated you can have a crosswalk across the street so people can get from one side of town to the other. She suggested to work with a grocery store to have a healthy checkout in the store, or whatever they think will make the Town of Lockport healthier. She is here to help facilitate it. Councilman Baudoin asked if there is an interest and he hopes there is, would she bring these people together to jointly determine what sort of activities can be done. She even stated if the kids in the classroom need to be taught about nutrition, then she can help. She stated there are grants that she has been sending to Mandy to fund sidewalks for the town. Mayor Reinhardt stated to get a crosswalk across the highway you are talking about the state. She stated if they are ok with her doing a survey to school kids or in the library, then she will do it to see if people are interested. Mayor Reinhardt stated that was fine with him. Councilman Baudoin asked if she would share the results, and she stated yes. Councilman Baudoin stated we have nothing to lose and all to gain.

2. Mr. Chris Tarride, 820 Main Street, stated he relocated here in November. He stated when he bought the property it was disclosed to him that the ditch on Catherine and Main street was dug out to connect these pieces of property for some type of draining. Mayor Reinhardt stated we will be putting that culvert back in the ditch. He stated they have no access to his front yard, and he is starting to see some erosion. He stated if we can just get like an 18 or 24 inch culvert in there and cover it with dirt to where they can access the property and stop the erosion. Mayor Reinhardt stated they have fifteen things on the list right now, and he assured him they will get the culvert out there as soon as we can.

3. Mr. Buck Hebert, 521 Baratavia Street, addressed the council about the boat launch. He stated the boat launch belongs to the parish, and the park belongs to the town. He is looking for a little consideration especially on busy days for people coming out of town that have no place to park their boats. People have no place to park their car with a trailer, and if they park along the park then they get cited. Mayor Reinhardt stated this is part of what they passed as an ordinance. He stated people pay for the pavilions to go to the park, and they need a place to park too. Mr. Hebert stated people park at the boat launch without trailers, and they go to the park. There was nothing done. Mayor Reinhardt stated he can't do anything about that because that is not us. Sgt. Breaux stated

as a patrol officer they get complaints all the time about vehicles parked there. He stated just like anything it is at the discretion of the officer. He stated there has been a lot of warnings, and there has also been some tickets given at that location. He stated they cannot tell an officer whether or not to write a ticket by law. He stated at the same time if the officer is receiving complaints, then if he feels it needs to be addressed with a ticket, then that is what he feels. He totally understands, but when it comes down to it there was an ordinance passed years ago that was in place. If they were not to enforce that via warnings or tickets, then they wouldn't be doing their jobs. Mr. Hebert asked if the ordinance stated is the trailer is hooked to the truck. Councilman Baudoin stated there is no simple solution. He stated as a town council, we have to look at our citizens, and they use the park. He stated the park is our responsibility, and we need to provide safe solutions especially to children. He understands the parking space by the boat launch is limited, and there are a lot of people who have invested time and money in camps. He stated we need to try to work together, and we to balance the situation. Councilman Baudoin stated the parish needs to look into improving the boat launch in our area. Councilman Baudoin stated he appreciated Mr. Hebert for bringing this up because it is something they need to be more aware of so they can work together. Councilman Hartman stated the parish is more responsible than the town.

N. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2018. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Hartman to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilwoman Galjour. It carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:58PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Edward Reinhardt
Edward Reinhardt, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel
Mandy Himel, Town Clerk