

**Town of Lockport  
Lockport, Louisiana**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting August 20, 2019**

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 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 Galjour, Wayne Bourgeois, Jr., and Rodney Hartman. Also present were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Police Chief David Harrelson, Jr., Bryan Adams, Charlene Rodriguez, Mark Rodriguez, Dona Breaux, Scott Guidry, and Craig Rogers.

**E. Approval of Minutes for July 16, 2019, Regular Meeting**

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the minutes for July 16, 2019. Councilman Bourgeois 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 July 31, 2019**

Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to accept the financial statements for the month ending July 31, 2019. Councilman Hartman moved, and Councilman Bourgeois 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. A motion was made by Councilwoman Guidry seconded by Councilman Baudoin to accept the police report as presented. It carried unanimously.

**H. Providence Report**

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

**1. Street Repairs (Phase I and Phase II):**

Phase I – The lien period ended on May 12, 2019. The punch list has been completed. The final payment application with retainage was submitted to Lockport on June 25, 2019.

Phase II – Project is in lien period. The lien period ends on July 14, 2019. All field items on the punch list has been completed. Some paperwork is outstanding.

**2. Comeaux/Catherine Street Drainage Improvements:**

A Substantial Completion Inspection was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Providence recommends acceptance of the project. A resolution should be in your package with a copy of the Substantial Completion Certificate and punch list (paperwork only).

**3. Infiltration Investigation:**

Monitors are being moved as information is being analyzed. Approximately 1,700 feet of gravity main has been eliminated because major infiltration is not a concern in these areas. Due to lack of hard rain events (greater than 1-inch/hour) in June, data was not available for analyses. The tropical storm should give us some more information.

Mayor Reinhardt stated he talked to people on the road, at conventions, auditors, state auditors, and they all say the same thing. We have to work within our means. He stated this is why the budget is different from what it was last time. He stated we can't keep taking and supporting. He hopes everyone takes this into consideration when they make their votes. If not, then, the state can come in here, and we can let them decide how they want to do it.

Councilman Hartman made a motion to go into public hearing. Councilman Bourgeois seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**I. Public Hearing**

**1. Discuss new proposed budgets for 2019-2020.**

Councilman Bourgeois asked the Mayor to sell the budget about the cuts and increases. Mayor Reinhardt stated again the town has been cutting for two and half years. He proposed in the budget to hire another person part time with no benefits. He stated to keep the part time workers, he would like to give them a little money to stay like \$.25 or \$.50 cent raises. We have two full time people. He stated one employee is the town supervisor and the sewer supervisor. He stated we need some work done at the park such as cameras, electrical work, and equipment. He proposed the deputy clerk changing to full time. He stated that is why the budgets shows a little higher in some departments. He stated we are at the point where we need to stay within our means. He stated he didn't put us in this position, but he is trying to get us out of this position.

Councilwoman Guidry asked for the record anything said at the meeting to be put in the minutes. She stated when her and the Mayor visited on Tuesday, the Mayor gave her the budget and some papers. Going through some of this, she stated she is still on the same and not understanding some of this. She did call Mike Battle, Legislative Auditor, from Baton Rouge. She thinks he is the gentlemen the Mayor spoke to. He did advise, and she wrote notes. She spoke to him Friday and today. He said one of the biggest things in his presentation, and probably something he told the Mayor, is we need to work together. She stated which is the truth. We need to come with a happy medium and working together with this. He also indicated there is a criteria. She stated the Mayor continues to say the state will take us over, and they are going to come in. This is not going to happen tomorrow. He stated he doesn't feel we are nowhere near that at this point. He stated unless the town clerk or the Mayor can tell if we are down to zero of our 50%. The clerk said we are not at that point yet. The Mayor stated there is a person who comes in here, and he takes over everything and put where it needs to go. Councilman Hartman stated we are not at that point yet. Councilwoman Guidry stated it is making it sound like that in the media. So she wanted everyone to know that is not tomorrow. Mayor Reinhardt stated we are not paying bills at this time already. She asked why. He stated we have not passed the budget. She stated we have money in the funds don't we. The clerk stated an example such as the insurance. In the insurance line item, we only budget what the insurance will be. She stated we can't pay the whole thing at this point. Councilwoman Guidry asked if we can pay half, and they can understand if we can get this resolved soon. Councilman Hartman stated the question would be are we talking about 50% of total expenditures or 50% line item. Councilman Bourgeois stated his understanding is that it is 50% of the previous year's amended budget. The clerk stated she is watching it closely by line items. She goes over financial statements often. Councilman Baudoin asked if it is mostly annual payments. The clerk stated as far as she can see, it is mostly annual payments. She stated this affects the capital lease for police cars as well. Councilman Bourgeois asked how much the payments are. She stated it is about \$15,980.00. This is the last payment. Councilwoman Guidry stated so let me ask you, and I will come back. She said he was a very nice gentleman, and he even offered if anyone wants to call and talk to him, they are more than welcome. He will speak to anyone. Councilwoman Guidry stated we did this years ago, but she stated we don't have a finance committee. We should have a finance committee. She stated it was comprised before of Councilman Hartman, Mr. Donovan, the Mayor, and the clerk they had at the time. He felt was very important in going through the budget. He also made a suggestions before a budget is published, they should meet one on one. This way we can give input. She stated maybe something someone else says, or yeah that would work. She stated instead it is given to them, and he wants us to approve or don't approve it. The Mayor asked why you let this happen all these years. He stated why you didn't stop this sooner. Councilwoman Guidry stated you and I had this conversation on Tuesday. Like Councilman Bourgeois told Mr. Chunky, why you didn't stop this sooner. The Mayor stated they have been pulling out for years to support them. Councilman Bourgeois stated there is a \$96,000.00 and \$179,000.00 dedicated funds. Mr. Craig Rogers, 108 Comeaux Drive, stated they never punished a department or fund intentionally. The Mayor stated they are all on one side right now. The Mayor stated we have capital outlay project. He also stated some funds will be used for drainage project as well. He stated we have to use that money only on that project. The \$19,000.00 is coming from LGAP. The Mayor stated we have other problems in the town like the park. Councilwoman Guidry asked about cameras for the park. The Mayor stated they have three cameras that work, and he needs to get them fixed. He stated the kids can also use some new equipment at the park. It is not all about one department. We need to make it happen everywhere. Councilwoman Guidry stated she is only asking a question about the cameras. She stated again and reiterated and pushed on it, this man, Mike Battle, said there is a three strike rule. So and again there is auditing finding where you can be fined. He asked her if this has every happened before, and she stated not that she is aware of. He stated so in essence it didn't sounds like there was a money fine. He thought it would go away next year. She stated we are not closing our doors. She doesn't want everyone to think that. The Mayor asked her if he said we have to work within our means. She stated we all have to work within our means. She stated Mr. Battle couldn't name a specific to being top heavy. The Mayor stated he talked to the Executive Director of Police Association. Councilman Bourgeois stated whose explanation is top heavy. He stated that goes by each individual homeowner in town. One person that lives in town might have a sewer issue, and their priority is sewerage. Another person might have a crime issue, and theirs may be police. Councilman Bourgeois stated we are taking money out of the funds to support the town. Councilman Baudoin stated he did some research, and his research comes from FBI website from 2017. He came across this because he remembers at a prior meeting someone else brought up the police force we have and the size. They have a list of towns that have less of a force than we do. When he was full time working, he attended several seminars that various agencies made presentations. One of them was the FBI. He said working in the banking industry, bank robbers are prime. He didn't realize until he went looking, they also gather the size by various agencies throughout the country. The data can go back to the 1990s. The Town of Lockport contributed to that, but now the town does not provide the information. He went to see how top heavy we are. He went line by line to gather information. This particular three pages lists towns in the state of LA. He stated Lockport is not in here. When he looks at Louisiana, and he looked at our population size, he found there are some towns that are larger than us that have less officers which would mean we are overstaffed. But on the other hand, he found some towns that are smaller than us that have more officers. He does not know how accurate this is, but if you listen to the national news, it is a federal offense to lie to the FBI. Mayor Reinhardt asked how are they funding all these people. Councilman Baudoin stated it doesn't address that. He stated we are talking about the town having too large of a force, but he doesn't see it. Mayor Reinhardt stated he is not up here to get rid of anyone. He is up there to balance a budget, and this is what he did. He stated it is the Chief's job to take the number and he balances it out. The Mayor stated right now the budget is balanced. Councilman Baudoin stated he is balancing the budget especially on this last one with the biggest impact affecting the police department which is one of the key assets that the town has. Councilman Baudoin stated is there some room for some improvement in cost reduction in that department, probably. He stated just as there was in the town,

and just as there probably still some ways to cut. Now the question is, can we cut enough without affecting the services, or can we keep the services without cutting too much dollar wise. He said that is a tough one. He said he cannot see how this budget , dollar cuts, that is proposed is being so impacting towards one department while at the same time we are increasing dollar expenditures on the other departments. Now if we have major capital outlay or major issues that had to be addressed that would be understandable where you would have to spend more money. We are spending less money this year than last year because of the simple reason we don't have a sewer project or a street project. That has been done last year. So those numbers will drop. Now from a revenue side, that was an easy thing to do because that money came from elsewhere, and it didn't come out of our pocket. Well he said some of it did in the sense of a loan for the sewer project, but the street system, the state funded 100% for us. If you have money coming in from some place, and you have enough to cover your costs, then, it is a wash. But when you don't have that, then it is an issue. He guessed it is not just the police department, there are several things he has issues with in trying to understand, and there may be an explanation. He just can't see the one of the two major assets this town offers its citizens being so drastically cut especially in times that we have now. We are a small community. We are still neighborly. Maybe some of us don't like the neighbors, but we still try to get along. He stated we don't have the issues that the big cities have. He stated look in the news just last week, we had a shootings again, and there are more. He thanked God we don't have that, and we don't have what New Orleans has. If we try to balance a budget, and impact our police department as much this proposed budget does, we are opening our doors to issues where crime will increase where we should be doing just the opposite. He stated with four schools within our jurisdiction is another reason why we need to hold on to as much of the police department and fund it as much as we can. He doesn't want our town to become remotely close to something like we see in New Orleans. Mayor Reinhardt stated he was here for all those meetings where he said to dig in the well one more time. He dug in the well the last time the budget was proposed, and the council didn't pass it. He asked why. He dug \$43,000.00 into the well, and everything was going to be ok. He stated they gave him a budget one time, and they turned down their own budget. He has been working on this for the last month by ourselves with no assistance from anyone. He stated Mr. Hartman comes in. He hasn't seen David. He stated they talked about this for about fifteen minutes. He stated you telling me now we should do something that we can't work within our means. When he balanced this budget out and why he dropped it after talking to people, other mayors, auditors, they say the right way to do it is work within our means. This is why he proposed this budget to them. You had a choice, and he knows what they will tell him. He told Councilman Baudoin he said he was going to vote no before they even started the vote last time. Mayor Reinhardt stated they all had it where the \$43,000.00 was being taking out of the fund balance, and they turned it down. They turned down their own budgets. Mayor Reinhardt stated now he is trying to make things happen, and they are making him look like he is getting rid of the officers. He stated he isn't getting rid of anyone. He has a job to do business wise. He stated if we can hire 20 of them, then hire 20 of them. When you looking at the money we have, you have to look at it where we lost Robichaux Pharmacy, and we might lose more. How are we going to keep supporting when we don't have the money coming in. He stated they turned down a budget where everyone had a job. He stated Councilman Hartman is the only one who didn't turn it down. He stated they attack him, and it makes him look like the dirty guy who is getting rid of everybody. He cannot get rid of anyone. That is the Chief's job to take the money and make it happen. He gives him a number, and Mr. Battle can tell you that if you want to ask him. He said they can sit up here and complain all they want, but they could have taken the last budget. Councilman Baudoin stated he is right. They voted it down. He stated the reason why he voted it down is because they were talking about staying within their means. He stated that is true. He stated no one on this council or anyone with half of a right mind would disagree with that. You cannot continue spending more than what you have. It will catch up with you. It has to be addressed, but you can't change that without severe impact in one year. He stated at the same time we talk about cutting, we are raising costs in some other areas. He stated it is not necessarily wrong, but you have to look at those items. He stated if it was something we absolutely need. If the answer is no, then, we should not be spending extra money in those categories. If it is something we do need, then, if we need it, we need it. It is just like the police department last meeting when they were talking about the communication cost that we surprisingly have. He stated what if we are not going to fund that, then those guys patrolling the town cannot operate. He stated what the Mayor said what totally right, and he is not disagreeing with that, but he has to look at why and what is behind it. Mayor Reinhardt asked Councilman Baudoin, if he came up with all his ideas, why he didn't go see him yesterday so they can talk about it. Councilman Baudoin stated he was there. Mayor Reinhardt stated he didn't talk to him about the records and all. Councilman Baudoin stated he just came across that. Mayor Reinhardt told Councilwoman Guidry he knows she called Mr. Battle. Councilwoman Guidry stated he told her Tuesday, and he gave her the paper to call him. Mayor Reinhardt stated he is welcome to come to the meeting. Councilwoman Guidry stated she was going to call, and she asked why is he telling everyone we are going to close. Mayor Reinhardt stated when the state comes in, they send a guy in first. He stated they are working in another town now, and they are making cuts where no one had no say so about them. He stated we can correct this ourselves, but we are not. Mayor Reinhardt stated Councilman Bourgeois stated this a lot, the meetings aren't worth going to. He stated well maybe they should start going to the meetings, and they could have talked to the man. Councilwoman Guidry stated they weren't invited. Mayor Reinhardt stated they got a book just like he did. Councilman Bourgeois stated the midwinter conferences usually have better classes. Councilman Bourgeois stated the town is in tight constraints, he didn't think we should spend the extra money. He stated when he goes, he pays out of pocket. He doesn't charge it to the town. Councilman Bourgeois stated he doesn't take a vacation on the town. Mayor Reinhardt stated look in the books and you can see where the meetings are. Councilwoman Guidry stated if the clerk would have asked, she assumed they weren't going because there are hotel rooms, meals, fuel, etc. She stated we are working on 50% of the budget. She stated she spoke to a councilmember from Golden Meadow, and they asked her if she was going to LMA. She stated she has been busy. She stated if it was in the budget, could we have saved that money.

Mayor Reinhardt stated we learned a lot more. He stated we learned it at the meeting. Councilwoman Guidry stated she could have looked it up and found the legislative auditor, and she did it for free. She didn't go spend money. Councilwoman Guidry asked the last one they didn't approve compared to this one, she is on the general fund page 3 or 7, the one prior to that they didn't approve, and there is an increase from that one to this one of \$661.00 salary increase. She said it is questionable and doesn't make sense. She stated FICA went town. She stated if you are given an increase in pay, and she is not payroll, she pays someone to do that. If you give someone an increase in salary, our FICA would go up correct. The clerk said it depends because you would not be paying social security taxes because the proposal includes someone who will not be paying social security taxes. She said from the last one to this one, the FICA went down \$675.00. Councilman Bourgeois asked why the person would haven't social security. The clerk stated because the mayor is proposing them to go full time, and you don't pay social security. She stated on the same page, she said she knows they think she is nit picking. She stated she has retirement for municipal from the last one was \$15,585.00 and this one is \$19,100.00. That is an increase of over \$3500.00. Mayor Reinhardt stated we are going to put the deputy clerk at full time status. She asked if it was that much. Councilman Bourgeois stated she is not getting any retirement right now. The retirement will be on her full salary, and it will switch from FICA to municipal retirement, if one goes from part time to full time. Councilman Bourgeois stated it was a 44% increase on retirement. Councilwoman Guidry asked if he was planning to put anyone else full time. Mayor Reinhardt stated no, just her, and that is without insurance. Councilman Bourgeois stated at this time. He said next week, or the week after she can decides she wants it, or for open enrollment. He said we can't deny her once she is full time. Mayor Reinhardt stated the budget is made out where the insurance is not in there. Councilman Bourgeois stated if she needs it, we cannot deny it. The budget would have to be amended to fit. Councilwoman Galjour asked if we still have a part time worker in the front. Mayor Reinhardt stated yes. She asked what does she do. Mayor Reinhardt stated she is the secretary, take payments, training for permits, etc. Councilwoman Galjour stated two people have always ran the town. Mayor Reinhardt stated she is here on Fridays as well. He stated we talked about this a bunch of times already, and a few other times. Councilman Bourgeois asked what time we close on Friday. Mayor Reinhardt stated 4:00pm. Councilwoman Guidry asked if we collect enough to pay a salary and utilities. She looked it up, and the parish and Golden Meadow are closed on Fridays. She is not saying shut down completely, but is it a necessity to stay open to 4:00pm. Mayor Reinhardt stated this is to help the people who get paid on Friday, and they can come to pay their tickets. She would like to know what we collect on Fridays to know if we collect that much to have that extra time. She said again you said to try to figure out where to cut. Mayor Reinhardt stated every one of our girls can show exactly what they do, and every meeting we come to it is always asked what we do. He stated did you ever ask David what his secretary does. It seems like it is always the administration they are coming after. The Mayor stated they question everything we do on this side. Councilwoman Galjour stated the whole thing is we don't get along. She stated you don't talk to him, and he don't talk to you. She stated she is not confrontational. You like to confront, and you like to be "This is the way it is". She stated she is not doing that, and she is listening to everything that is going on, but if we can't get along, she just a soon sit there. Councilman Bourgeois stated for two years, you have done a get a great job of cutting. He said the Mayor has said it, he cut and put people part time. He said if you are going to turn around on this budget, and put people back to full time, and hire more people and increase the salaries by \$50,000, including retirement, FICA, and all those things whatever it may be. If you are going to increase it by \$50,000, then, isn't that going right back to where we were before. Mayor Reinhardt stated just like everyone else, we are in a need for help. He doesn't just hire to hire people. He stated we don't give them benefits, so he would like to give them some kind of little .25 or .50 raise. Councilman Bourgeois stated so the deputy clerk will not get a raise because she is getting benefits by going full time. Mayor Reinhardt stated going back to the deputy clerk, when we had that special meeting because they wanted to hire a college educated girl. He stated do you know how many people came in here who wanted \$35.00/hour and \$28.00/hour. He stated we got her for \$14.00/hour. He stated when we are going to start talking about what we are doing, we are trying to do everything we can right to keep us a float and not go over 5% of the budget. Now we are talking about putting her full time to help because the clerk said she needs the extra help. This is why he put it in there. Councilwoman Guidry stated she only asked on the end of a Friday. She didn't say for anyone to lose a job. She stated she was just asking a question. Mayor Reinhardt stated she always act like he is fussing at her. Councilwoman Guidry asked as she told him the other day in the meeting, she is not against anyone getting a pay raise, but she would like to be across the board with it. She knows it can't be because some positions are more than others. She completely understands that, but she still looks at fairness. She knows people threw out a numbers. She looked at the projected result at year end versus the proposed budget. She is at \$36,000 more on salaries, and she knows he said it twice already, \$0.25 and \$0.50, but we have six employees not counting the clerk. She stated at this point we have two full time, not counting police. He stated two full time, and the rest are part time. She stated when she took that, and she divided it by six at 40 hours, it was almost \$3.00 per increase. She said now granted don't take it wrong, but the girl in the front, she will not get kind of raise. She has no problem with anyone getting a raise, a 40 hour position, if we have the money to do it. She is trying to justify. She was coming up with that amount of a raise. Mayor Reinhardt stated the town foreman and town maintenance worker work 35 hours a week, and if they work more, then, they don't go over 40 hours to not have to go into overtime. So we don't have to pay overtime. He stated that is for the people. Councilwoman Guidry is trying to figure out where \$36,000 in salaries is coming from. Mayor Reinhardt stated that is another person and the deputy clerk going full time. She stated this is the first on a new employee coming in because he didn't say that to her when they talked. Mayor Reinhardt stated they might not have gotten on that subject. He stated he has that in the last budget as well. Councilwoman Guidry stated she didn't know that was happening. Councilman Baudoin stated the dialog he has been listening to is good because it getting some communication. He just wants to make sure before we get too far because he almost forgot what he wanted to say. In our prior dialog, he stated the Mayor made a comment about why they voted down this last budget

where we were going to the well about \$40,000 or so. He said what came to his mind and he sees we are beginning to get some clarification, when he got this last budget, and he looked at it quickly. He said it was obvious that this last budget was no more acceptable than the one they voted down. It is a balanced budget, there is no question, but it substantially is different, and it is further than the one before. Mayor Reinhardt stated he brought it down to balance it. Councilman Baudoin asked in that process, those expenditures in the police department were not itemized, and he stated the Mayor was told it does not have to be itemized, but he stated what is digging in the back of his mind is how can anyone come up with a number without adding up the parts. Councilman Baudoin stated it is a balanced budget, and there was no explanation given as to why those numbers, and in the prior budgets, there was very little explanation as to why other numbers beyond the police department were adjusted as far as these increases. He asked especially why were their increases in some salaries. His recollection of the response he got was we were looking at increasing a part time to a full time employee, but where and why. He stated we are beginning to get some of that, but in the prior comment, you asked why did we vote it down, he is trying to respond. This is why he did what he did. He did not want to question or object, it is to learn and understand the logic behind it. He said if we don't have any logic, then, throw the budget away. Mayor Reinhardt stated he was in there when we stated till midnight, and we talked about the budget. He stated everything was looking good, and then, we come here and he has a whole different ball game. Councilman Baudoin stated he was focused on the general fund and the expenditures. He said if someone looks at this budget and puts it five different funds in a spreadsheet, one after the other, it is over 400 lines. Then, you multiply by columns in legal size pages. He stated its mind boggling and confusing. He was focused on general fund expenditures because there is where most of the clutter is. He said when the meeting came, he was optimistic we had a solution. He said we were talking about cutting costs, but there were increases in costs, and there was no explanation. He found the increases in costs not in the general fund he was focused on, but when he got the whole packet, he started looking at the sewer fund. He stated most of them were increases. He said there was very little good explanation was given to him. He said as a public servant elected by the people, he feels it is responsibility to understand. He is not saying there was anything underhanded or illegal or questioning the integrity. The explanation was not satisfactory to explain to people why we are cutting here and raising there. He said we found out a little more tonight which is good. He is not trying to be disagreeable or argumentative. Councilwoman Guidry asked where the part time person will be. The clerk stated a certain percentage of their salary comes out of each department because it is maintenance for the entire town. Councilwoman Guidry stated they are kind of on the same page here because it was a salary difference from this one to last one of \$235, but we have over \$2,600 difference in the retirement. The clerk stated some of the deputy clerk's salary comes out of sewer. Councilwoman Guidry stated if we are giving her more salary, would her income be in there too. She asked was it in there before. Councilman Bourgeois stated it was 32 hours. The clerk said there was no retirement before. Councilman Bourgeois stated there is some from each department. Councilwoman Guidry asked why it can't come from one department. She stated there should be no monies taken out of the sewer fund. Councilwoman Guidry asked why does someone's insurance come from sewer fund. The clerk said it can come from where ever you want it to come from. Councilwoman Guidry asked if it pertains to people in the office, can it not come out of that account. Then, the town foreman and all of them come from the other departments. She said it maybe can't, but it would make things simpler. The clerk said all the salaries are set up by percentages depending on what they do. Councilwoman Galjour asked when they get a paycheck, it shows all of these different departments. The clerk stated we key it in that way, but it does not show on the pay stub. Councilman Baudoin stated you just don't have one salary here, you have to take it and break it up to different funds because that is what is paying it. He stated in accounting that is how it is being allocated. The clerk said it can be how they want it to be. Councilman Baudoin stated as simple as it would be for them, he doesn't think it would be good accounting. Councilman Bourgeois stated your issue would come into where you would have extra monies in one fund for whatever reason, you wouldn't be able to use it to rotate around. The reason it comes from everywhere because it is floaters, and no one is assigned to one department or location. There is no one person assigned to just the park. He sees a different person at the park every weekend. Councilwoman Guidry stated office personnel doesn't go to different places. Councilman Bourgeois said they may be keying in the data from each separate location. Councilman Hartman stated for accounting purposes, we have to try to break it down. The clerk breaks it down the best she can based on how they work. Councilwoman Guidry stated this is confusing. Mayor Reinhardt stated to take the \$880,000 and split down the middle, and the police department can write their own checks, and we write our own checks. That would make it easier too, but it just doesn't work that way. Councilwoman Guidry asked about interest income showed \$11,400. She said on the last one it was \$5,400, and now we back up to \$11,400. Mayor Reinhardt stated that is the rent for the town. Councilwoman Guidry stated can we draw lines on these things. She apologized. She asked you took it out and put it back. Mayor Reinhardt stated he put it back. Councilwoman Guidry stated that goes against the police department. She stated this is why we need a finance committee. Mr. Battle did recommend it, and she thinks after tonight she thinks tomorrow that needs to be addressed. She stated we have \$25,000 in capital expense. Mayor Reinhardt stated if the dump truck goes out which it is about to fall apart after 33 years, then if we need it, we will get a second hand one. They can't afford to buy a new one. Mayor Reinhardt stated we have some things that need to be done at the sewer plant. Councilman Bourgeois stated even the .3% for the police department goes to the general fund, and it gets allocated back. Councilman Bourgeois asked about sales tax revenues, and why they were all different percentages. If he is doing a budget, and he thinks everything will raise by 5%, then, he would do 5% across the board. He said maybe he is just not seeing it. If you are buying one thing, then, you should be paying the tax on everything. He didn't know if there was something that is missing. Councilman Baudoin said he is not sure if he heard the question, but some things are tax free such as drugs. Councilman Bourgeois stated we wouldn't see on any item. He stated anything that is taxable would be taxed. He stated the 1% and .3% all have different percentage increases or projected increases. Councilman Baudoin spoke to the sales tax collector about some hard accurate numbers. He started

to merge that spreadsheet with the budget. He is not being critical to anyone or the process. He said trying to merge it was a nightmare. He said when he looked at sales tax revenue, the yearend numbers that she gave him was drastically less than what we proposed. He stated when he came in last week that was one of the questions. He said the clerk stated she had told him that already, but he didn't recall was that while she had good hard numbers for year end there are adjustments that the auditors do. He stated the logic behind that is this, the sales tax we get our hands on is usually a month or two months behind when it was collected. He stated at this time, we are collecting sales tax money that really belongs to last year, but the books are closed for last year. When the clerk gets those funds, she has to log them in for last year. So the numbers at the time were not a true reflection of what the year will look like. He also stated there are some expenditures items that are included as well. He said on the sales tax, he was inquisitive because when he looked at the projected sales tax for this year, it was increased. He wanted to know if they had finalized, the lady said it was just done. She stated she \$666,000 was as close as she thought it would be. He stated we are relying on them to give us a sales tax number. The clerk had given him what they collect for us and all other entities. The numbers are all over the place, but he is not being critical of them. It is a guessing game. He said they overestimating, and now they are bringing us back up. He said what they explained to him was this, when they look at the projection, they look at the last year, then, they go back and look at the last three to four years, and they average that. They factor up or down, and they bring that into their projection, and they take a two percent cut for cushion. They feel they are pretty accurate in it overall. When it comes to sales tax, who knows. Councilman Bourgeois stated Walmart is doing grocery delivery, and it should go to where it is delivered just like furniture and everything else. Councilman Baudoin stated he asked about internet sales. He said what is a big issue for Louisiana. He said there is some litigation going on, some are going to pay 1%. There is some effort by the state. There is no definite way to show how it will be divided on what they do collect. He said you can use addresses, but that doesn't mean anything. There is some attempt to do something on that. It is amazing how many of us buy things on the internet. Every time that happens, there is a potential loss to the town as far as revenue. He said sales tax is a nightmare. Mr. Mark Rodriguez, 103 Myrtle Delaune Street, wants to know how much the employees make for the town. Mayor Reinhardt told him to come get a public request form, and we will get you that information. Mayor Reinhardt stated that is fine, you can get a public request form. When it comes to raises, David is the only one who can give a raise to his officers. Mr. Craig Rogers, 108 Comeaux Drive, asked how can we expect the council to approve a budget where it is giving other departments needed monies and taking it away from another department who needs to operate at a budget that they operate at. He asked if they can come up with a budget where they can give the police department what the other four council member want and adjust the other departments within the budgets. Councilman Baudoin stated we need to look at increasing revenue. He said our biggest revenue is the sales tax by far. He said it is not something that happens overnight, and there isn't a quick solution. We can also look into increasing property taxes. Councilman Baudoin doesn't want anyone to think he is anti-compensating our employees. He said if we are going to hold on the employees we have and the dedication we have we are going to have to address salary increase. He doesn't know if we can do that now. Mr. Rogers stated there was quite a bit more in bonds and fines than there is now. He questioned the sales tax. The clerk stated she took the total number of what the sales tax collector projected. She took 1%, .3%, and .7% of that number. She is not saying it is right or wrong, but she had a hard number to back up her figures. Councilman Bourgeois said on this new project that he looked at, he doesn't see how the police department can operate. He said his proposal is \$492,000 which is \$27,800 less than last year's proposed which is prior to \$20,000 payment for Leds. He said off the top, \$6000 coming off the top, now it's at \$486,000, \$20,000 for LEDs, \$16,000 for vehicle payments, now its down to \$450,000. He said keep in mind, we need to look at it is 100% out of his control. If he changes any one of those things, he goes to jail. The Leds payment was approved by the council from last year. Councilman Hartman stated it isn't approved yet for this year. Councilman Bourgeois stated if you don't approved Leds, then he hopes they don't respond to his house. Councilman Bourgeois stated they are at \$450,000 budget. He said going off of last year's numbers, \$258,000 in salaries, \$83,655 in police retirement which we have no control that goes into retirement, \$36,000 insurance, \$2,200 disability, so that brings the police department operating budget with (2) 2008 cars that have just had all kind of repairs and still don't work along with the most outdated equipment there is, total operating budget for the year not taking in office expenses, fuel expenses \$19,000.00, that leaves an operating budget of \$69,879.00. Councilman Bourgeois doesn't see where anything can be feasibly operated on that. He said as you know you are spending more fuel so it will go up on the police department side too. Mayor Reinhardt said when we looked at everything because we were drawing from our funding. He balanced the budget out the best he could. He said these guys walk that plant back there, and it is dangerous too. He said everything he has been hearing is all police department for the last four months. He said you have to look at everything. He said if they want to give raises, then, adjust and give raises. He said cut some of the overtime, and he can do whatever he has to do to make things work again. He said if you don't pass the budget, then, he will take everything into consideration. He has nothing against the police department, and he said they do a good job. He looks at the money. He looked at everything as a whole. He asked the Chief what his secretary do. The Chief said she runs court, enters tickets, and anything and everything they ask of her. He said his secretary is not in question. He said his department and what they do is not in question. He wants a straight answer from the Mayor. He asked how can he cut the \$43,000, but give the Town of Lockport \$50,000 in raises. He said him, these two gentleman, and his assistant chief have been there before any town employees. They were here long before this regime took place, and they were here before any employees working here. He said ask those boys when is the last time they got a raise. They are not going to get a raise on \$492,000. They are not going to get a raise on \$535,000. He said they are fine with that because they took this job not for the money, but because they protect this town. All he wants is the funds to do their job. Mayor Reinhardt stated where is he going to get the money to do all of this. The Chief said he just explained it to him. Mayor Reinhardt asked if he went look for grants, or did he go out and do anything to get money. The chief stated he cannot expect

someone to give \$50,000 in raises by cutting to \$492,000 on the other side. The chief said two months ago, they were at \$535,000, and he said this was sufficient enough, and they can run the department the way the town expects them too. He said but on this one, he cut that and he gave his guys raises. Mayor Reinhardt stated he has been cutting for the last two and half years to help them out. He stated they don't get the benefits that the police department does. He stated some of your guys make more than what he makes because of the overtime. He stated the police department keeps getting bigger and bigger. He stated maybe the council should have looked at the budget before they hired more people to see where the town stood with the funds at the time. He can say his people deserve it just like he can. He said the chief is the only one who can give his officers a raise. The Chief stated with all due respect, he can't with that budget. The Mayor stated he has to adjust it to make it. The Mayor said he can make cuts any place he wants to. The Mayor said they have been over for years, and it is not just him. The Chief said he has only been in office for two years. The Mayor stated there was another \$20,000, and there are laws in place for going over by 5%. He stated he is still learning himself on things he can and can't do. He asked the Chief how many times have they sat down and talked, or the Chief call him to talk. He said just come in and talk to him. The Mayor stated now we are in front of everyone, and he wants to talk about it. The Chief stated he wanted to talk about it in public, and the Chief stated he wants some straight answers. Mayor Reinhardt stated he runs the finances, and if the chief doesn't like it, then, he just has to work in those lines. The Mayor stated he has to work within the numbers. Councilman Baudoin stated the feeling is pretty obvious, and he doesn't see we are going to get this budget passed tonight. Councilman Baudoin stated Mr. Rogers and Councilwoman Guidry mentioned about a committee, and that is a step in the right direction. He finds most troublesome especially for a small council is they cannot get enough input legally. He stated two councilmembers can only discuss at one time. He stated that is a problem. He stated the committee does help, but there are still two council people, the mayor, the clerk, and anyone else. He stated the councils is the one who has to approve it. The Mayor presents the budget. They have to approve it, and the Mayor and Chief have to administer it. He doesn't think anything will get done today. He thinks the meeting was good tonight in clarifying and getting some answers. He said there were some disagreements, but he thinks there is additional information that is coming out is helpful. He thinks they need to do it in a finance committee meeting or a special meeting. He is not big on special meetings because he is not looking for extra pay. Mayor Reinhardt suggested to let the administrator come in and work the budget and get it back to where we need to be. We can let them take over to get the town on the right budget to where we need to be. He stated he will look at it, and he is not perfect. He stated we can go back again with this. Councilman Baudoin stated the Mayor presented a budget, and they did not like it. He stated there was big long discussion, and they came back and got some progress done. He stated now he is coming back with a budget that is less acceptable. Mayor Reinhardt stated it is balanced. Councilman Baudoin stated they want to keep the full town still functioning and maintain the services. He said they need to work toward a balanced budget. He stated the cuts in the police department budget is not something that he can work with. He doesn't think he can operate on these numbers. Councilman Bourgeois stated the last two budgets they passed were balanced. He stated they can pass this one tonight and by the end of the year it may not be balanced. He said the Mayor stated the dump truck may go out. Councilman Bourgeois said if the dump truck goes out, then, we have to buy a new one, then, it will no longer be balanced. It is a guess. The Mayor agreed. So far since they have been in office, Councilman Bourgeois stated there has been a lot of new equipment bought for this town. He stated not a one bit of it went to the police department. He stated so the police department has obviously been saving. The Mayor stated they are always about the police department. He stated we need town equipment. Councilman Bourgeois stated they need it, and he is the one who passed the motion to buy it. He stated it all can't go to one place. Mayor Reinhardt stated the tractor needs to be fixed, and they have put so tight of a budget on this side to make it work. Councilman Bourgeois stated to share tractors. Mayor Reinhardt stated he agrees it is a big cut for police department, but someone has to take a step and stop it. Councilman Bourgeois stated the Mayor preaches about how much he has saved, but everything he has saved in the last two years has just been thrown back into the budget in one year. He asked did he save. Mayor Reinhardt said he did it to save and try to get stuff later. The Mayor stated he worked with them, and they turned it down when he gave the police department \$535,000. Councilman Bourgeois stated there were increases in multiple places, and the questions weren't answered. The Mayor stated he looked at it to quit taking out of the fund balance, and get back on the right track to make things work. He stated they can ask all the questions they want, and he will try his best to answer them again. Councilman Bourgeois stated he answered most of them tonight. They got the answers they asked last week. The Mayor stated if they don't pass it, he will look at it again. Councilman Bourgeois asked how did the paper have the budget prior to them getting the budget, or why, or in the same day. They got the email on the same day it was published. The Mayor stated he had to publish it for ten days. Councilman Bourgeois stated it was ready for viewing the same day they got it. Councilwoman Galjour stated our meeting should have been pushed back a week. She asked if she sees something, can it be changed. It could not be changed at that time. Councilman Bourgeois stated once they got it to look at it, but it didn't matter if he came on the Friday, then, it would not have been able to be changed. He stated it was the Mayor's way or no way. Mayor Reinhardt stated every time he comes here, they vote everything down. Mayor Reinhardt stated we have discussed this enough, and it is time to move on. Councilman Baudoin stated the Mayor was missing his point. He said the council should have it ahead of any legal notification. They did not have the opportunity. The Mayor stated that is understandable. He will get it to them earlier. Councilman Bourgeois stated it would have been a discussion. Mayor Reinhardt stated they might have a special meeting for the next one, and they can look it. Councilman Bourgeois stated he is not for special meetings, but if that is what it takes, yes. Councilwoman Guidry stated that is what Mike Battle said that they should look at it first and not to publish it. They couldn't change anything. She stated if they would have it earlier, and they would have had the time to look at it. She stated it didn't make sense, and she didn't understand. She said they explained it to her. The Mayor said he would get it to them earlier so they can look it. Councilwoman Guidry stated they can look at it before it is published so they can question it.

She said the \$535,000 was not the key of what they were looking at. She thought \$535,000 was excellent, but there were other things in the budget if they would have approved, then they had questions about it. That is the point she is trying to make. The Mayor said he was done. He asked the public three times if they wanted to address the council. No one answered.

2. Discuss an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, La, in order to amend the Town of Lockport Personnel Policy to amend the ethics policy, sexual harassment policy, to change part-time status, and to allow employees to waive health insurance coverage.

The Mayor asked the public three times to address the council, and no one answered.

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

## **J. Ordinances**

1. Adopt an ordinance to adopt and operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. They all feel they have made a lot of progress. No discussion. No vote taken.

2. Adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Town of Lockport, Louisiana, in order to amend the Town of Lockport Personnel Policy to amend the ethics policy, sexual harassment policy, to change part-time status, and to allow employees to waive health insurance coverage.

Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to accept above ordinance. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion. Councilman Bourgeois asked about the part time status. The clerk stated it is going from 32 to 29 hours for part time employees. The Chief asked if they will require part time employees to do the ethics and sexual harassment training as well. The clerk said yes. It carried unanimously.

## **K. Reports**

1. Mayor Reinhardt stated they are waiting on the NLLD for plans on the Comeaux/ Catherine Drainage project. He said we couldn't sell the backhoe. They are going to have to bring this down from \$10,000 to \$4,500. He said it is not going to sell for \$10,000. He asked for a motion to bring it down to \$4,500. Councilwoman Galjour asked about an offer for that price. Mayor Reinhardt stated there were no bids at that price. The Mayor feels like that is more accurate. Councilman Bourgeois asked if that one was on sealed bids. It was on sealed bids. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to publicize the back hoe at a price of \$4,500. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. The clerk asked the council to consider calling for a public hearing to adopt an ordinance for the town to be able to charge individuals to subdivide their property. Councilman Bourgeois thought they had done that already. The clerk stated it was discussed, but it was never put into an ordinance form. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to discuss an ordinance about subdividing property recording/advertising fees at the September 17, 2019 meeting. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Baudoin asked for clarification on what they would be discussing. The clerk stated there was an ordinance given to them that was drawn up by the town attorney today. The Mayor stated he will take everything they talked about into consideration again, and he will try to make it work better than trying to balance it out. He stated it is good to hear from them instead of doing it by himself. He thanked everyone for coming. He said we are going to do what we have to do to make it happen.

## **2. Council**

a. Councilman Baudoin is pleased to see they did have this discussion, and they didn't need the police department to separate them. He asked about the project on the other side the bayou, and if there was any more news. Councilman Bourgeois stated last he heard it was awarded, but they still had steps to go. He stated they were hoping to get started by October. He brought that up because that project will have an impact on our budget with ad valorem or property taxes. He said he found that use of tools is a sales tax that can be collected. It will impact our budget. He said maybe we should contact them, and see if there is any kind of assistance we can give them. The clerk stated the next step is subdivision of property. Councilman Bourgeois stated Valentine Chemical needs to subdivide the property before they do anything else. Councilman Baudoin asked if they indicated they are getting ready to do that. The clerk stated they contacted her about this, but they are waiting on surveys of the property before they move forward with this project. Councilman Baudoin stated we may want to extend whatever help we could to help them. Councilman Baudoin stated he knows we are looking at six months (half of a budget), and we are looking at some annual payments that need to be made. He asked what kind of time frame do we have without opening a can of worms. Councilwoman Guidry stated she asked Mr. Battle that question, and she said there really isn't a time frame. Councilman Bourgeois stated until we stop paying the bills.

b. Councilwoman Guidry said her biggest thing is fairness across the board. She stated Mr. Battle wanted her to let him know, and she said she would call him tomorrow. She will really push hard about this finance committee. She stated he stressed that big time. Mayor Reinhardt stated he will invite him to the meeting because Mr. Battle is willing to do that too. She said she would like to meet him. She said he was a very nice gentleman. She said if we get the opportunity, she thinks that will be another plus. She thanked everyone for coming, and she appreciates it. She said sorry it was a lengthy one. She is glad everyone got to hear, and she thinks everyone knows where they are coming from. They don't want to take away salaries, and none of them want to take jobs away from anyone.



c. Councilwoman Galjour appreciated the Mayor's efforts working hard on the budget. She knows it is not an easy thing, and she wouldn't want to have to do it. She said they get after him, and why they don't show it to them before. She said there is a lot of effort there, and it is very difficult. She told the Chief she wishes he would make the effort to work with him, and tell the Mayor what he needs. She said we are just jumping all over the numbers. The reason she didn't pass the first budget was because she said and she still thinks, she doesn't know if we can correct all in one year what we been dipping for ten plus years. She said we might have compromise there and work toward correcting it. With that being said, she said she doesn't think we are ready for the auditor yet. She doesn't think we have to call the auditor in because she thinks we can work on it a little more. She would like to see the budget before, and she does agree about the finance committee. She said the first time we started talking about the budget and arguing about the budget, we talked about where we would get revenues. She thinks we need a revenue committee. She said it not something we can spend a lot of time on here. She said a couple of people on the board talked about possibly we can get some revenue and where we can get it from. She said we don't want to get to this point next year. She said if we have a revenue committee, we might have some ways to find some more money to do the things we need to do. She doesn't think we can do it all in one year. She runs a business too, and her girls know when revenues are down they know they are not getting a raise right now. A raise is keeping your job because she will not let them go, but she will keep them right now. She is starting maybe to see a little increase now, but she has been down for a number of years just like the town. We are hoping for a pick up, but we can't necessarily give raises. It depends on how the budget flows. She talked about the cameras in the park. She asked if we just budget the money to buy the cameras and not to operate them. She asked if they were broken. Mayor Reinhardt said the cameras are on the phone. He said there are just three working. The Chief said they don't have access to them. She thinks the peat gravel might have to be sifted up. She thinks we need workable cameras in the park. She thinks the money is well budgeted toward that. The Mayor stated he will have to get the chief to access the camera on the phone so they can see what is going on at the park. Councilman Bourgeois stated the guy who installed them is a member of the fire department now. He doesn't work there anymore, he works somewhere else. He just repaired a bunch of stuff for them voluntarily while every company said they needed new stuff. He will talk with him and see if he doesn't mind coming look at them because he made the comment that he put them in the park. Councilman Baudoin asked how old they were. Councilman Baudoin said those things have a life to them just as everything else. He said we have to remember they are recording constantly. He said those hard drives are not like the ones we have on computers. He said he is not saying don't have someone look at it, but he hates to spend money, but we need to look at them because of the issues in the park. Councilman Bourgeois said they were about five years old. Councilwoman Galjour knows when they leave the meeting tonight, it will get said they didn't pass the budget again. She said it looks like we are the bad people. She said at least follow with they are working on it, and they are getting closer. She said it sounds bad on their part, and it is like we don't want to pass the budget. She said that is not what it is.

d. Councilman Hartman said he didn't talk too much in the budget meeting. He said when he goes to a convention or conference, the one thing he hears the most is communication. He said with all due respect, Mayor and Chief, both of them have been elected by the people of Lockport. He said they have a responsibility to work with each other. He said with all due respect to the Chief, he said the Mayor is there quite a bit more than most others. He thinks just going in there and have a discussion. He said his main responsibly as Chief is to run the department and work with his people as best as he can. this is the one thing, however, he does have another responsibly, and he has presented this to him before. He has a financial responsibility on his side of the fence. He gets a number from the Mayor, and the Council approves it. He said the Chief has to stay on top of it, and he asked the Chief, clerk, and Mayor, on a monthly basis to meet with each other. He feels the finances are that important. He said years ago, they had a finance committee. He said when he was presented with the budget, he was satisfied with it along with most of the council people at the time, the Mayor and Chief had gotten together. He said this is the first time we have been in this situation as far as he can remember. He thinks they will work things out, and he knows everyone wants to. He said it is important to know the finances are very important. He said just try to work it out. He thanked everyone for coming.

e. Councilman Bourgeois thanked everyone. He said it is a lot of information to put into a short period of time. He said the Mayor has been working on it for how long, and they had a couple days to look it and try to ask questions. That is what makes it difficult. They are working at it. He said the Blue Mass is September 26, 2019, 11:00am at St Francis De sales. He mentioned fire board appointment. He told the Mayor he should have been sent an email because it has to be sent to the parish. Councilman Bourgeois stated he doesn't have to live in Lockport because they checked on it. He said the question came up last time because it was something in the letter. He has to live in the Lockport fire district. He said unless they know someone else in the town. He said Mr. Todd Hebert is in Lockport more now than before now that he is retired from Entergy. Between the Cake Shop and working on the new property, he is in Town a lot. Mayor Reinhardt said he will recommend Mr. Todd Hebert for the fire district board. Councilman Bourgeois asked to get it over to her as soon as possible so she can get it on the agenda for the next Tuesday. He said if not, then the appointment becomes vacant. He said Mr. Thomas Arceneaux reached out to him, and he told them the reach out to the Mayor, but he doesn't know what happened. Councilman Bourgeois said Mr. Arceneaux does a lot with the Larose Civic Center, and with this packet, it is for a handicap swing. He read the paperwork from Mr. Arceneaux. It is for two wheel chair accessible swings they got donated through the funds that were raised. Once they got them in, they realized how big they were, and they didn't have the place to put two like they thought because they built their slab 12 x 12. Now they realized that really 9x9 would have been big enough. They are wanting to donate the swing to the town to put in the park. He said it would be everything except the labor. All they have to do is go pick it up. Councilman Bourgeois sated he thinks he said they might have looked at a spot. Mayor Reinhardt stated they did look at a spot, and he was waiting for him to call. He said Mr. Donny Lirelle was going to donate the cement. Councilman Bourgeois said he thought they had the bags of cement already but whatever. Mayor Reinhardt said we just have to locate before we dig so nothing is the way. Councilman Bourgeois said Mr. Arceneaux

can't do it because work picked up. He said he can get the swing here, and they can work on getting it together. Councilman Bourgeois asked the Mayor if he had place close to the handicap accessible wharf. Mayor Reinhardt stated they have to put it close to trees so they can be cool. He said maybe close to the other kids. Councilman Bourgeois stated as long as it is near the walking track, they can put a walk way to it. Mayor Reinhardt stated when he went look at it, it is bigger than what they thought. Councilman Bourgeois stated he talked to him today, and 9x9 will be plenty enough. He said 12x12 was too big. He said Mr. Arceneaux is not available to do the labor, but he gave the packet to the Mayor. He said we have to install it, and he can get volunteers to install it. That won't be a problem. He said they reached out to him, and he told them to call the Mayor to get a spot in the park. Councilman Bourgeois said he would not go into depth with the zoning issue that came about. He said they recently found out if you own a piece of property and it doesn't have a house on it, they can't build anything else on it like a shed or barn. He said if you have one piece of property without a house on it, then they can't put a shed on it. Mr. Rogers from the audience said they can. Mr. Rogers said it has to be adjacent to the property. If it is across the street, then maybe not. Councilman Bourgeois stated that is where one of the issues comes in, if it across the street. He said if it adjacent with a different name, these are questions that pop up. He said if they look at Elizabeth and Catherine, and they are back to back, then, they can put one behind the other. If they have one on Elizabeth on this side and Elizabeth on that side, and they use both pieces of the property and the street is dividing it, then you only given the right a way. Councilman Bourgeois stated the permit was rejected because the way it is written in the zoning. He said we may have to get with Chris about adjusting that. He said the way it affects him in the future, if he wants to build a shed to park his car in on his empty lot, it is on a different name than his house is under. He said it is the same owners, but the one is in his name and one is in his wife's name. He stated he was giving them a head's up because it will be a zoning issue. He will try to find a way to ratify this issues. It is multiple issues throughout town and not just one. He said we are already in August so he will wait till September meeting to talk about the rest of the stuff.

3. Town attorney- not present

4. Staff- no report

#### **L. Public wishing to address the council**

1. Mr. Mark Rodriguez, 103 Myrtle Delaune Street, addressed the council about the garbage issues. Mayor Reinhardt stated they did handle it, and they called about it already. He can't go out there and make them do it, he can only report it. Mr. Rodriguez said they elected him as a representative so he can tells his girls to call that in. Mayor Reinhardt stated they did call it in. Mayor Reinhardt stated we already called for the street light too before he called Councilwoman Guidry. Mr. Rodriguez said that was two weeks before he called Sharon about the light. Mayor Reinhardt stated Mr. Bourgeois has been doing well with the lights as well. Councilman Bourgeois stated they take a while for the street lights. Mr. Rodriguez stated his neighbor got two robbed days after the street light went out. Councilwoman Guidry stated the clerk was not aware of it. She made the call about the light when Ms. Guidry called about it. Mr. Rodriguez wants to make sure they are doing the right thing. Mayor Reinhardt stated they try to do their best. In regards to the pumps, Councilman Bourgeois said they are throwing a fit in the north because they are having to keep the water high inside the reservoir because the water on the outside is high. The NLLD designates how high the water stays. They are not allowing them to pump it down prior to possible rainfall because that is what happened around Sugar Ridge. The rain never came, and the levee started caving in. It costs almost two million dollars to repair what was messed up from doing that by not having the pressure. Mr. Rodriguez also suggested they put a time the park is closed. They said there is a time already, 7am to 10pm.

#### **M. Adjourn**

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilman Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilwoman Galjour. It carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:50PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Edward Reinhardt

Edward Reinhardt, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel

Mandy Himel, Town Clerk