

**Town of Lockport
Lockport, Louisiana**

Minutes of Regular Meeting November 19, 2019

The Mayor and Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 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, Bobbie Galjour, Wayne Bourgeois, Jr., and Rodney Hartman. Councilwoman Guidry was absent. Also present were Town Clerk Mandy Himel, Town Attorney Chris Huddleston, and Police Chief David Harrelson, Jr., Kenneth Matherne, Michelle Gautreaux, Florence Bradford, and Alan Badeaux.

E. Approval of Minutes for October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting

Mayor Reinhardt asked for approval of the minutes for October 21, 2019. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for month ending October 31, 2019

Mayor Reinhardt asked for a motion to accept the financial statements for the month ending October 31, 2019. Councilman Hartman moved, and Councilman Baudoin seconded a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. It carried unanimously.

Councilman Hartman made a motion to deviate from the agenda to allow Mr. Breaud to speak about the Providence Report. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and 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. Comeaux/Catherine Street Drainage Improvements:

The project to remove structures and obstructions from the servitude is now complete. Funding has been requested from capital outlay to replace the culverts.

2. Infiltration Investigation:

Twenty-nine (29) services in southeast quadrant were videoed. The videos were reviewed, and a letter was sent to the Mayor with the results (see attached). Four services required repairs within the Town right-of-way. A request for quotes were sent to four contractors and their quotes were submitted by 2pm, Monday, November 18th. A fifth service has cracks, but they are located under the road and could be fixed with a liner. It is not cost efficient to line it at this time. An additional ten services could use cleaning, repairs, or replacement by the property owners. Chris will be writing letters to these owners for them to address the issues.

Councilman Bourgeois stated this project is to replace the existing pipe size with new pipe because it is rotten, and it is not because of flooding. Mayor Reinhardt stated we have already been digging and we got the water down from the doorsteps to middle of the yard by the crew digging the ditches. The project on Comeaux Drive and Catherine street is separate and by itself because it costs over four million dollars. This needs to be fixed because of safety issues. Mayor Reinhardt stated the NLLD will bring us some options to look at for this project.

G. Police Report

Mayor Reinhardt called on the Chief to report on the department's activities. Chief Harrelson stated effective November 14, 2019, Officer Bordelon transitioned to part time. Officer Ross' recovery is going as expected. Officer Breaux will be out for 6 to 12 weeks due to surgery. Councilwoman Galjour asked about help from the Sheriff's office. Mayor Reinhardt stated if we ever needed any help, he would never leave us in a bind. Chief Harrelson stated they started the hiring process per their permission last month. He stated they have a candidate that has law enforcement experience of four years. He passed all tests. His name is Mr. Devin Lebouef, and he is prepared to begin work here with your approval at a base salary of \$32,195.28 to replace Officer Bordelon. Officer Bordelon will remain part time until they can become fully staffed and financially able to do so. He will cover shifts to try to alleviate overtime. He stated a part time rate brings in less than an overtime rate. Councilman Hartman stated he sent the Chief an email, and he really has a lot of concerns about the amount of money it is costing the town. He would not advise hiring someone at this time because it will blow up the budget. He stated it will cost the town more. He stated they were told the Officer Bordelon was resigning, and now he will be part time. He stated he might want to reconsider. Councilman Bourgeois stated it is costing us more not to have a full timer. Chief Harrelson stated Mr. Bordelon will remain part time because he is down two additional officers on top of him resigning. He stated this will help him out and the department. Mayor Reinhardt asked if this will save the town more money by having him part time. Chief Harrelson stated having an officer at \$15.00 per hour to cover a shift is a lot better than paying an officer \$30.00 and \$40.00 in overtime. Mayor Reinhardt stated he talked to the Chief about this already, he

suggested maybe waiting about 6 months to see what will happen with the millage. He suggested borrowing another office from another agency. Chief Harrelson stated we still have to pay them. Mayor Reinhardt stated that it won't be in over time. Councilman Bourgeois believes we do have to pay them in overtime because it is still a municipality. If they are full time at one municipality, and they work part time at another one, then, we have to compensate them at their overtime rate and pay into municipal insurance. He stated because it is still a municipality. Mayor Reinhardt asked if he can show him on paper where it will save money for the town with the part time person when they come back or will Mr. Jeff retire once they come back. Chief Harrelson stated once they are fully staffed, then he will reevaluate their financial situation, and if it is no longer financially feasible for a part time officer, then, they won't have one. Councilman Baudoin asked about the part time officer, full time officers, and finances. Councilman Bourgeois stated as long as we are less staffed, then we would be paying more in overtime. Mayor Reinhardt stated he understands, but he will be back to square one like we were four months ago, and we will have to go over the budget and how we will adjust the budget. He stated looking at the money part he doesn't want to fall back into that situation. He doesn't want to get back to that, and he stated this is a chance to try to make something happen. Councilman Baudoin stated we can maintain full service without incurring over time. Mayor Reinhardt stated he is worried about the budget, and we have a chance to get this adjusted. He wants to make sure we pay attention to the budget. He wants them to think ahead, and we will have to look at the budget close in about 6 months. He doesn't want to get back into the budget, and no one wants to pass it for five months again. Mayor Reinhardt asked if this will help up with overtime. Chief Harrelson stated yes. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to hire Mr. Devin Lebouef at a base salary of \$32,195.28 per year. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion. Councilman Baudoin voted yes. Councilman Hartman voted no.

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

I. Public Hearing

Adopt an ordinance to sell surplus immovable property (the "Old Water Plant") owned by the Town of Lockport, State of Louisiana, designated as Lot B, as described on a plat prepared by Leonard Chauvin P.E., P.L.S., Inc. dated December 6, 2018, and titled "Redivision of Property Belonging to the Town of Lockport to Create Lot A-1, Lot A-2, & Lot D Located in the Town of Lockport Section 18, T16S-R19E, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana," for the minimum price of SIXTY THOUSAND (\$60,000.00) DOLLARS and upon the terms as described in the Ordinance.

Ms. Michelle Gautreaux, 1203 Romy Drive, expressed her disappointed that this property was selling. She asked them to keep her informed if anything other places in town become available for bids. She would like to open an art center for children.

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

J. Ordinance

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Councilman Hartman made a motion to accept the ordinance. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Hartman made a motion for a resolution to allow the mayor to sign documents regarding the ordinance. Councilman Baudoin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

K. Reports

1. Mayor

Mayor Reinhardt mentioned the drainage and culvert work. He stated he has been in touch with Mr. Chauvin and Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois. He asked the council to surplus 2010 black utility trailer. Councilman Hartman made a motion to surplus the trailer. Councilman Bourgeois seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Councilman Hartman made a motion to advertise for bids for the trailer in the amount of \$3,500.00. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Reinhardt asked about moving the money from Halloween to Christmas account. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to move \$500.00 from Halloween to Christmas. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mayor Reinhardt mentioned he and Councilman Bourgeois discussed the Christmas tree lighting at the park. He stated Mr. Bourgeois has a few suggestions. He said somethings he changed because he already had things lined up. He said Councilman Bourgeois said something about the lighting on the posts, hot chocolate, and popcorn. He said there were people who donated to help with the tree lighting activities.

2. Council

a. Councilman Baudoin asked the Mayor about street repairs. Mayor Reinhardt stated we had money budgeted for repairs. He said we couldn't do a whole street. He stated we fixed the longest sections we could and fixed

bad spots. He asked about business licenses. He thanked everyone that came to the meeting, and he wished everyone a happy thanksgiving.

b. Councilwoman Galjour thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She is excited to hear what Mr. Badeaux and Mr. Brian Rivet have to say. She suggested we do something for the CLHS band.

c. Councilman Hartman made it clear that his vote not to hire a new police officer is strictly based on finances as he sees it. He supports our police department and our officers. He asked about the Officer Bordelon status. He thanked everyone and have a happy thanksgiving.

d. Councilman Bourgeois thanked the crew to taking care of the stop signs on Ninth Street. He thanked anyone who went out and supported the festival in Raceland. He stated if they know anyone who needs a hot plate of food or assistance for Thanksgiving, they can contact him or Bro. He said everything is lined for Christmas parade. The parade is December 7, 2019 @ 5:30pm. He said at 4:30 pm prior to the start of the parade, there will be a toasting for the Grand Marshall across in the empty lot of Church and Seventh Street. He mentioned the lights being checked and putting them on the poles hopefully by next weekend. He thanked everyone who helped and went out for the successful Spook in the Park. He stated if anyone needs help with Christmas with gifts or food, they can contact him.

3. Town Attorney- no report

4. Staff- The town clerk mentioned to the council about calling for a public hearing to subdivide the property on Mccloud Rd. for the new housing development. Councilman Bourgeois made a motion to call for public hearing. Councilwoman Galjour seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

L. Public wishing to address the council

1. Mr. Kenneth Matherne, 814 Church Street Apt C, addressed the council about a building to hand out food from the Second Harvest mobile bank for the community. They will look into this for him, and they will check with the town attorney. Discussion took place.

2. Mr. Alan Badeaux, 219 Canal Street, addressed the council on issues to help promote and improve the town.

3. Mr. Brian Rivet, South Leon Drive, Gheens, La, owns the Bayou Quick Stop. He announced the doors are open for business. He will keep working at making it better. They have groceries, will have a butcher shop, steak night, hamburgers, roast beef, bakery, gingerbread, etc. He said they will keep improving, and they will have a lot more to bring to the town.

M. Adjourn

The next scheduled regular Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion by Councilwoman Galjour to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Councilman Hartman. It carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:44PM.

Town of Lockport

/s/ Edward Reinhardt

Edward Reinhardt, Mayor

/s/ Mandy Himel

Mandy Himel, Town Clerk