

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on September 17, 2024 at 5:20 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, with the Honorable Roslyn R. White, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members Carlton Campbell, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr. and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Coeyn Wise, City Hall Intern
Chris Gautreaux, Public works & Parks Director
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Mark Piazza, Former Mayor
Karen Guilbeau & Victoria Bourque, Louisiana Cattle Festival

Councilman Tony Hardy, Ordinance Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order. He asked if there were any comments on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

Councilman Hardy stated that the first proposed ordinance is to amend Section 2-111 dealing with workplace harassment to include other forms of harassment. Mayor White stated that we are updating our ordinances to include other forms of harassment not just sexual harassment.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend to the City Council at their meeting scheduled for October 1, 2024 to adopt an ordinance to amend Section 2-111 dealing with workplace harassment to include other forms of harassment. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hardy stated that the second ordinance to consider is to provide for the incurring of debt and issuance of a bond anticipation note of the City of Abbeville, State of Louisiana, in an amount not to exceed \$5,900,000, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Mayor White explained that this is the actual ordinance for us to issue bonds up to \$5,900,000 to do the water plant improvement project. We need to pass this ordinance before we incur the debt. We will take out the bond and it will be a revolving loan fund through the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. We do have it on pretty good accord, that this loan could be 100% forgiven either this year or next. We need to incur the bonds and start the project. We will hear back from our bond counsel about the details.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend to the City Council at their meeting scheduled for October 1, 2024 to adopt an ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of a bond anticipation note of the City of Abbeville, State of Louisiana, in an amount not to exceed \$5,900,000, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hardy stated that the final ordinance to consider an ordinance authorizing by the City of Abbeville, State of Louisiana, of its taxable utilities revenue bonds (LDH) in an amount not to exceed \$5,900,000, authorizing the execution of a loan and pledge agreement and other loan documents with the Louisiana Department of Health, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Mayor White stated that the rate is 1.95% and an adm fee of 1/2% that is tied to this bond note. We are pledging the revenues from our electrical and water utilities because when you incur debt you have to state how you will pay it back. Ms. Marilyn Mitchell asked if the rates would go up. Mayor White stated that we are under evaluation from Louisiana Rural Water Association and we asked for an update from them on the rate study. She received

the rate study 10 minutes prior to this meeting. It appears that the annual increase that is already built into our ordinances covers our sustainability factor so at this time, we do not foresee any increase in utility rates for water in conjunction with this project. The project total is over \$8,000,000. We have received a Water Section Grant in the amount of \$2,300,000 and we have received \$500,000 from the Delta Regional Authority grant. The local fund match would have been \$5,800,000 so we will bond out \$5,900,000 to cover that. We do anticipate that to be 100% forgiven from LDH. The water plant keeps having breakdowns so we have to start the project.

-03 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to recommend to the City Council at their meeting scheduled for October 1, 2024 to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance by the City of Abbeville, State of Louisiana, of its taxable utilities revenue bonds (LDH), in amount not to exceed \$5,900,000, authorizing the execution of a loan and pledge agreement and other loan documents with the Louisiana Department of Health, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor