

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 16, 2024 at 5:30 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. Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Mike Hardy, Police Chief  
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant  
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Brent Landry, Abbeville Firefighter of the Year  
Glenn Suire, Louisiana Military Museum Board  
Darla Meaux  
John Mayer

*Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Mr. John Mayer to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Mayor White asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.*

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to abolish the classification of Public Works Equipment Maintenance Worker in the Municipal Employees Civil Service adopted rules and regulations pending results of the Municipal Civil Service Board public hearing to be held on April 24, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to add the classification of Public Works Administrative Technical Assistant into the Municipal Employees Civil Service adopted rules and regulations pending results of the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board public hearing to be held on April 24, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the recommendation to appoint John Mayer to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White recognized Mr. Bryan Fisher, City of Abbeville Code Enforcement Officer. He had been recently promoted to Command Sergeant Major with the Louisiana Army National Guard.*

*Mayor White recognized City of Abbeville Firefighter Brent Landry for being named the Abbeville Firefighter of the Year by the VFW.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meetings held on February 6, 2024, February 20, 2024, March 5, 2024, March 19, 2024 and April 2, 2024 and the Committee meeting held on April 2, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of March 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the budget to actual report for the month of March 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to enter into a public hearing to obtain comments from the public pertaining to the adoption of an ordinance to amend Section 6-13 (c) to remove the word “nonconsecutive”. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Public Hearing**

*Mayor White explained that this ordinance pertains to extension of payment for utility bills. In the past you could not receive payment extensions for two consecutive months. You are only allowed two per year. Removing the word nonconsecutive will allow payment extensions in consecutive months.*

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to reconvene the regular meeting from public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Campbell/Touchet**

##### **Ordinance 24-01**

*An ordinance to amend Section 6-13(c) to remove the word “nonconsecutive”.*

*The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:*

YEAS:	5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy)
NAYS:	0
ABSENT:	0
ABSTAIN:	0

*Therefore the ordinance was adopted unanimously.*

*Ms. Darla Meaux of 1000 Thomas Street had requested to be on the agenda to discuss code enforcement. She had received a letter at the end of January regarding the items she put at the road and also regarding the items under her carport. On April 3, 2024, her neighbor called her at work to report that two people were loading the items under her carport onto a trailer. Ms. Meaux left work to go to her home. She did not know the two people so she contacted the Abbeville Police Department and Chief Mike Hardy came out. It was determined that the two people were hired by the City to remove the items. The contractor who had been hired by the City to remove the items from Ms. Meaux’s carport contacted Bryan Fisher to come out. After discussion, the contractor agreed to leave the trailer on the property of Ms. Meaux so that she could put her items back. The contractor was in attendance at the meeting and stated that he let the neighbors know who he was and that he had been hired by the City prior to beginning the*

job. Bryan Fisher stated that he had communicated with Ms. Meaux regarding the items under the carport. He told her that she could keep the items but it could not be visible. He stated that he offered a few ideas on how to do that. Ms. Meaux stated that she had received a bill from the City for \$300.00. She felt that she did not have to pay it because the items were not removed from her property and she had to unload the trailer herself to recover her items. Mayor White stated that the reason the City hired contractors was that Ms. Meaux was given ten days at the end of January to move the items but they had not been removed. It was a large accumulation of items and that encourages rodents. Per state law, you cannot keep unworking freezers or refrigerators, that have doors on them, outside. It is a precaution because children were getting in them and getting stuck inside them. The City hired the contractor to complete the work so the property owner is responsible for reimbursing the City. Councilman Hardy asked Mr. Bart Broussard if the City could waive the fee charged to Ms. Meaux. Bart stated that the City cannot give away public funds. The City has to pay the invoice to the contractor therefore the owner must reimburse the City. It would be illegal to waive the fee charged to Ms. Meaux.

Mayor White discussed the current status of the Louisiana Military Museum. The board let the director go and many on the board resigned. They are definitely having some financial struggles. They are at risk of being closed permanently. The City owns the property that museum is constructed upon. She wanted to see how the Council felt about the possibility of the City taking over the museum or assisting the board with running the museum. They will need to get additional board members to replace those who resigned. The City can possibly help with the lease payment and utilities. Mayor White wanted to receive direction from the City Council regarding this topic. Councilman Touchet requested a complete listing of the museum's financial obligations. He asked who owns the museum. Mayor White stated that the museum owns two of the hangars and Vector Aviation owns the other three. Councilman Touchet asked Bart Broussard if the City can go around bailing people out. Mayor White stated that we cannot do that but we could take the assets and use it like we do the Blacksmith Shop Museum. The Council admitted that at this time they are not in favor of pursuing this. Councilman Touchet admitted that his temperature on the topic is cold, cold, cold. Mayor White stated that she would distribute the financials of the museum at a later date. The Council can take action at that meeting if needed.

Mayor White announced the Community Conversations for the 2029 Coastal Master Plan hosted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Restore the Mississippi River Delta to be held on April 25, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Vermilion Parish Library in Abbeville.

-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 6 in the amount of \$69,470.11 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC relative to the LaFitte Park Fishing Pier and Wharf Project. The motion carried unanimously.

**T. Broussard/Touchet**  
**Resolution R24-08**

*A resolution committing additional local funds and authorize the advertisement for bids for sidewalk and street improvements on Graceland Avenue contingent upon approval from Facility Planning and Control.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Touchet/Hardy**

**Resolution R24-09**

*A resolution pertaining to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report (January 2023- December 2023).*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Touchet/Hardy**

**Resolution R24-10**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit a loan application form 100A and all accompanying documents to the Louisiana Department of Health for improvements to the water system and to designate the Mayor as the Official Project Representative to sign all required documents.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Touchet/Hardy**

**Resolution R24-11**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute appropriate documentation to transfer ownership of a wooden home located on City property located at 303 Joffre Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, so that the home can be removed from the property.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the quote from CASCO in the amount of \$10,420.00 for hoses for the Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the quote for a new LUCAS chest compression system from Stryker in the amount of \$19,997.00 for the Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the quote from Delta Fire and Safety in the amount of \$11,960.00 to repair the ladder fire truck. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve Dovetail Subdivision construction plan and drainage impact analysis. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the recommendation of the Abbeville Planning Commission to approve the food truck park special use permit application for Market D'Ville located at 602 Charity Street. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize an appraisal of the building at 308 Charity Street next to the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

*Chief Mike Hardy presented the current and proposed camera positioning that he had discussed*

*with the management of Stonebridge Apartments. He is recommending more lighting and better camera positions. They also need security guards not courtesy officers there. Councilman Touchet asked Bart if the complex will work with us with this. Bart said they will. He has been communicating with Andy Veazey and they will work together. Councilman Touchet asked Chief Hardy to keep the Council updated on this.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Thanked everyone who participated in the walking tour and community meeting. Please plan to attend others that are upcoming this year.*

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *A new law goes into effect at midnight on April 19, 2024 whereby 17-year-olds will be booked as an adult.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Knights of Columbus will be selling boiled shrimp dinners on April 21, 2024.*

Councilman Tony Hardy

- *Beginning to upgrade Parker Park.*

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor White declared this meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor