

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024

The Mayor Pro-Tem and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 20, 2024 at 5:30 PM, at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room, located at 101 North State Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, with the Honorable Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem, presiding.

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

Members Absent: Mayor Roslyn R. White
Councilwoman Terry Broussard

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Kelly Mire, Assistant Fire Chief
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Eldridge Harrison, Street Construction & Improvement Foreman
Willie Leger, Street Maintenance Foreman
Tasha Hebert, T & T Sickle Cell Riders Trail Ride
Kristin Moore
Joey Songne

Councilman Touchet stated that he will be running the meeting tonight because Mayor White is out of town. Councilman Touchet called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Councilman Touchet asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in prayer and asked Councilman Carlton Campbell to lead those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Touchet asked if there were any comments on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to appoint Ben Gaspard to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to appoint Nohia Simon to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to recommend to the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board to classify the range to a 17 for the positions of Wastewater Utility Foreman, Water Utility Foreman, Street Maintenance Foreman and Street Construction and Improvement Foreman. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Charlene Becket distributed the fall Sounds on the Square line up. On October 17, 2024 the City will host the Downtown Revival Ribbon Cutting at 5:45 PM in front of the Courthouse. This

will be the final Sounds on the Square for the fall season so it will be relocated to the front of the Courthouse for that night.

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2024 regular City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the budget to actual report for the month of July 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

704 S. St. Valerie – *Ms. Christine Rice appeared to represent the property. Bryan Fisher stated that he has received multiple complaints over the last year about the property. It was up for condemnation but the home owner was given more time to repair the roof and it was not condemned. There are multiple areas of rot. The roof in the rear of the property was not repaired. There are holes in the roof. Ms. Rice stated that she wants to repair the property but her money ran out. They started working on it at the end of last year. Councilman Campbell stated that four months ago he granted a motion to give Ms. Rice 90 days to repair the property but nothing has been done except for a few sheets of tin that were placed. Not enough has been done to repair the property. Bart Broussard stated that the Council can vote to condemn the property because it is deemed in a dangerous or dilapidated condition then Bryan can decide what to do. The options are up to the Code Enforcement Officer. He can prepare a list and let the Council and Ms. Rice know what the options are.*

-06 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to condemn the structure at 704 S. St. Valerie and allow the Code Enforcement Officer to come up with a list of options that are needed pertaining to the structure. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve a special event permit for T & T Sickle Cell Riders Trail Ride to be held from September 20, 2024 through September 22, 2024 at the Red Barn. The permit is only needed for the trail riders to access the City road. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the special event permit for the Bowzer Family Trail Ride and Scholarship to be held from November 16, 2024 through November 17, 2024 at the Red Barn. The permit is needed for the trail ride to access the City road. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kristin Moore had requested to be on the agenda because of her concerns with the livestream cameras in the downtown area. She is concerned about privacy and security because they are 24-hour streaming. She thought the goal was streaming just for downtown events and festivals. Now if someone is having their wedding in the square then everyone can see it. Councilman Broussard stated that this was a project of the Abbeville Rotary Club so that the world could see our culture. It does not focus on any one individual. It is not documented or saved. It is not to intrude on anyone's privacy. It is a large view. Bart Broussard stated that downtown is a public place and in a public place you have no expectations of privacy. You are not being recorded. No signs are required. This was studied a long time prior to implementation.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the recommendation from the Abbeville Planning Commission to grant a variance for the landscape plan for the Food Truck Park to be located at 2401 Veterans Memorial Drive. The motion

carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the overlay of Nugier Street at an approximate cost of \$20,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve making Nugier Street a one-way street west of Alphonse. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux began a discussion of preparing a demonstration until the end of the year to see how traffic would flow if South State Street from Peace Street to Lafayette Street was a one-way street. Traffic could head south on South State Street but could not go north. They would have to turn onto Lafayette Street. We are trying to discourage 18-wheelers coming downtown. It is illegal for them to be downtown according to our ordinances anyway. They really need to remain on the truck route. There are exceptions for those trucks making deliveries to our downtown businesses. We will make one side of the one-way street diagonal parking and the other side will remain parallel parking. They will remove three poles on the corner and reduce it to only one. They will remove the traffic light and put up four-way stop signs. The curb on the corner will have to be cut too. They will receive feedback during the trial period and report that back to the City Council when appropriate. Mr. Joey Songne expressed his concerns for increased traffic on Lafayette Street.

-12 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve a demonstration until the end of the year creating a one-way street of South State Street from Peace Street to Lafayette Street. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the quote from Solomon Corporation in the amount of \$7,716.50 to repair a voltage regulator. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve contract change order #3 relative to the Downtown Abbeville Street Improvement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 4 in the amount of \$327,343.18 payable to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC relative to the Downtown Abbeville Street Improvement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 8 (final) in the amount of \$44,984.11 payable to Southern Constructors for the LaFitte Drive-In Park Fishing Pier and Wharf Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-17 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 12 in the amount of \$115,619.27 payable to Shaw Construction for the LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-18 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to submit the application for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant. The motion

carried unanimously.

Bart Broussard stated that the mobile home at 308 S. Miles is an asset that was adjudicated to the City for failure to pay property taxes. The redemption period has just ended. We do not own the land. The mobile home is not worth anything of value and it cannot be moved. The property owner is willing to tear it down and absorb the cost.

-19 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the property (land) owner of 308 S. Miles to demolish the mobile home that has been adjudicated to the City. The property (land) owner will absorb the cost of the demolition. The motion carried unanimously.

-20 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to adopt the updated public records request policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Bart Broussard, City Attorney

- *At the Ordinance Committee meeting today prior to this meeting, Councilman Campbell asked if someone with a dishonorable discharge could carry a firearm. According to his research, there is a federal law that prohibits someone with a dishonorable discharge from carrying so they would not be allow to carry according to our proposed ordinance.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *Introduced and commended Eldridge Harrison and Willie Leger for the work they do.*

Parks and Recreation Coordinator report given by Cristian LeJeune

- *Flag football ends on August 28, 2024 and QSA will begin basketball registration soon.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Will request that the Mayor look into getting a grant to place electric vehicle recharging stations in the City. The City would have to charge the users a fee to recharge their electric vehicles.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Grand Revais is scheduled for October 11, 2025 through October 18, 2025. He invited the Canadians to join us when he was there recently. Abbeville will host the event on October 11, 2025.*

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Touchet declared this meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Francis Touchet, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem