

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 6, 2024 at 5:15 PM (public hearing) then 5:30 PM (regular meeting), 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
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent
Sarah Alpough, Director of Revenue, Regulatory Codes & Permits
Tiffany Deville, Tax Specialist
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Coeyn Wise, City Hall Intern
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Eric Grimmatt, LUS Fiber
Members and Coaches of the QSA 6U T-Ball team

5:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a motion to open a public hearing.

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to open a public hearing to receive comments pertaining to levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - *Mayor White asked if there were any comments from the public pertaining to levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. There were no comments.*

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White declared the meeting adjourned.

5:30 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor White called the regular meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked the players of the QSA 6U T-Ball Team to lead the assembly in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White asked if there were any comments on any agenda item prior to action. Mr. Coeyn Wise discussed why he felt the Code Enforcement should receive the annual 2% raise on the anniversary of his employment.

-03 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the annual 2% increase for 2024 for the unclassified position of Code Enforcement Officer. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS: 4(Campbell, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy)
NAYS: 1(T. Broussard)
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the motion carried.

Mayor White and the City Council members recognized the players and coaches of the QSA 6U T-Ball team for making it to the World Series Tournament. Since it was Councilman Tony Hardy's birthday, Mayor White asked the players to sing happy birthday for him.

Mr. Coeyn Wise discussed the Advisory Youth Council he will implement for high school students to become involved in their local government.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2024, June 18, 2024, July 2, 2024 and July 16, 2024 regular City Council meetings and the June 18, 2024 special City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of July 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

**Campbell/Touchet
Resolution R24-19**

A resolution adopting the adjusted millage rates for the tax year 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Touchet/Hardy
Resolution R24-20**

A resolution to set forth the adjusted millage rates and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates.

The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the accounting of the 2023 tax roll. The motion carried unanimously.

Campbell/Hardy
Resolution R24-21

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a right of way/pole agreement with Lafayette Utility Services (LUS).

The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents pertaining to the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources 40101(d) Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of the invoice from Delta Fire & Safety in the amount of \$9,022.28 to repair a firetruck. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote from Superior Services in the amount of \$5,450.00 to repair the rotor #6 bearing at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify payment of the invoice from Capital Electric and Supply in the amount of \$5,468.95 for repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant belt press. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to surplus Unit #557, a 2011 Dodge 1500 from the Public Works Department and Unit #621, a 2017 Ram 1500 from the Street Maintenance Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White stated that the condition of the property at 208 N. Lyman was discussed at the last meeting. There was some discussion about the need for an inspection because some work was done without permits. We notified them they needed a permit so they picked up the packet but never got the permit and stopped working. We should have condemned it at the last meeting but we did not. The back end of the structure is very dilapidated and dangerous. There is someone living in the rest of the structure. We did post a notice that they needed to contact tax and permit to allow an inspection. They have not contacted us. The next step would be to have the police escort an inspector to inspect the back end to see if it meets code or not. Her recommendation is to condemn. Bart stated that because you condemn a property doesn't mean it has to be torn down. We are merely designating that property to be in a dangerous or dilapidated condition which needs to be addressed. The Council can decide what needs to be done to remove the dilapidated and dangerous condition. You will need a report on what needs to be done to the property. You can move to condemn it then you send someone out to inspect it. They need to determine what needs to be done to remove it from the dangerous and/or dilapidated condition. We can't tear it down as long as it is a safe structure. If it is not, then we can do whatever we need to do. Mayor White stated that Bryan has issued a report declaring the addition of the structure is in a dilapidated and/or dangerous condition.

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to condemn the addition on the structure located at 208 N. Lyman. The motion carried unanimously.

Bart Broussard, City Attorney

- *The State Legislature has made changes to the permitting to carry a gun. Our ordinances do not agree with State law so we will have to address that at the next committee meeting. Everyone 18 years of age and above that are not prohibited from carrying by some other state or federal law, can carry. There are certain firearm free zones like within 1,000 feet of a school or educational center. There are other certain exceptions. This is a state statute so the City Council cannot restrict areas. We have to follow the state statute.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *Discussed issues with a few sewer lift stations.*
- *Road around the courthouse will be closed beginning tomorrow for the road project.*
- *The electrical department are fixing street lights. The street department are trying to catch up on cutting grass. The water department will be changing a fire hydrant in the Coulee Kinney area. They will have to cut the water for about two hours so there will be a boil water advisory in that area. The tree trimming contractor has stopped working because his equipment is broken. He will resume the work when the equipment is fixed.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Will have Coffee with the Mayor at 7:00 AM at Bourbon Street Café on August 7, 2024.*
- *We sent in an alternate contractor to repairs the roads that the sewer contractor left undone.*
- *The Downtown Street Project is on schedule to be finished by the end of September 2024.*
- *The live streaming cameras are up and running. You can access them on the City's website.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Perfectly You Fitness will be opening in September.*
- *Asked Chief Hardy to address the people sleeping in Magdalen Square. Smoking is not permitted in the park. There is a homeless shelter in Lafayette and that is where they belong.*
- *Discussed making South State Street from the Courthouse to Lafayette Street a one-way to help traffic and preserve downtown from 18-wheelers. He would like a study of it and then implementation if that is feasible. Mayor White stated that we need enforcement of our 18-wheeler ordinance too.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *August 10, 2024, Vermilion Reach will hold a diaper donation drive at New Life Church from 10 AM to 1 PM.*
- *August 11, 2024 at the Woodmen of the World Hall there will be a cake bingo to benefit Briley Batiste.*
- *Uniquely You is scheduled for September 21, 2024 from 11 AM to 1 PM in Comeaux Park.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *He would like to meet with the Mayor to plan a committee for LaFitte Drive In Park because he gets a lot of questions of what they will do at that park. It is such a nice park and it is just sitting there. Mayor White stated that we will be clearing out more trees and the area to put the fence where we are proposing to move the dog park. That would be the shaded area towards the front of the property.*

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to enter into an executive session to discuss Police Department litigation pertaining to pay increases. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White explained that the executive session was held to discuss Police Department litigation pertaining to pay increases. She asked the Council if they wanted to take any action.

-16 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to withdraw any offers that we have on the table and we proceed with letting the justices determine where we need to move forward as far as this decision is concerned. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS:	4(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet)
NAYS:	0
ABSENT:	0
ABSTAIN:	1(Hardy)

Therefore, the motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor