

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
July 2, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on July 2, 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. and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

Also, Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Brian Primeaux, Engineer
Jonathan Zenon, Abbeville High School Football coach
Lauren Trahan, Vermilion Parish Chamber Director
Justin Vincent and his attorney

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked Ms. Lauren Trahan to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Coach Jonathan Zenon to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor White stated that at a previous meeting we had discussed the 15% pay increase for Police Officers after their one-year anniversary. We are bringing this back up because at that meeting, we only authorized three of those individuals who were expecting their pay increases in May, to receive the increase. We also authorized Bart to go to the Police & Fire Civil Service Board to create the classification of Senior Patrol Officer since it is not in their classifications. Once it would be created, then the Council would set the future pay increase at a future meeting. We have found out that is a lengthy process and may take a while. There are three other officers that will cross their one-year anniversary later in the year. One will meet that on June 23rd, another would reach that on September 1st and the final one on December 4th. This would allow us to give those three officers on the list this year to receive their 15% pay increase. It is her recommendation to give the increase to all 6 officers through the end of the year who were promised the 15%. We will bring up the TCOs up at a later date.

-01 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to give the last three Police Officers the 15% pay increase after their one-year anniversary. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Terry Broussard introduced the new football coach at Abbeville High School, Jonathan Zenon. Coach Zenon discussed his athletic background and introduced his football staff.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to enter into a public hearing with the following individuals who may be banned from Abbeville Public Parks: Justin Vincent, Angelique Soelv and Jalearreia Soelv. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Justin Vincent and his attorney were present. Mayor White stated that Mr. Vincent was called here because of an incident at A. A. Comeaux Park. The incident has not yet gone to court. It is her recommendation to the City Council that all individuals that have charges outstanding from that incident be banned from public parks in Abbeville until the outcome of the criminal court charges. The court date is scheduled for August 7, 2024. This is still an open investigation. This is due process before being banned. Mr. Vincent's attorney stated that there were many people involved and Mr. Vincent believes that they are mistaking him for someone else. He has been involved with his son in baseball a long time. He is charged with disturbing the peace. She will do her best to try to find out the name of the person who he thinks he is being mistaken for. She does not want someone banned who is not guilty. Mayor White stated that if more evidence is discovered to prove otherwise, you can contact Chief Mike Hardy. His office was in charge of the investigation. He will communicate any changes directly to her. If any individual is found not guilty or it was a case of mistaken identity the ban would be lifted immediately. We have to have a zero tolerance for violence that happens in our parks, especially during a youth baseball game.

-03 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend that Justin Vincent be banned from all Abbeville Public Parks until the outcome of the court case. The motion carried unanimously.

Jalearreia Soelv was not present. Mayor White recommended the same thing as Mr. Vincent.

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to recommend that Jalearreia Soelv be banned from all Abbeville Public Parks until the outcome of the court case. The motion carried unanimously.

Angelique Soelv was not present. Mayor White recommended the same thing as Mr. Vincent.

-05 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to recommend that Angelique Soelv be banned from all Abbeville Public Parks until the outcome of the court case. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to accept the three recommendations from the public hearing to ban Justin Vincent, Jalearreia Soelv and Angelique Soelv from all Abbeville public parks until the outcome of the court case. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lauren Trahan, the new Vermilion Parish Chamber of Commerce Director was introduced. Ms. Trahan discussed the possibility of relocating the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce to the Vermilion Cultural and Alliance Center located at 200 N. Magdalen Square. She will bring all recommendations back to her board. Mayor White stated that she requested to speak to the

Chamber Board about consolidating their resources. Some other chambers share a building with economic development and their tourist director. Right now, each of these have their own offices. This requires them to maintain the costs for their building, services and staff. The chamber and the tourist commission were together at one time on the By-pass. By consolidating their resources, it is a smarter use of public dollars and those two entities can be strategic about trying to bring events here to increase tourism. We are providing a part-time employee for the tourist commission. That is Cristian. Cristian is now working more in-house. Ali Miller would like someone to be there if she is not there that can answer questions about the businesses in Abbeville. Mayor White asked the Council if they would be in favor of her and Bart exploring a lease agreement between those entities and bringing it back for further consideration. The chamber would need to build out their office space as they need it. The City already maintains the building and that is in our budget. Ms. Trahan stated that everything is here downtown so it would be a one-stop shop for new businesses. Mayor White stated that we do own ½ of the building on the By-pass so a decision would have to be made about that building. There will be a lot of things to discuss but she did not want to begin the process if the City Council is not in favor of it. The Council was in agreement for the Mayor to move forward. No motion was needed.

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to submit the names of Corey Lege and Wayne LeBleu to fill one vacancy on the Board of Commissioners for the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal District. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to appoint Jerath Bessard to the Abbeville Fire and Police Civil Service Board to serve the term beginning June 29, 2024 through June 29, 2027. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the estimate from S & L Services Boring and Excavation in the amount of \$9,400.00 for an electrical conduit bore on North State Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *The generator that will be installed for the sewer project will probably be installed next week.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *Tomorrow they will pour a layer of leveling asphalt downtown. They will start around the Square.*
- *The sewer force main did pass the test and the contractor, Shaw Construction, was supposed to start repairing the road. They have not yet done that. We will verify everything tomorrow to make sure.*
- *Councilman Campbell asked if four-wheelers will be banned from LaFitte Park. Chris said the signs that were removed to be cleaned up will be put back up. He is not exactly sure what is on the sign but it is the standard park rules that are in every City park. He will get with the Mayor to discuss that specifically. Mayor White stated that no one is supposed to ride motorized vehicles or bicycles on the walking trail. That doesn't mean they can't ride those on the levee however. Swimming is not allowed in the pond and there are signs posted regarding that. Mayor White stated that we do call the police out when it is reported to us. If they were there after hours, then that is trespassing.*

Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

- *Congratulated the 6U QSA T-Ball team who qualified for the World Series. It will be played*

in Youngsville the week of July 17, 2024 through July 20, 2024.

- *Beginning July 4th, 2D will host the High School Showcase. That will end on July 7th.*
- *July 11, 2024-July 14, 2024, 2D will host a tournament. It will be the last tournament this season.*
- *Flag Football registration has started. The fee is \$75.00.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *The Council authorized her to submit an application to LDH for loans to do the full scope of the water plant renovation. The loan was approved and we are still awaiting the decision of percentage of forgiveness of the loan. It can be forgiven up to 49% but we recently received noticed that we might receive a larger forgiveness amount. We will have more details at the next meeting pertaining to the full scope of work we would like to do there.*
- *We received a grant to demolish 32 structures. We received a letter that asbestos testing must be done prior to bidding them out. That is a new requirement from the last grant we received. That will delay the project by a few weeks. We are moving forward and this is a change in their program.*
- *They are putting in electrical boxes for the Downtown Streets projects. There are only a few more water and stormwater pipes that need to be repaired. They are getting to the end of that work. They will be pouring a one-inch asphalt floating layer first then they will later come back in with a matting and then a two-inch asphalt layer.*
- *We have a new Sheriff. Thank you to Mike Couvillion for his over 40 years in law enforcement. She looks forward to working with Sheriff Eddie Langlinais.*
- *Congratulations to our City Hall intern, Coeyn Wise. He was elected as Governor last week at Boys State. He is the first ever from Vermilion Parish to be elected Governor.*
- *Asked Chief Hardy about 300 Chevis. Chief Hardy stated they did send officers to assist Bryan there. They were trying to get in touch with the landlord. Bryan stated that the notice of eviction will be held in City Court on the 10th. Mayor White reminded him that the Judge has to provide notice to the landlord that he cannot put all the furniture and other things at the road.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Congratulated the two weightlifting females, Ms. Schubert and Ms. Batiste, representing Abbeville in Malta in August.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor

