

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
June 4, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on June 4, 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 Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem, presiding.

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

Members Absent: Mayor Roslyn White

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Steve Moosa, CPA

Councilman Touchet called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Councilman Touchet asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead those assembled in prayer. Councilman Touchet asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Touchet explained that Mayor White was not in attendance tonight because she had a prior engagement. He asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

-01 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the recommendation to appoint Randall Toups 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. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the recommendation to appoint Gabby Duhon 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. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the recommendation to appoint Devin Buchanan to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department, pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify the disciplinary proceedings concerning TCO Shawna Miguez. 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.

-05 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the annual 2% pay increase for the unclassified position of Digital Media Assistant. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to change the Municipal Employees Civil Service Director of Personnel from a part-time position to a full-time position. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to allow the current part-time Municipal Employees Civil Service Director of Personnel to remain on for one month to train the new director. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2024 and May 21, 2024 regular City Council meetings and the May 21, 2024 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Moosa presented the audit report and the agreed upon procedures report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

-09 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the audit report and agreed upon procedures report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Campbell

Resolution R24-14

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the assignment of lease from B & B Daiquiris to Pour Decisions.

The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to award the contract for the base bid plus the alternate for the Graceland Avenue Sidewalk and Overlay Project to low bidder, Glenn Lege Construction, LLC, pending concurrence of Facility Planning and Control. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the purchase of new lawn mowers by utilizing State contract pricing from Hustler for the following departments: Airport-one mower, Parks Department – one mower and Street and Bridge Department – three mowers. The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion began pertaining to updating rules and security for recreational events at A. A. Comeaux Park. Chris Gautreaux stated that he met with the Police Chief this morning. Mayor White's recommendation is that for the rest of the summer, for the police to provide an officer on site patrolling the premises of the park area at all times while there are large sporting events taking place. Her recommendation is to ban the three parties that were involved in the incident

pending the outcome of the criminal charges. QSA has already ruled on their part. They have released a statement. Councilman Touchet stated their ruling is that all the parties involved are not allowed to participate. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she is concerned about the kids that are not allowed to participate. Chief Hardy stated that they have agreed to provide the security and Byron will let them know of any large events that would need the security. Councilman Touchet stated that we have a party that is handling our recreational program. We cannot micromanage what they are doing. All we do is hire them. QSA made that decision and they are running the recreational program. It is our facility but they run the program according to their rules. Bart Broussard stated that no motion is needed. This is a precautionary step for the City for the time being. Chris stated that QSA will call APD when somebody gets out of hand. We have a zero-tolerance policy and it will be enforced. Officers must remove the subjects from the premises. Byron Dozier stated that he does not want to be in the middle of this experience ever again. Until the investigation is done, any discussions would have to be with QSA's attorney. He can provide the contact. Councilman Touchet stated that if any individual Council person has an issue with this then they can address that individually with the Mayor. The Mayor is supporting what QSA decided.

Chris Gautreaux stated that quite a few meetings ago, a request was made to gather a quote to light the walking trail so that it could be utilized at all hours. The quotation is about \$35,320.00. The Council would have to decide if they want to walking trail open 24-hours. The pond would remain closed except for the regular hours we maintain now.

-12 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to table action pertaining to the lighting for the walking trail and the operation of LaFitte Drive-In Park to gather more information. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve a special event permit for Dreyon Levine to hold a Juneteenth/Father's Day Celebration on June 15, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at A. A. Comeaux Park, Pavilion Number 1. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- Ran an underground camera in the downtown area prior to the overlay. There are many water and sewer line repairs that have been completed. Will process a change order for those. We also bored underground by the courthouse to relocate electrical services.*
- The merry-go-round at Hebert Park has been refurbished and will be installed. We hope to reopen LaFitte Park in two weeks. There is a big tournament scheduled at Comeaux Park.*

Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

- 2D held a 12-year-old tournament this past weekend. They will also hold a high school baseball tournament three weekends in a row later.*
- American Legion baseball is starting and VC Metro baseball is starting.*
- This upcoming weekend USSSA will hold a state tournament. We are expecting 25-30 teams.*
- The QSA Pony District tournament will be held on June 24, 2024. There will be 30 teams.*

Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant, reporting for Mayor Roslyn White

- The next Community Open House meeting will be held on June 22, 2024. From 10 AM – 12 PM. The meeting will be held at A. A. Comeaux Park and we will be discussing the Martin Luther King, Jr. area. From 2 PM – 4 PM, the meeting will be held at J. H. Williams School and we will be discussing the Lyman Street area.*

- *The Coffee Talks with the Mayor will be held on June 13, 2024 at Southern Spread. Chief Mike Hardy will be the guest speaker.*
- *The Vermilion Parish Police Jury has begun utilizing the RAVE system for notifications. This replaces the NIXLE system that they were using.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Congratulated Cristian on the article pertaining to the old cypress pipe that was found recently in the downtown area after excavation.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Thanked Charlene Beckett and all the employees who assisted with the Daylily Festival. It was a huge success.*
- *Asked everyone to support the new Vermilion Parish Chamber director, Lauren Trahan.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Stated that we should be preparing for the hurricane season. It will be a bad year for storms.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Francis Touchet, Jr.
Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem