

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on September 3, 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 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: 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
Coeyn Wise, City of Abbeville Intern
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Don Landry, District Attorney
Kevin Ardoin, Lab Director of Acadiana Crime Lab

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

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to amend the agenda to add the resignation of Darren Istre with the Abbeville Fire Department to personnel. The motion carried unanimously.

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

-02 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the annual 2% salary increases for the unclassified position of Administrative Assistant to the City Council. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the new classification and job description of Administrative Staff Assistant and to request the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board to approve same at their next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to accept the resignation of Darren Istre from the Abbeville Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kevin Ardoin, Lab Director with the Acadiana Crime Lab provided an update on the construction of their new facility. They have been in their current facility since 1989. The new facility should be completed by August of 2025. They received capital outlay funding for the

construction but must provide a 25% match. They have requested that those agencies that utilize the lab help to pay that match. The match figures were computed utilizing the number of cases in 2019. Abbeville's share is \$189,302.00. Mayor White stated that the expense is not in this year's budget so we will have to put it into next year's budget. District Attorney Don Landry stated that he feels like having the new facility will expedite the turnover for testing.

-05 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2024 Committee meeting and regular City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to enter into a public hearing to receive comments from the public regarding a proposed ordinance to amend Section 13-21 to add (C) to comply with the recent changes to LSA RS 40:1379.3(N) which pertains to carrying a concealed gun without a permit. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Bart Broussard stated that the State Legislature recently changed that anyone over the age of 18 not prohibited from some other federal or state law can carry a gun without a permit. We are amending our ordinance to reflect state law. Ms. Marilyn Mitchell stated that she does not like that it is 18 not 21. Mayor White stated that because it is state law, we have to amend our ordinance to meet state law. Mrs. Arlene Collee asked about signage and who can not allow it. Bart stated that you cannot prohibit on public property except for the enumerated exceptions like City Hall, schools, the police station and courtrooms. A private entity has to post signs prohibiting it. The owner of the business would have to call the police to let them know that someone is violating their policy. Councilwoman Broussard asked about City parks. Mayor White stated they can carry in the public parks unless the park is within 1,000 feet of a school.

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/B. Broussard

Ordinance 24-02

An ordinance to amend Section 13-21 to add (C) to comply with the recent changes to LSA RS 40:1379.3(N).

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

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

Therefore, the motion carried.

-08 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to condemn the property at 401 LeBlanc because it is in a dangerous and dilapidated condition and to take it under legal advisement because the property is adjudicated to the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and they may pursue a private sale to a neighbor. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to table action pertaining to the habitual nuisance offenses at 303 Charity Street at this time. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to grant a variance from the mobile home ordinance to move a 14 X 60 mobile home to 412 B K Stevens Drive. According to the ordinance, the minimum mobile home size allowed is 14 X 65. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Abbeville and the Federal Emergency Management Agency pertaining to the BRIC Fiscal Year 2023 notice of funding opportunity. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to table action pertaining to the overtime for the Abbeville Police Department for the Louisiana Cattle Festival until the next meeting. This would allow time for the entities to meet and discuss the security needs of the festival. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mike Hardy stated that the subscription and warranty for the body cameras expired last year but the company gave us a one-year extension. As of 1/1/2025, we will no longer be able to use the ones we have. We have received one quote from Motorola and three from Axon. We would prefer to utilize Axon since they also provide our tasers so the cameras would work with the tasers. The program we are looking at is around \$120,000.00.

-13 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor and the Police Chief to continue evaluating the body camera proposals and to bring it to another City Council meeting when finalized. The motion carried unanimously.

T. Broussard/Campbell
Resolution R24-22

A resolution authorizing the installation of speed humps on Graceland at its intersections with North Miles and North Bailey Street, east and west side of Parker Hebert Park, as part of the Graceland Enhancement Project.

The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve plan change order number 1 for the Automated Weather Observing Station (AWOS) III P/T Replacement Project which adjusts the contract time. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 3 in the amount of \$7,383.52 payable to Mesotech International, Inc relative to the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) III P/T Replacement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Campbell/Hardy
Resolution R24-23

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute and act of acceptance for the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) III P/T Replacement Project.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/T. Broussard
Resolution R24-25

A resolution to prepare and submit the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Capital Outlay application.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White began a discussion pertaining to the City's involvement/participation in the Abbeville Innovation Center funded by the Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program. The Police Jury was awarded some funds for the Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program a few years ago. The project they were going to do was not approved. There was a call for projects to potentially be subaward recipients of that grant. Three projects were proposed. There was one for Kaplan, their fairs and festival building, one was for Erath, the seafood hub and VEDA, submitted for an innovation center. An innovation center is basically a business incubator. VEDA was going to buy a building and house their agency in it and it would also serve as a business incubator. This would give opportunities for entrepreneurs in the City. VEDA's sustainable funding request, a parcel fee, failed so they do not have a plan of operation after December of this year. It was brought to the Mayor's attention that they had submitted for this grant and basically the request tonight is if the City Council wants the City to take over the charge being the subrecipient of this grant funding to front the money and be responsible for the operation of the center moving forward. If the City chooses not to take this on then VEDA would take that opportunity to someone else. The funding amount is about \$600,000. \$500,000 has to be used for construction and planning. It cannot be used for operational costs. Councilman Broussard stated that Abbeville would be the logical place as the seat of the parish to hold a business incubator. If we want to grow our local businesses and give our citizens a change to have their own businesses then we should seriously look at having the business incubator in the City of Abbeville.

-16 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the City of Abbeville to become the subrecipient of the funding from the Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program that was awarded the Vermilion Parish Police Jury. The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/T. Broussard
Resolution R24-24

A resolution to make Nugier Street a one-way west bound street beginning west of Alphonse Street to the intersection of North East Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Roslyn R. White

- Gave Park report since Byron Dozier was not at meeting. Flag football registration is closed and the games will start on 9/23/24 and 9/24/24. They will be held every Monday and Tuesday until November 5, 2024. Basketball registration will begin soon.*
- The Downtown Street project is on schedule.*
- Sounds on the Square will begin soon. We will have a ribbon cutting for the Downtown Project completion for the last one being held on October 17, 2024. It will be held in front of the courthouse.*
- Wanted to clarify that the festival parade route and layout are the responsibility of the*

organization holding the festival. The City does offer guidance and we try to meet all of their requests. The decision to change the Cattle Festival parade route was made by the Cattle Festival. They wanted to go back to the historic route. The change had absolutely nothing to do with the road project.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Sellers and Associates are working on letting us know the size of truck and trailer that will be able to pass Downtown.*
- *Sounds on the Square begins September 19, 2024.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *The Vermilion Reach Group will be holding the Uniquely You event this year again. It will be held at Comeaux Park on September 21, 2024.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Thanked Sarah Alpough and Bryan Fisher for attending and speaking at the Kiwanis meeting today. They did a great job.*
- *Congratulated the weight lifters who recently won the championship.*
- *The property owners of 207 S. Lyman are here because they thought their property would be discussed. Mayor White asked Bryan why it was not on the agenda. He stated that it was pulled because he could not verify that they had received their notice and wanted to make sure they received due process. Bryan stated they have been discussing it with them. They will come in tomorrow for the permit. He will work with the property owner.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor