

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Abbeville met in special session on August 31, 2022 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., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Marie Buteaux, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent  
Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion

*Mayor White asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in prayer. She asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Mayor White stated that we are here for this special City Council meeting to address three issues. She asked if there were any comments from the public about the agenda item. There were none.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to appoint Bart Broussard as the City Attorney and to authorize the Mayor to execute an employment contract with Mr. Broussard. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White stated that the contract lists the duties that he will provide for \$5,000.00 per month. Councilman Touchet stated that we should not be paying our attorney for administrative things. You want them to be performing law. We have all of our employees that need to do ethics and sexual harassment training. They can do those online. Mayor White stated that we have become very spoiled by having an attorney in-house. She met with Kathy and we will have a discussion with the staff to contact Kathy or her first before we consult the attorney. There were a lot things that Ike was handling that were more administrative because he was in-house. The list on the employment contract is a fair list and our employees and staff have been very welcoming to the idea of reportioning the administrative duties. Councilman Campbell stated that there are some sections of the law that require specialties. If there is something that comes up that Bart is not trained in that specialty, will he be able to get some help from other attorneys? Bart stated yes. He is looking at the file right now regarding reapportionment and if a federal lawsuit based on civil rights is brought before federal court, that is something that the Council would have to seek specialized representation. Mayor White stated if that happens Bart will advise us to seek special counsel and it would come before the City Council for approval.*

-02 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to appoint Mr. Ronald W. Melebeck as the City Prosecutor and to authorize the Mayor to execute the employment with Mr. Melebeck. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Touchet stated that the monthly fee we will pay Mr. Melebeck is \$3,000.00. Hiring these two attorneys will be a cost savings of \$41,000.00 per year.*

*Mr. Gerald Gaspard asked at what point will these attorneys charge over the cap. Mayor White stated if we ask them to do a duty that is not in the contract. There may be something that we have not yet thought about.*

*-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote from Municipal and Industrial Chlorination, LLC in the amount of \$10,275.00 for two Scaleton cylinder scale bases and a dual controller for the Water Treatment Plant to replace those that were damaged as a result of a lightning strike and to pay the expense from City Sales Tax Fund general ledger code 425600. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mayor White stated that there was a lightning strike last weekend, possibly Saturday, at the Water Treatment Plant. We have found several issues that we are working on. It has taken us a week but we have narrowed down the root cause of the alarms. A port on the PLC has been damaged. The PLC is essentially the brain of the entire automated system. This has triggered several alarms. We began using another port on the PLC and it appears to have remedied the alarm issues so far. In addition to this we have found that the trunnions and scales that hold our chlorine cylinders are damaged and that is a safety hazard to not have those in operation. We felt like this was an emergency item. Chris stated that one of the best things the Council has done is hiring Marie. She is on the top of her game. Marie has told him that our parameters have changed. She did her homework. We called in some guys to check it out and Marie was 100% right. Marie stated that we have 4 spaces where we have cylinders of chlorine and we like to have those on rolling trunnions for safety issues. We need these scales because we don't want to have an interruption in our chlorine flow. We have one scale but you will have an interruption in chlorine flow. We need to make sure that when a cylinder is empty so that we can make sure that we have another cylinder on standby. This would be the simplest and safest way. If we have these scales and trunnions in place with the rollers, once we deliver the chlorine, we can set the cylinders down and can align 6 to 12 and we don't have to touch them again until they are empty. This will reduce handling and any chance for any accident or any unforeseen problems. Having the rollers increases our safety precautions by so much. It would take two to three weeks for delivery. Mayor White stated that she did an orientation at the Water Treatment Plant a couple of weeks ago before this lightning strike and she sat with Marie and talked about her needs at the plant now, in five years and her long-term goals. We just submitted an application for over a \$1,000,000 grant for the Water Plant. At that visit, Marie told me that her most immediate need are these trunnions and scales. I asked Marie if this was part of the water sector grant and Marie stated that she did not know because no one had ever asked her what she needed. We added this as a line item in the grant before we submitted it. We couldn't foresee that the lightning strike that would take out one of the scales and that is why we are moving it ahead. Councilman Broussard asked if our insurance company has been notified. Mayor White stated they have been put on notice that we intend to file a claim.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor