

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
August 15, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 15, 2023 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. and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent
Sarah Alpough, Director of Revenue and Permits
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Willie Leger, Street Maintenance Department Foreman
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Diane Meaux Broussard, Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court
Warren Abadie, Lafayette Consolidated Government

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. She then asked Councilman Carlton Campbell to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Mrs. Diane Meaux Broussard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to ratify the appointment of William Braly, Jr. to the position of Police Office with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to accept the resignation of Nicholas Witt from the Abbeville Fire Department effective August 11, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Diane Meaux Broussard explained the new eClerks Alert System that is available for free of charge through the Clerk of Court's office. It is a personalized monitoring system for land records across Louisiana parishes.

-03 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2023 special City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of July 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the budget to actual report for the month of July 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Bertrand appeared as the representative of 210 Alleman Street. The property was cited for a dilapidated mobile home. Ms. Bertrand stated that they were going to demolish the mobile home.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to condemn the mobile home located at 210 Alleman Street and allow the owner to demolish it. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Bertrand appeared as the representative of 220 Alleman Street. The property was cited for a dilapidated structure. Ms. Bertrand stated that that are going to demolish the structure.

-07 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to condemn the structure located at 220 Alleman Street and allow the owner to demolish it. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brenda Marcombe appeared to represent the property located at 410 Chevis. The property was cited for a dilapidated mobile home. Ms. Marcombe wanted to try to fix up the mobile home in order to rent it. Mr. Chris Gautreaux stated that the structure cannot be salvaged and needs to be demolished. Ms. Marcombe asked for 60 to 90 days to make the necessary repairs to bring it up to code.

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to condemn the mobile home located at 410 Chevis and grant the owner a 30-day extension and there needs to be a lot of progress made to the mobile home or the City will have it demolished. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to table any action to award the contract for electric distribution emergency service for one year since no recommendation had yet been received from the engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the quote from Solscapes in the amount of \$12,340.00 per week to trim trees from high powered electrical lines, to authorize them to work for four weeks and to pay the expense from the Utility System Fund Reserve Account. The motion carried unanimously.

Campbell/B. Broussard
Resolution R23-24

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a servitude/easement agreement with the property owner, Libby LeBlanc, to provide utilities from the City of Abbeville to said property.

The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents in order to rent a skid steer with attachments. The equipment is on State contract. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the purchase of a trailer for the leased skid steer in the amount of \$9,212.00 and to pay the expense from the City Sales Tax Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the Mayor's execution and submittal of a Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program grant for the Abbeville Public Transit Planning and Feasibility Study. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to complete the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness form pertaining to the temporary housing and shelter assistance program. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with Sellers & Associates for Phase I-Segment 1 and Phase II-Segment 3 of the Abbeville Road Transfer Program. The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 6 (final) in the amount of \$59,919.25 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC for the Downtown Abbeville Streetscaping Project Phase II. The motion carried unanimously.

-17 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize advertisement for request for proposals for a wholesale power contract. The motion carried unanimously.

-18 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute documentation to accept the Louisiana Walkability Action Institute (WAI) Grant in the amount of \$10,000. The motion carried unanimously.

-19 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to move forward with utilizing an online bidding system to assist with lawn and grounds maintenance within the City of Abbeville. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White reminded everyone that our ordinance states that property owners should be cutting their grass up to the road. The City should not be cutting the shoulder of entire streets. We need to stop that bad practice and follow our ordinance that is based on State law.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *We finally received the final payment from the State for the LaFitte Drive-In Park Walking Trail project.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *The post tension released itself at the tennis court. The contractor is in the process of repairing the concrete free of charge.*
- *Was contacted by a company that has a new product that you spray on turf to preserve it. They would like to use Abbeville as a pilot. He will research it further and bring any information to Bart to review.*

Mayor Roslyn R. White

- *LSU AG has partnered with the City on our walkability implementation. They have purchased all the supplies for pop ups.*
- *Thanked Sellers and Associates and our legislators, especially Bob Hensgens and Ryan Bourriaque, because they got our project approved with the Water Sector program. We will receive Water Sector funds to do work at the Water Plant in the amount of \$2,345,000. The total project was submitted for \$3,307,000. We also received a \$500,000 grant from DRA for this project. The City match will be \$462,000 and we will pay that from ARPA funds.*
- *With the help of Acadiana Planning Commission the City will be working with DOTD since we were identified as a community in need of safety improvements due to vulnerable roadway safety data.*
- *Travion Moore, an apprentice lineman in the electrical department has tendered his resignation.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Stated that he has been contacted by parents of Abbeville High School and they are asking for a school resource officer. There is a student in the hospital and there are fights daily. The parents are fearful. Can we find a lower ranked officer to be an SRO at that school? Chief Hardy stated that he is in the process of working on that. He is working on it but he doesn't know how fast it can be done with the personnel he has now. He is hoping to put a post-certified officer there in the next two to three weeks. They are providing officers there every day. The officers made the arrest pertaining to the fighting that happened yesterday. He is speaking with the principal daily.*
- *There is a Famers Market this Saturday in Magdalen Square.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn W. White
Mayor