

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on December 21, 2021 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 Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members, Francis Plaisance, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: Councilwoman Terry Broussard

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce
Theresa Holmes, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration
Donna Libersat, Beanies for St. Jude
Joey Boneski

Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Joey Boneski to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Gerald Gaspard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to accept the resignation of John Castille from the Abbeville Police Department effective December 14, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Theresa Holmes was present to discuss the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. She is the Co-chairperson for the MLK Celebration Federation. They are planning to continue the motorcade as they did last year. It will be held on Monday, January 17, 2022. They will start off with a one evening revival at Ark of the Covenant on Thursday, January 13, 2022. On Saturday, January 15, 2022 they will have a prayer breakfast at Ark of the Covenant church at 9:00 AM. Then they will do a sit-in at a local church. This year it will be at Lighthouse for Jesus at noon. We will have a stump service on Monday, January 17, 2022 on the corner of I. J. Joiner and Green Street at 9:30 AM. From there we will have the motorcade on the route as outlined by the Police Department. After that they will go to McKinley Scott Park for the celebration. We will keep it very small because of COVID. Mayor Piazza stated they are not required to have a special event permit because it is a reoccurring event. We give book scholarships with any donations they receive for the event and also pay for application fees for students applying to local schools.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to enter into a public hearing to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed 2022 budget and the amended 2021 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the proposed 2022 budget or the amended 2021 budget. There were none.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plaisance/White
Ordinance 21-09**

An ordinance adopting the 2022 Budget and the amended 2021 budget.

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

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

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted.

**Plaisance/White
Resolution R21-47**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with Vermilion Catholic High School to loan two glass backboards with rims to the school.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Touchet/White
Resolution R21-48**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Crowley for the purchase of a used Printronix printer in the amount of \$1,500 to be utilized in the Utility Collection Department at City Hall.

The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of the invoice from Delta Fire & Safety in the amount of \$9,553.80 for repairs to the Fire Department Aerial Truck. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to surplus up to 182 broken and/or obsolete lights that were taken down at A. A. Comeaux Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to surplus various sets of bleachers that were at A. A. Comeaux Park and to cut those up and send to scrap iron salvage. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/White
Resolution R21-49

A resolution authorizing the surplus of various bleachers from A. A. Comeaux Park and to also authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish School Board to donate said bleachers to J. H. Williams Middle School and Erath High School.

The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the purchase of body cameras from Stalker Radar Applied Concepts, Inc. in the amount of \$7,885.00 for the Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$12,266.80 payable to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC for the cleaning of the concrete lined coulee project. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Touchet
Resolution R21-50

A resolution authorizing the City of Abbeville to join with the State of Louisiana, et al, as a participant in opioid litigation and to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/White
Amended Resolution R21-43

A resolution to amend the original 2022 Holiday schedule resolution adopted at the December 7, 2021 meeting because there was an error with one of the dates.

The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *The contractor began the walking trail at LaFitte Park.*

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *Most of the work that was to be done by the drainage board on the two channels has been completed.*
- *Met with Tommy Picard regarding the research of the feasibility of RV spots at Comeaux Park.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *He discussed the statistics of the calls received for 2021. They had 8,958 calls so far this year. That will definitely go over 9,000 calls by the end of the year.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Discussed the calls in the last 30 days. They ran 156 calls. Jared Ruffin has completed school. There was a split on the water tank truck on Joffre. That is being repaired. The Lucas machine that was purchased has been used 50 times.*

Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant

- *Presented the social media year in review for 2021.*
- *Will be working with the Nehemiah Group for the Black History month campaign.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She hopes everyone has a blessed holiday.*
- *Thanked everybody who showed up and participated in the Christmas event that we had since our last City Council meeting. She gave props and appreciation for the City team, the City Police Force and the Fire Department. She received nothing but high compliments on all of your services that you provided. We put Chris through the wringer and he worked hard to make things happen. The general public commented on how well the City team performed.*
- *She did get a lot of people thanking us for starting up the social media page. They really appreciate the increased communication from City Hall. Allie, good job, keep it up. She would like to see us channel all of our posts through the City page so that people will get updates all in one place. We will work on that for 2022.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *We are at the time of the year of political candidates and elections. It is a good time to remind the public that signs on public property are prohibited. Signs are for private property and hopefully we can come up with the best approach to call the candidate to remove it from City property or to have our employees pick them up and bring them here and then we can call the candidate. Councilman Touchet stated that it needs to be defined that the public right of way is from the telephone post back to the road. Anything that is in that area is preventing our workers from cleaning things that are our responsibility. His suggestion is that we need to make sure our Public Works Director communicates to our City workers who are picking up litter and cutting grass about this. We need to call the candidate and if they do not move the sign, then the sign will be picked up. We need a system in place that after a grace period of people knowing that their sign is not properly placed that they will be removed. Chris Gautreaux asked if Allie could put that on social media.*
- *This is the time of the year to think of our fellow man and our fellow woman. It is the time to think about the most vulnerable who are our children. There is a great thing happening in our City and he invites everyone to join him, January 29, 2022, Beanies for St. Jude at Magdalen Place. This is putting money where it needs to go to save children's lives. We have some warriors in our City who devote activities to support St. Jude and save children's lives. He recognized Donna Libersat tonight who will be at that event. If we don't do things to save children, our roads and sidewalks don't matter as much. You can contact Donna for tickets and it is also on our Facebook page. Mayor Piazza asked Allie to put the information on our page too.*
- *Wished everyone Merry Christmas and health and happiness to all the citizens of Abbeville who deserve nothing less.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He would like everyone to all be in prayer for those who have lost loved ones this year. There are a lot of families who are grieving this Christmas.*
- *Was surprised this morning when he saw that the contractor had begun the walking trail at LaFitte Park. They were not supposed to start until January 17, 2022.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor