

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on January 4, 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 Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

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

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA
Joey Boneski
Mike Hardy
April Harrison, Manager of Bourbon Street Deli

Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Joey Boneski to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Chief Bill Spearman to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the Council personnel interview meeting held on December 7, 2021, the Committee meeting held on December 7, 2021 and the regular City Council meetings held on December 7, 2021 and December 21, 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.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the purchase of radios from Premier Wireless in the amount of \$13,374.40 for the Abbeville Police Department. The radios are under state contract. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote from Techline in the amount of \$8,934.81 for poles for stock. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 1 in the amount of \$54,413.41 payable to Patriot Construction for the LaFitte Park Walking Trail project. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve change order number 1 relative to the LaFitte Park Walking Trail project. The change order does not change the contract price. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve payment of estimate for partial payment #3 (final) payable to Glenn Lege Construction in the amount of \$12,582.34 for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street milling and overlay. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve change order #2 relative to the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street milling and overlay project. The change order reduces the contract price in the amount of \$75.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve a special event permit to hold the Vermilion Walk for Life on January 22, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and to waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents to lease a backhoe for 5 years, with an option to purchase after the term of the lease, for the water department. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote from Preferred Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$13,500.00 for bores for lighting at Roy Theriot Field and Ralph Sellers Field. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize advertisement for bids for the 2021 LCDBG Sewer System Improvements project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated this is a project estimated to cost \$1.5 million. The grant is \$1,000,000 and we will utilize \$500,000 from the ARPA funds. The project will aid the west side of the City and will increase the sewer capacity.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *He and Stewart had a debriefing regarding how they could have been more efficient and what could have been done different, regarding the emergency at Felicity Substation. We will need to cut the trees to install the new transformer when it comes in. They filled out the sabotage report together. Stewart is in the process of pricing a transformer. That may take five to twelve months to get a replacement. They will be meeting with the insurance adjuster tomorrow. Mayor Piazza stated that the transformer is not readily available so in the meantime we are getting prices from an electrical contractor to run a connection line to Gertrude. That will happen pretty quickly. We will need a price and we also need to know who can get here the fastest. Stewart stated once they begin work it will take about 2 days to run the line. Chris asked if we still need three quotes since an emergency declaration has been issued. Mayor Piazza stated that we will have to talk to Harvey Dubois about that regarding a price for a turn key job to replace the transformer. That way it is a public works contract and we would not need to go out for bids. Councilman Touchet stated that we need to talk about how we will protect our infrastructure in the future. We will need a master plan for that. Mayor Piazza stated that he has already reached out to Mike Marcotte. He has a few suggestions and Harvey*

works with a lot of big providers and we are researching all avenues. He thanked Stewart and his crew for their hard work and efforts on this.

- *Since 12/1/2021, the water department has repaired 33 water leaks in the City. They have two pending. They are keeping a log. Those guys get out there and they hustle to get them done.*
- *He is working with Councilwoman White on Graceland. We have a problem with about 160 feet of line there. We are working in conjunction with the Police Jury to replace the line and getting them to overlay that intersection. It is a 2-inch galvanized line. It is not on the map and we are not sure if it feeds anyone. Mr. Gene will assist us to put a tracer on it to see if it does feed anybody. If it doesn't then we can cap it on both ends and eliminate that problem. There have been about 8 repairs in that one section. It is time we do something. Councilwoman White stated that we will dig up the line and either abandon it if we can and if not, we will cut it out and put a good piece of pipe so we don't have to break the road again. Juror Wayne Touchet and Juror Paul Bourgeois both will assist in the overlay of the street once the repair is complete. We need to make sure whatever is going on, sub-surface, is taken care of first.*
- *Bihm Construction put in the by-pass at the wastewater treatment plant. They are there now to complete the cleaning of the main lift station. There are a lot of debris like bricks, gravel, 2X4's and other stuff. That money will be well spent. We are paying for this from the ARPA funds.*
- *The last couple of weeks the sewer crew have been working on locating a strong sewer smell on Lorraine and Odea. They found grease plugs in both areas and remove those to alleviate the smell.*
- *Somebody used to come get our construction waste and other debris at the City Barn. They no longer need it so they haven't picked that up in years. We are at a point now that we can't hardly turn trucks around there. He has eliminated a lot of trash from going in there since he started. We are now hauling tires to the solid waste plant. During the day, people just drive by and throw trash. If the gates are locked, they throw it at the door. It is becoming a big problem and we need that placed cleaned up. He has plans to keep it clean. He has exhausted all of the avenues of people coming to get it for free. He has received quotes and they range from \$65,000 to \$35,000. The Police Jury will not accept it. It is hard to get rid of concrete and blacktop. The solid waste plant will not take it. We need to make the yard more presentable and he will need help from the City Council. Mayor Piazza stated that it has been almost 10 years since we had a company who would pick up the debris. The construction debris comes from repairs, sidewalks and utility repairs. We can pay for some of the clean up from sales tax. He will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.*

Tommy Picard, Public Works Director, QSA

- *Chris sent a crew to clean up Sellers Field. We will need more concrete there.*
- *Dominic, with LISCO, will start work on January 13, 2022.*
- *Kaplan is interested in the old bleachers and perhaps Delcambre too. Erath and Abbeville High do not want them.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Thanked Chris for all he does. He is doing a great job.*
- *Recognized April Harrison. She is the manager of Bourbon Street Deli and she has recently been named as the top manager out of 7 Bourbon Street Deli's.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Discussed the upcoming MLK Activities. They will be having the Stump Service, Monday, 1/17/22 beginning at 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM at the corner of Green and I. J. Joiner. They will have a motorcade on Monday, 1/17/22, beginning at 10:30 AM until 11:00 AM. You can line up at Pleasant Green Baptist Church for the motorcade. The motorcade will conclude at McKinley Scott Park at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The Black History display will be from 1/11/22-2/25/22 at the Vermilion Cultural and Alliance Center. They will have a one-night revival on Thursday, 1/13/22 at 7:00 PM at 210 S. St. Valerie. The celebration breakfast will be Saturday, 1/15/22 at 8:30 AM. This will take place at the Ark of the Covenant Church at 210 S. St. Valerie. Sunday they will have a church service at Lighthouse Missionary Baptist Church on the corner of Martin Luther King and Cuba Street.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Recognized Shirley Bertrand, Stewart and the rest of the electrical crew and Chris and his crews. It is one of our brightest days when we have such a response to such a crisis.*
- *The turf will be in on 1/10/22. They will install that and then the fields will take color and get closer to completion.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *After doing a thirty-hour shift and getting the City back on power, the electrical crew was out again Saturday and Sunday morning restoring power that outage occurred due to some broken poles. They worked through their holiday and through their vacations. Some people were very upset and short-tempered, as they should be for being without power, but these guys and ladies don't go to sleep and stay up in order to get power restored. It is very important to recognize that.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor