

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on October 19, 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., Terry 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  
Retired Lieutenant Jason Hebert  
Ann Hardy, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent  
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Superintendent  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA  
Megan Pearson Bertrand  
Mike Hardy, former Chief of Police  
Joey Boneski, former Police Lieutenant

*Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Joey Boneski to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Mike Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the probational appointment of Chris Gautreaux to the vacant position of Public Works Director pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments and to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the salary and start date with Mr. Gautreaux. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the appointment of Clarence Daniels to the position of Firefighter with the Abbeville Fire Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the appointments of Buddy Rumble and Hunter Lange to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza stated Ms. Megan Pearson Bertrand and her Dad and the Vermilion Art Council along with Charlene Becket and some other helpers, painted the splashpad that our kids have enjoyed at Comeaux Park. They volunteered to do it and they did a fantastic job. It took two years in the making to build this splashpad and we were in a dilemma about who was going to*

*paint the bottom because we had all kinds of different ideas about the design and how we were going to do it. Megan came up with a very creative design and went out there during the hot summer days along with her Dad and Charlene and painted the bottom of the splashpad. It really made the splashpad. It was a great addition and the kids have really enjoyed it. We can't thank Megan enough for her efforts. As a token of our appreciation, we will give Megan a key to our City and her Dad, Brad will receive a certificate of appreciation for his hard work and dedication.*

*Mayor Piazza recognized Lieutenant Jason Hebert who recently retired from the Abbeville Police Department. Mayor Piazza stated that Lieutenant Hebert is very special to the City and worked for the City for many years. He was a confidante to him when he needed questions answered and he didn't know who to turn to when we had issues out there. Our police department is overworked and underpaid. They work long hours through everything. They are out there with the bad guys with guns and their job is not any fun. It is a thankless job and everybody complains about the Police Department. He gets more phone calls because of police issues but everybody wants good police enforcement as long as it's not their kid. It is a tough job. When you are at the level where Jason was, a lieutenant in the detective department, he is dealing with the worst of the worst. They are out there with guns and doing all kinds of horrible things that we can't even imagine. Mayor Piazza says he is sitting at his house at the other end of town and he doesn't see any of this stuff. These guys are right in the middle of it. They do it day in and day out and they don't complain. Jason has never come into his office to complain. He always came in to help him out and give him information and to give encouraging words that they were out there doing their jobs and that they had it under control and we just needed to give them time to do their job. The job was going to get done. A lot of times their hands are tied because they have to deal with the courts, judges and district attorney's office. They go out there and arrest the guy and the next thing they know is the guy is loose and back on the streets doing the same thing. Mayor Piazza stated that he wished that there was something more he could give Jason than just a plaque and a hand shake. Mayor Piazza read the certificate aloud. The certificate is awarded to Lieutenant Jason Hebert in honor of his dedication and contribution over the past 26 years to the Abbeville Police Department and the City of Abbeville. Congratulations on your retirement.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to deviate from the agenda to add a construction project for street patching as new business item number 16. 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.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a special event permit for the Abbeville High School Band Boosters to hold a Glo Run on December 4, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a Class B liquor permit for Smoke N Go #402 located at 1202 Veterans Memorial Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a Class B liquor permit for Smoke N Go #405 located at 201 S. State Street. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Broussard/T. Broussard**  
**Resolution R21-36**

*A resolution requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2022-2023 Capital Outlay Program.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to submit the names of Wayne Touchet and Corey Lege to fill one vacancy on the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board created by the expiring term of Mr. Wayne LeBleu. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve change order #1 for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street Milling and overlay. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of partial payment #2 in the amount of \$9,661.50 payable to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street milling and overlay project.

**Touchet/T. Broussard  
Resolution R21-37**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the notice of acceptance for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street milling and overlay project.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of partial payment #5, in the amount of \$9,470.08, and partial payment #6(final) in the amount of \$25,452.98, both payable to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC for the Abbeville Flood Damage Reduction Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the payment of the invoice from Versalift Southwest in the amount of \$5,801.76 to repair the bucket truck in the electrical department. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn white to approve the quotation from Vulcan Industries in the amount of \$17,864.00 to repair stair screen #1 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a quotation from F & R Air Conditioning in the amount of \$5,855.67 to replace the air conditioner at Fire Substation #1 on the Bypass. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the quote from Superior Service in the amount of \$159,750.00 to replace rotor #3 and #5 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza stated we are planning on using some of the American Rescue Plan Funds for this project. We will need a written scope of work in writing for our files and we also still need to receive the final ruling from the Treasury Department of how the money can be used. We are*

*reluctant to spend any of that money until then. Kim Touchet said we have 45 days to award the contract.*

-16 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$14,617.50 payable to Southern Power Systems for repairs to Pete Noel Electrical Substation. The motion carried unanimously.

-17 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 4 in the amount of \$61,288.30 payable to Elliott Construction, LLC for the Rehabilitation of the Runway and Partial Taxiway project. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza stated he had received two bids for street patching. One was from T & T Asphalt in the amount of \$26,750.00 and one from Glenn Lege Construction in the amount of \$26,651.00. The bids are so close that he wanted to be able speak to the low bidder to see when they could begin the work. Glenn Lege Construction is very busy. The other contractor has stated they can move in within 14 days.*

-18 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to award the bid for the street patching project to the low bidder, Glenn Lege, unless they cannot get to us in a timely manner and if they cannot then to award the project to T & T Asphalt. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Gene Sellers stated that we have been awarded the additional money from the State for the LaFitte Park walking trail. That brings our grant funds to \$110,000.00. The City funds budgeted are \$50,000.00 so we have a project budget of \$160,000.00. The low bidder is Patriot Construction for a concrete walking trail in the amount of \$148,000.00.*

-19 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to award the contract for the LaFitte Walking Trail project to the low bidder Patriot Construction in the amount of \$148,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Forwarded documents to the Council regarding some ordinances as per the request of Councilman Broussard.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *Discussed call responded to in the last two weeks. 337 calls were responded to.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Have two out on sick leave.*
- *Discussed air conditioning problems at some stations.*
- *Discussed calls responded to in last two weeks.*

Comeaux Park Renovation Committee

- *Councilman Broussard stated the committee, the Mayor and the Park Director has started meeting with the entities in the City that will feel immediate effects from these tournaments. They will meet with hotels and restaurants and we will get everybody notified at to what these guests to our City will expect and what they are used to by traveling the State of Louisiana. We are working with Don Simpson, the sports engineer, preparing for selection of the companies who will do the work. We had a very good*

meeting this week with the VC baseball coach, Abbeville baseball coach and the Abbeville softball coach. We are starting to meet with the community and the people who will be directly affected by this industry. Councilman Touchet stated that we know Abbeville High plays at Theriot and Vermilion Catholic plays at Sellers and we know that softball plays at Luquette and Delcambre. We will prioritize those fields and will begin construction there first. We will have foul lines turfed too. There will be little to no maintenance as far as going from one game to another. The coaches that came were very excited. We will have discussions with them regarding field usage. We will update the Council later regarding usage fees. It will cost for usage. We have high schools using our fields. If they play at their own high school, the Vermilion Parish School Board, pays for that electricity. When they use Theriot Field, the citizens of Abbeville are paying for that. The same goes for Vermilion Catholic. They are in negotiations and we will need to talk about that and bring it to the table. We can't just give electricity. That is what we have been doing a lot of. We can't let the citizens pay for that. We will have to work on that. Councilwoman White asked them to not forget about Harvestime. They play there too. Councilman Broussard stated that the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, Steve Delino, is at the school and has committed to work with the City any way possible. Councilwoman White stated she had received a call about the people who live on Westview. Please consider them when we turn Badon field into parking. You have to take A. A. Comeaux to get to that street. Councilman Touchet stated we will be able to have economic development and our area teams will be able to play on those fields. If they have to go somewhere else, they have to pay to use those fields and when people start getting wind of us having these fields, the phone will be ringing. We will need to provide help to Tommy for this. Tommy stated he has a program that he would like the Mayor to look at for this. Every Council person could go online and see the schedule. He has a meeting scheduled with the company.

#### Councilwoman Roslyn White

- We received our goals back from the Louisiana Development Ready Community Program. There will be a town hall meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be an all-day thing and the committee will move around to speak to different groups. The State team that does the town hall meeting will participate in it. The State puts it on and it is their personnel that runs it. She will be getting with Allie to put out some social media blasts and flyers at City Hall.
- December 11, 2021 there will be 2 separate celebrations in conjunction with each other in the City. The Boys and Girls Club will do a holiday light trail around A. A. Comeaux. They will decorate the circular drive and you can pull in to see Christmas lights. At the same time, Rotary will be hosting the Christmas parade. It will be an Abbeville Cajun Christmas celebration. They are looking at vendors and a band afterwards in the Square. She will bring more details as they become available.

#### Councilman Francis Plaisance

- In a recent conversation with Michael Domingue, with the State, in the Mayor's office over the phone, he said we had a great project at LaFitte Park and he will try to secure more grant funds for us in the future.
- We are waiting on the response for the grant application in the amount of \$400,000 for the fishing piers at LaFitte Park.
- We received a grant from AARP for the walking trail and exercise stations at LaFitte Park and the award was in their national magazine.
- The developments at Comeaux Park will be outstanding and will be great for our community and for economic development. He had a meeting with Tommy Picard and

*Troy Hebert and they will meet again tomorrow on the possibility of bringing the whole soccer program from North Vermilion to LaFitte Park. That will generate a lot of interest there. There would be a tremendous amount of people that would come to that.*

- *We have a 50-acre park and there is a lot of potential at that park. We have people who are looking at doing RC boat races in the pond and RC car races once the walking trail has been completed. Anybody who says we don't have a recreation program here is mistaken because there has been tremendous improvement with the recreation program. He complimented all those involved in the Comeaux Park renovation committee and hopefully they can get behind him as we continue to progress at LaFitte Park. Tommy stated that there are some fishing clubs at the schools and they might like to do a fishing rodeo at the pond. Councilman Touchet stated all we want is people coming in and spending money.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor