

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
August 1, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 1, 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. and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Mike Hardy, Police Chief  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks  
Sarah Alpough, Director of Revenue and Permits  
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant  
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer  
Theresa Trahan, Public Works employee  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA  
Kelly Smith, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals  
Warren Abadie, Lafayette Consolidated Government

*Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. She then asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Chief Mike Hardy 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. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify the appointment of Mr. Bryan Fisher to the unclassified position of Code Enforcement Officer at a beginning annual salary of \$40,000. Mr. Fisher will begin on August 17, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2023 Committee Meeting and regular City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White began a discussion pertaining to open air markets. She has received two requests for open air markets on private property. The first request came from Mr. Young on Charity and the other request came from Mr. Baudoin at the old Stine's parking lot. These types of activities fall under the jurisdiction of Louisiana Health and Hospitals. We have met a few times with Kelly Smith with LDHH regarding this. Councilman Hardy stated that he received a phone call last week about this. He feels like if we make all the food trucks go through the board of health then he needed this to be brought before the City Council since it is similar. Mr. Gerard Baudoin stated that he submitted an application for a permit for a Farmers and Artisans Market. He would like to hold that weekly. He was told that, because of the recommendation of the Board*

*of Health, the City only allows one Farmers Market once a month. He also spoke to Ms. Kelly. She said that because of the risk to the City, because of food being served, she recommended to the City that the Farmers Market only be allowed once a month. He currently holds three permits with LDHH so he understands the need for food safety. He doesn't really want the Farmers Market to sell food. The only food sold would be from permitted food trucks. Mayor White stated then what you really want is a Food Truck Lot. Mr. Baudoin has also been working on a Food Truck Lot permit. Mr. Baudoin stated that he is working with Mr. Chris Gautreaux for the Food Truck Lot but he wants both the Food Truck lot and the Farmers Market on a weekly basis. Mayor White stated that the City of Abbeville holds the Farmers Market on public property. That is hosted by a group of volunteers once a month. That is why this is different since Mr. Baudoin is wanting to do this one on private property. Ms. Kelly Smith stated that if you sell fruits and vegetables that you grow at home, you can sell those without a permit, as long as they are unprocessed. That is the State law. If you are processing them, that is totally different. If you are purchasing the fruit and vegetables from someone else to sell that is different too. Both of those require a permit. A produce permit is not the same as a food truck permit. It is not as stringent as a food truck permit. Mr. Baudoin stated that he has not yet turned in his food truck lot permit application but will do so once he gets things situated with Chris as far as electricity. He has to have that for the food truck lot but, right now, he would just like to begin the Farmers Market. Mayor White stated that there is a state law about low-risk foods. Certain products can be sold without a license and they don't fall under the Board of Health or City permitting. A tart lady that bakes tarts at home would need to be permitted through LDHH. Mr. Baudoin stated that he would only allow vendors permitted through the Board of Health. He is very interested in also having artisans that make crafts. Mayor White asked about the restroom requirements. Ms. Kelly Smith stated that the City's engineers would have to decide how many restrooms would be required. LDHH requires that the employees of a food truck have a place to wash their hands on the food truck. Mr. Kim Touchet stated that they would have to submit plans to him and they would make the recommendation regarding restrooms. He would need the plan and the layout of the lot. Mayor White asked Mr. Baudoin and Mr. Young to submit their plans to the Tax Department. Action will be taken at a later meeting when the plans have been submitted and reviewed and the permitting process is in place since this request for a Farmers Market is on private property and our permitting process, we have in place right now, is for a Farmers Market on public property.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the renewal of life insurance from The Hartford effective September 1, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to award the contract for the New Fishing Pier and Wharf Project at LaFitte Drive-In Park to Southern Constructors with a change order to reduce the project scope to be within the budgeted funds, contingent upon approval from the Office of Community Development. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to table the request to approve payment of partial payment number 6 (final) for the release of retainage with a punch payable to Southern Constructors relative to the Abbeville Streetscaping Project since the paperwork is not yet ready. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Minvielle & Associates for grant administrative consulting services relative to the line item appropriation of Act 397 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature in the amount of \$750,000 to the City of Abbeville allocated

to Highway 82( North State Street and North St. Charles Street). The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Minvielle & Associates for ongoing grant applications and consultant services on an as need basis. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify payment of the invoice from Ray Chevrolet in the amount of \$9,025.98 to repair Unit 599 in the Police Department. The unit needed a remanufactured engine and two new batteries. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the replacement of the #2 effluent backwash valve and controller at the Water Treatment Plant at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to move forward with the acquisition of a vehicle for the new Code Enforcement Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White began a discussion pertaining to the utilization of an online bidding system to assist with lawn and grounds maintenance within the City of Abbeville. Lafayette Consolidated Government utilizes a software system called Go Mow. They have shared that software with us. We would utilize this to accept bids to maintain grass on public and private property. It is our recommendation to do the public grass cutting bids on an annual basis although we can award it on a per cut basis. She introduced Mr. Warren Abadie who created the software. Mr. Abadie stated that it breaks down barriers for those who want to cut grass but feel like the government process is too cumbersome. You register as a vendor with the proper insurance on the system and you receive access to the software. It manages every piece of grass cutting procurement. The City would upload the map and specifications for the property that they have to cut. The contractor logs in and the property goes up for bid and the bidding is open. Everyone can see how much the winning price is and the contractor can decide if he wants to beat that price or not. If someone bids too close to the closing of the bid, the bid time is automatically extended. That way they can't undercut each other. It manages who has what bid and it manages multiple contracts. It makes the contractor upload pictures to insure they did the work they said they were going to do. It is being used in Lafayette, Ascension Parish and Livingston successfully. Mayor White stated that Chris and Theresa have been granted access to the software. Chris stated that it would help the small grass cutting contractors. If the Council agrees to move forward with this software, they would have a workshop to introduce the program to the contractors. Theresa stated that the program does everything for you. You map it, show the specifications necessary, they can check it out and then bid on it. If you bid, you have to bid at least \$10 less than the previous bid. It is a very easy program to understand and use. Mayor White stated that we can also authorize when to cut it. We can also bid out multiple cuts. We can also send a notification of when the parcel needs to be cut. Our current ordinance reads, and that comes from State law, that the landowner is responsible for maintaining their grass, even if there is a sidewalk, up to the road. Sometime in the history of the City, we have gotten into the habit of cutting whole roads and maintaining those roads. Part of this process, will have to be going back to what our ordinance says and educating people by telling them that they need to be maintaining the grass. We shouldn't be cutting an entire street. We can cancel the contract at any time if we are not satisfied. Using this, we should be able to get the best price and will allow us to hire more vendors. Councilwoman Broussard*

*stated that she would like to review the information presented tonight prior to making a decision.*

*-11 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to table any action until the next meeting to move forward with utilizing an online bidding system to assist with lawn and ground maintenance within the City of Abbeville so that the Council Members can review the information presented tonight. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director, stated that the Splash Pad will only be open on weekends beginning August 10, 2023. They will order the parts for the Water Treatment Plant and he discussed the UVA system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

*Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator for QSA, stated that soccer and flag football registration is now open. He also distributed a field usage report for February 2023 through July 2023.*

*Mayor Roslyn White showed the First Year Video, Imagine Abbeville, created by Austin Bellaire.*

*Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant, discussed the Facebook and Instagram stats since she began posting to those. She has also been doing videos on Tiktok.*

*Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. asked Chris Gautreaux to have political signs on public property removed.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor