

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
November 21, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 21, 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, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: Councilwoman Terry Broussard

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Mike Hardy, Police Chief  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Doris Langlinois, Assistant Fire Chief  
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks  
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant  
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Byron Dozier, QSA Parks & Recreation Coordinator  
Nikki Vidos, VEDA, Cajun Christmas Celebration  
Kayla Link, VEDA  
Lauren Trahan, Nehemiah Project  
Rob Roy, Abbeville Rotary Club  
Joey Arceneaux, to complain about his neighbor

*Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked Ms. Lauren Trahan to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Assistant Fire Chief Doris Langlinois 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.*

*Ms. Nikki Vidos announced that the annual Cajun Christmas Celebration is scheduled for December 9, 2023. She discussed the various planned activities associated with the Celebration. There will also be a food court, vendors and a parade. Mr. Rob Roy also discussed the car show held in conjunction with the Celebration.*

*Ms. Kayla Link was recently appointed as the Economic Development Liaison with the Vermilion Economic Development Alliance. She was at the meeting to introduce herself and to discuss upcoming events that will be held in January 2024.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the budget to actual report for October 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Joey Arceneaux had requested to be on the agenda to complain about the condition of his neighbor's property at 819 N. Shireview. Mr. Arceneaux stated that he moved here two years ago and has been complaining about the condition of the property for the last year and one-half. He has been in contact with Councilman Broussard about the situation. He distributed*

*pictures and has been working with Bryan Fisher. Mr. Arceneaux discussed his complaints in great detail and does not believe enough is being done. He also complained that the dog is not on a leash. Mayor White stated that we have a leash law and the dog has to be on a leash even in your yard unless you keep them in a fenced in area. Chief Hardy stated that the cars have been tagged. They have been moved since then but the cars that are there now are different. Mrs. Landry was at the meeting to represent her brother, Dale Lee who is the property owner. The tent that Mr. Arceneaux was speaking about was in her yard and as soon as she received the complaint, she picked up the tent. There are only three vehicles now and there is not trash all over the yard because it has been cleaned. Mr. Bryan Fisher stated that both parties are somewhat correct. He visited the property and spoke to the individual. He tagged some vehicles. He reinspected the property a few days later and the grass had been cut and some of the vehicles were gone. It looked as though he was repairing the vehicles that were there. He received another complaint again so he went out to inspect the property. The grass had been continued to be cut but there were a few additional infractions. There were tires at the road, a few vehicles and a couple of boat trailers. Mrs. Landry stated that the tires are to be picked up. Mayor White informed them that the Police Jury will not pick up tires. You have to take those directly to the dump. The limit is 5 per day and you have to show a pictured ID to prove that you are a resident of the parish. We will cite anyone found to be putting tires on the side of the road. Mr. Scott Landry stated that he is the brother-in-law of Dale Lee. His brother-in-law struggles both mentally, emotionally and physically every day. He gets things given to him from other people to repair and sell. They want to move forward with this issue. Mr. Landry will work with Councilman Broussard and will ask him to come out and visit with him so that he can tell us what looks right. Public nuisance is very subjective. We will work on it and address it on behalf of my brother-in-law. Councilman Broussard stated that he would go visit with the Landry's with Bryan to get the issue handled.*

*Mr. Rob Roy stated that he would like to have 3 cameras that would live stream through the City of Abbeville website. One camera would be on City Hall and the other two would be in the Square. The cost of the hardware is \$5,184.85 and Rotary would pay ½ of the expense. Rotary would ask the City to pay the \$75.00 per month hosting fee. The Rotary would also like the feed to be on their website too. Councilman Touchet asked about the City partnering on this venture. Bart stated that he would have to research it to see if it serves a public benefit. Councilman Touchet stated that the City could just take on this project ourselves. Mayor White stated that the Rotary could just make a donation to the City and it would be a City project. Bart would have to give his legal opinion. Ms. Lauren Trahan stated that a live stream is wide open. There is no way to edit it. Waivers may have to be completed.*

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to allow the live streaming for events downtown to be a City Project once Bart delivers his legal opinion and to move forward if appropriate. The motion carried unanimously.

**912 S. Lyman** – *Ms. Shartamia Williams appeared to represent the property for her mother and father. It is their intention to try to renovate the mobile home but her father is ill. Mr. Bryan Fisher stated that the mobile home is too far in disrepair to be repaired and contains a lot of bad areas. Ms. Williams stated that she will get with her parents and then advise Bryan. They will tear down the mobile home themselves.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to condemn the structure at 912 S. Lyman and to allow the property owner to tear down the structure. If no progress is made, then the property will go out for bid for demolition. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to award the contract for the demolition of the structure located at 821 Alphonse to the low bidder, Lawnmasters, in the amount of \$6,800.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to award the contract for the demolition of the structure located at 608 Hawthorne to the low bidder, Savoy's Excavation and Demolition, LLC, in the amount of \$3,495.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the acceptance of the quote from Glenn Lege Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$44,398.42 to overlay about 600 feet of road on North Airport Road and to pay the expense from the Airway Industrial Park Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Touchet/Hardy**

#### **Resolution R23-35**

*A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury for the overlay of about 600 feet of road on North Airport Road whereby the Vermilion Parish Police Jury will contribute \$10,000.00 towards the cost of the project.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to table the request to grant a variance for the landscaping for the free-standing sign for State Farm located at 101 S. St. Charles Street. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White provided an update on the St. Theresa Holy Family Center. The City obtained an appraisal of the property. The members of the congregation have decided to keep the center.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works and Parks Director

- *Go mow program has started. The crews are cleaning the railroad track. The tennis court fence is back up. They are still working on the ADA compliance project at the park.*

Bryon Dozier, Park and Recreation Coordinator for QSA

- *Flag football has been delayed due to the weather. They will begin basketball next week. There will be a Toys for Tots tournament on December 2, 2023 and December 3, 2023.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *There was a town hall meeting held last week for the Complete Streets project. We will be installing the demonstration on December 15, 2023 and December 16, 2023. It will remain up for one month. After that we will gather feedback.*
- *On November 27, 2023 there will be a State of the Community breakfast at Pincher's in Maurice beginning at 8:00 AM. It is hosted by the chamber.*
- *Capital outlay requests are due by April 1, 2024. We will apply for streets, electrical grid upgrades and water plant upgrades. LCDBG applications were due last week. We applied for upgrades to the sewer system on the northeast side of the city and to add SCADA.*
- *LITA Corp has assigned us some grant writers. We are looking at Department of Energy grants and the needs of our sewer plant.*

- *We are working on the 2024 budget.*

Doris Langlinais, Assistant Fire Chief

- *They will continue with the fire hydrant painting project. The fire training building will be completed by the end of the week. Mayor White asked Chief Langlinais if the fire department can assist them with street washing for the pop-up demonstration.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Asked Chief Hardy to look into kids riding 4-wheelers in town early in the morning.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Christmas Stroll will be held on December 7, 2023 and the Cajun Christmas Celebration will be held on December 9, 2023.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *He has met with the City Attorney to make sure he can continue his position of Councilman since he has been appointed the Superintendent of Lafayette Parish schools. The City Attorney has confirmed with the Attorney General and the Ethics Board that he can continue to do both. He will continue to work with the Mayor and City Council.*

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to enter into executive session to discuss prospective litigation after formal demand by the Abbeville Police Department regarding pay increases. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White explained that the executive session was held to discuss prospective litigation after formal demand letter by the Abbeville Police Department regarding pay increases. No decision was made. She turned the floor over to Bart Broussard. Bart stated that he received a demand letter from an attorney on behalf of the Abbeville Police Department. Certain police officers not the entire police department. He will need the Council to instruct him on how to respond to the letter. We will need a motion to either reject or accept their demand.*

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize our legal council to draft a letter to reject the demand on behalf of the police officers. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(Campbell, B. Broussard, Touchet)  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 1(Hardy)  
ABSENT: 1(T. Broussard)

Therefore, the motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor