

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on July 6, 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  
Clay Menard, Public Works Director  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Richard Minvielle, Grant Consultant  
Pastor Steve Delino, Parks and Recreation Board  
Tommy Picard, Park Director, QSA  
Ron Bordelon-Pan American Engineers for Murphy Oil

*Mayor Piazza asked Pastor Steve Delino to lead those assembled 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. Roslyn White to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2021 and June 15, 2021 regular City Council meeting, the June 15, 2021 Personnel Interview meeting and the June 15, 2021 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of June 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza asked if there are any comments from the public on any agenda item. There were none.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the contract for Phase II of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program to demolish two structures to the low bidder, Home Industry Disposal Company (HIDCO) in the amount of \$17,600.00. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(Plaisance, B. Broussard, Touchet)  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 1(T. Broussard)  
Abstain: 1(White)

Therefore, the motion carried.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the contract for Phase III of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program for asbestos abatement and

demolition of seven structures to the low bidder, Vermilion Shell & Limestone in the amount of \$134,400.00. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

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

Therefore, the motion carried.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to enter into a public hearing to receive comments for a proposed ordinance to amend Section 10-67, Penalties; pertaining a special event permitting. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing**

*Ms. Marilyn Mitchell asked for an explanation of the ordinance. Mr. Funderburk stated this ordinance would put some teeth into the special event permit ordinance so that if anyone sponsors, organizes or hosts an event without complying with the special event permit ordinance they will be fined not less than \$250 and no more than \$500 for the first offense and/or incarcerated for not more than 60 days or both. Then it telescopes up to \$750 then up to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses. For the purpose of this provision: any action taken by a person which facilitates a non-permitted event or encourages another person to attend a non-permitted event shall be deemed to be a sponsor, organizer or host of the event. Ms. Mitchell asked if she has a party at her house and people come to her party, will this affect her. Mayor Piazza stated no unless it flows into a public street. This pertains to public property not on your own private property. Ms. Mitchell asked if this is pertaining to a block party. The Mayor stated that is correct.*

-06 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.

### **Touchet/B. Broussard Ordinance 21-05**

*An ordinance to amend Section 10-67 Penalties: pertaining to special event permitting.*

*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 motion carried.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve a speed limit reduction from 25 MPH to 15 MPH beginning 150 feet from the western boundary through 150 feet from the eastern boundary of Sam's Kids Safari located at 2761 Rodeo Road. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to surplus a seized 2009 Buick Enclave CXL that was awarded to the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the purchase of batteries plus installation for the Rodeo Road Electrical Substation and the Pete Noel

Electrical Substation from Concentric at a total cost of \$17,550.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the quotes from Griner Drilling Service, Inc. for a total cost of \$8,695.00 for a new self-priming pump and flanged valves for Eaton Park Lift Station. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded Ms. Roslyn White to approve the plan change order #1 for the Rehabilitation of the Runway and Partial Taxiway project which increases the contract time by 101 days. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 3 in the amount of \$318,958.94 payable to Elliott Construction, LLC for the Rehabilitation of the Runway and Partial Taxiway project. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilwoman White provided an update on the Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program. They met with Louisiana Economic Development last week for the Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program. The team consisted of Stacey Neal and Robbie Abboud from Louisiana Economic Development. They are now putting together a community survey and doing a community assessment. When complete we will have a strategic plan for economic development steps that the City can take to make us more appealing to businesses wanting to locate in Louisiana. It will also put us ahead of other communities when businesses reach out to Louisiana Economic Development because we will be part of the certified plan. Be on the lookout for a survey. We will put it together, send it out and try to push it out in several ways to try and get the community to fill it out. We will be updating the Council and the public as we have updates on that program.*

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve change orders number 3 for an increase in the contract of \$10,400.00 and number 4 for an increase in the contract of \$32,541.00 relative to the Flood Reduction & Drainage Improvement project. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Ron Bordelon representing Murphy Oil Gas Station was present to discuss the need for a variance to place a temporary small facility while the gas station is undergoing a total remodel. It would only be temporary until the new facility is ready. The project will begin August 1, 2021. We hope to have it completed by November 1, 2021. We will not sell fuel during the work as we will be changing the tanks too.*

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve a variance of setback for a temporary building to be located at 3007 Veterans Memorial Drive for the rebuild of Murphy Oil Gas Station. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *He reached out to Louisiana Crime Stoppers last week and they have informed him that they will have the cameras installed within the next 10 days. At which time, they will invoice the City and we will pay that since it has already been approved by the Council.*
- *The City will be receiving about \$52,000 more than we anticipated as a result of the American Rescue Plan. We do not know when the first payment will arrive.*
- *The statement of loss has been filed for Hurricane Delta and it has been accepted by our insurance company. Partial payment for the claim has been received and the balance*

could be received any day now. Upon receipt of that check, the City will be filing a supplemental claim for damages that occurred as a result of the hurricane but were not originally identified.

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- We hauled a lot of dirt to Harmony Park, leveled it and dressed it up. We will see how it will handle all the recent rain. We have cut a swale ditch from the western boundary coming back toward South Lamar along the property line to make sure there will be no flooding from the neighbor unto the park and also no flooding from the park to the neighbor's property.
- The splashpad was put in service last week. There are a few minor things that have to be worked out. We are looking at putting a pressure reducer valve. There were a lot of kids out there this past weekend.
- The Fifth Street inlet project was completed. We installed two new inlets.
- We replaced a big section of sidewalk on Main Street in front of St. Mary Magdalen Church that were trip hazards.
- City workers cleared the right of way on South Hollingsworth.
- For the walking trail grant, he and Mr. Gene have to attend the public agency qualification training in Baton Rouge. He will be attending tomorrow and Mr. Gene will attend on Thursday. That is a requirement to receive the grant.
- Councilman Touchet asked about the sidewalk at Herod Elementary. Clay stated that he and Richard took a look at the problem. It is the telephone cables underneath that. We did reach out to AT&T but we have not heard back from them. It is all their lines in there that causes the erosion. We are working on a solution for that. We have barricaded the area.
- Councilman Touchet asked about the concrete that was put for the parish to pick up. Clay stated the parish will pick up concrete at certain times of the year.

Tommy Picard, Public Works Director-QSA

- Discussed the necessity of times for the splashpad. He will have a sign made with posted times once it is decided. Councilman Broussard stated we could go from 7 AM to 9PM since school is out. This would concur with the times the other parts of the park are open. Tommy stated that Brian Ford, with the Boys and Girls Club, would like to have the splashpad one day during the week for use by them. Councilwoman White asked if the splashpad would be open every day. Mayor Piazza stated that would be a council decision. He was thinking that maybe we would have it open on Saturday and Sunday and upon special request, during the week. Councilwoman White stated that she thinks it should be open every day of the week. Mayor Piazza stated that we would not open it during the rain. Councilman Broussard stated maybe we could give the Brian Ford Wednesday. Councilwoman White stated he should only have it for a half day. Mayor Piazza stated we will get a better idea now that it is open and we can change the hours and days as needed. He also wanted the Council to consider if they want to allow people to reserve it for special events. Tommy stated people are willing to pay for that. Mayor Piazza stated we would not allow special events on weekends. Councilwoman White suggested that we could charge \$25 per hour. Councilman Plaisance asked how we would keep the other children out of the splashpad if we let someone reserve it. Councilwoman White stated maybe it would be best to not allow it to be reserved the first summer and then we can see how it goes. They can still have their party there but it just wouldn't be private.
- Brandon Briggs will start on the tennis court gate tomorrow.
- Had a tournament this past weekend. We had a lot of rain.
- We will start trimming the trees in the park.

- *Paul will be painting all the lines where they walk. We will paint it yellow.*
- *We need some no parking signs. Mayor Piazza asked him to look at temporary signs that could be put out when needed. We will have the road markings repainted.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Discussed the Police Chief's breakdown of the service calls.*
- *The splashpad is open. He will get with Tommy to discuss the specifics and come up with some signs and details. It is a learning experience. We will monitor the number of people utilizing the splashpad. They were out there all weekend long. He thanked the Rotary Club for their participation. It is a great addition to the park. We have some new tables that we will put back around the splashpad. It is a big improvement and it looks great. Along with the new tennis courts, we have had some really nice improvements to Comeaux Park.*
- *We need to put up security cameras at the park. He will get with the Chief about that. We had a break in at the press box in Seller's Field.*
- *He distributed a sheet that he received from LEPA on the residential electric bills for the month of May. If you look at how we compare to other electricity providers, it is fantastic news for our residential constituents. When you can compare us when using 1,000 KWH to be only \$2.00 away from SLEMCO that is good news. We are way below CLECO and Entergy. The price of natural gas is \$3.60 compared to \$2.00 last summer. We have a fixed rate with our electricity provider, Constellation.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *There were hundreds of cars at Comeaux Park this weekend for the tournament. It was a big success.*
- *The splashpad is a great success. There were a lot of children on the splashpad. Credit to the Abbeville Rotary Club and the City of Abbeville.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Recognized 4-H and the Abbeville Garden Club. They will be planting at least 10 trees in the large dog park at LaFitte Park.*
- *People are catching a lot of bass in the park. There was a 7-pound bass caught recently.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor