

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in special session on January 21, 2020 at 5:00 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, 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
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Joseph Vallee', Municipal Civil Service Board

Mayor Piazza stated this special meeting has been called for public hearings and discussion of the condemnation of 5 properties.

The first property to be discussed was 412 Clark Street. No one appeared to represent the property. Councilwoman Broussard stated the lady who owns the property is deceased. We have only been able to locate one of her children. There is debris in the yard and at one point there was someone who was getting into the house. She would like them to rid the property of debris and to secure or repair the windows and doors. Clay Menard stated the property does have quite a few dead bushes but it appears there are no broken windows and the doors are closed but he is unsure if they are locked.

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to give the property owner of 412 Clark 10 days to cut the grass and trim the brush or the City will do it or go out for bids to get it done. The motion carried unanimously.

The next property to be discussed was 407 Clark Street. No one appeared to represent the property. Mayor Piazza stated the property has a front porch that is falling down. The windows and doors are halfway boarded up. Councilwoman Broussard wanted to make sure the windows and doors are boarded up. She would also like the porch and awnings repaired

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to give the property owner of 407 Clark Street 10 days to board up the windows and doors and repair the porch and awnings or the City will go out to bid to get it done. The motion carried unanimously.

The next property to be discussed was 1602 Mathes Street. No one appeared to represent the property. Mayor Piazza stated the recommendation from the inspection is to condemn the property and have it demolished. The roof is completely gone. It is not cost effective to repair.

-03 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to condemn the property at 1602 Mathes Street and proceed with the demolition process. The motion carried unanimously.

The next property to be discussed was 413 Chevis. No one appeared to represent the property. Mayor Piazza stated the only issue is for them to secure the open door. The windows were ok.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to give the property owners of 413 Chevis 10 days to secure the door or the City will do it. The motion carried unanimously.

The final property to be discussed was 311 E. Vermilion Street. Chris Cao is the owner of the property but not the owner of the mobile home that is on the property. Mr. Cao would like the mobile home removed but it is not his. The owner is a shrimper and is out of the country for six months. Mr. Funderburk stated Mr. Cao would have to proceed with eviction in City Court. Mayor Piazza agreed that is a good option for Mr. Cao. Mayor Piazza stated that we did not serve the owner of the mobile home. Mr. Funderburk stated we could deal with the shed, rubbish and over growth. Councilwoman White stated this is the third time this property has been turned in for code violations. Please take a vested interest in the property for your neighbors' sake. Mayor Piazza stated we will have to serve the owner of the mobile home and have another hearing for him.

-05 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to give the property owner of 311 E. Vermilion Street, Chris Cao, 10 days to clean the property up, including the shed or the City will go out for bids to get it done. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Pillette was at the meeting tonight but his property was not the agenda. His property is located at 804 and 808 N. East Street. Mayor Piazza stated we could listen to him but since his property was not on the agenda, no action could be taken tonight. Mr. Pillette stated that he has accumulated a lot of equipment that is located on the property. He is trying to clear it but he has a tight work schedule to maintain. He is requesting more time to get the property cleaned. He has begun clearing it but didn't realize how much stuff he had that he has to sort out. Mayor Piazza asked if he has somewhere behind his house where he could move the stuff. Mr. Pillette stated he has a tool shed in back. It was a beauty shop but he is using it as a tool shed. Councilwoman White stated that she does drive by there quite a bit. That road is very narrow and you have a lot of stuff on our right-of-way. There are abandoned cars on our right-of-way which makes it a very narrow road for cars to pass in front of your house. She is asking, at a minimum, to remove everything off of the right-of-way and she would like Mr. Pillette to tell her how long of an extension he would need. She does see him working but it is very hard to see progress because there is so much accumulation. Mr. Pillette stated that he would like as much time as they can give him because he has a rigorous work schedule being a plumber and an electrician. He has a lot of indebtedness that he is facing right now with certification and licenses. He is constantly trying to continue his work schedule while still trying to sort out and clear the accumulation. Mayor Piazza stated that we have already had the hearing and we have already received bids to clean up the property. The reason we have already had the hearing and ordered the property to be cleaned is because this is not something that has occurred in the last couple of months. This violation goes back several months. We gave you all year last year to clean the property. This is not something that is new. You started getting letters on that property last summer. You have had several months to clean the property but you did not do anything. You didn't start cleaning until I went to your house during the Christmas holidays and pleaded with you to work with the Council and clean the mess up. For months you sat there and did absolutely zero. Mr. Pillette stated the Mayor is right but he needs the proper amount of time to get it cleaned up. He is asking for more time to clean it up. Councilwoman Broussard asked Mr. Pillette if there is someone who is willing to work with him to assist him in getting this cleaned up. There

are several young men who would like to help. Mr. Pillette stated that he appreciates the offer but, in the rubbish, he has equipment mixed in. He has fittings and parts that he has to keep. He has to sort out everything himself. His work schedule is preventing him from doing this quickly. Councilman Plaisance stated that he has been on the Council for 13 ½ years and that property has been like that for at least that long. Please help us by getting this cleaned up. Mr. Pillette stated if he gets more time, he will be sure to get it cleaned up satisfactorily. Councilwoman White stated that if the property is not cleaned up by the next City Council meeting then we will move forward.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor