

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 2, 2022 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., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent
Tommy Picard, Parks and Recreation Director, QSA
Mother Madge, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Jill Bordelon, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Nikki Vidos, 24-hour Citizen Project
Charles Dill, Abbeville Planning Commission
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion
Richard Sysak, retired City of Abbeville employee

Mayor White asked Mother Madge to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Mr. Charles Dill to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to deviate from the agenda to move item number 1 under personnel, appointment of administrative assistant to the City Council, to after old business. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White asked if there were any public comments on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

Mayor White recognized Mr. Richard Sysak who recently retired from the City of Abbeville. He has worked for the City for 38 years. She read the certificate of appreciation aloud. He has served the City in four different administrations. We wish him the best in his retirement.

Ms. Jill Bordelon and Mother Madge discussed their love project. It is "Love Eggs in Abbeville". In response to Covid-19 and other crimes that have happened in the City, they met with the City Council at their church. They wanted to see what they could do to help. The congregation of St. Paul's' felt a ripple effect of love in the hope of helping hurting hearts and to spread the love of Christ. Many people have felt the effects of stress and anxiety lately. St. Paul's message to the community is that there is one thing that is certain and unchanging and that is God's love. Other communities have spread messages of love. Iberia Rocks is a program where they paint rocks and

leave them around for people to find. What is better for Abbeville than eggs? We are famous for the Omelette Festival. Groups of their church members ages 5 to 70 gathered and they have decided to draw and paint on wooden eggs to convey the love that they have for the community and to tell others that God loves them and that they love them. We have also purchased signs that they will switch out in front of their church. She presented a Love Egg to the Mayor and City Council. They will put the eggs in conspicuous places where they can be found. They hope that people will pass this love along. If it does nothing else, it starts the conversation of kindness and love. In the words of Mother Teresa, "None of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love". We hope you find the eggs around town.

Mr. Gerald Gaspard began a discussion of the American Legion tournament. This summer we were supposed to have the baseball tournament at A. A. Comeaux Park. We worked hard to get that tournament. They had the tournament pulled from them two weeks prior to the event for no reason. He was very upset about it. We made everybody in the American Legion aware of it. Thom Thompson wrote a letter to the National Commander and everybody all the way down to let them know what happened and how upset they were. It has caused some repercussions on the American Legion side. It is up to the State to get involved with it. The tournament was moved to Gonzales, who doesn't have a home team. After the letter got out, they got scared. They gave the home team advantage to Amite. This is one man that did all this to us. He is no longer in charge anymore. We didn't take it lying down. We stirred a lot of hornet's nests on that end. He doesn't think something like this will ever happen again, at least not to Abbeville. He would like the City to also send a letter about this situation.

Ms. Nikki Vidos discussed the 24-hour Citizen Project in partnership with the City of Abbeville. They are a group of volunteers who match citizens in the community who have ideas for a community project with people who have the expertise and people who want to fund community projects. It is something they have been doing for the last five years in Lafayette. This is the first time we will be in Abbeville. The 24-hours comes in in November. We start at 6:00 PM on a Friday. Teams come in and we pass their ideas to people who know how to get the project done and how to budget. At the end of the 24-hours, they pitch their ideas, Shark Tank style, in front of those backers. Some really great projects have been funded in the past. The application deadline is the end of August. She is hoping for a partnership with them next week at the Abbeville Library. There is no pressure and we will get together with people who have ideas or don't have ideas but want to come to provide feedback and to find out what the community needs. Hopefully some of those people will apply as a team and hopefully they will get selected and funded. If we have enough ideas in Abbeville, her hope is to one day host an event here in Vermilion Parish. Your (the Mayor and City Council) involvement will help them get the word out. The meeting will be Wednesday, August 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Abbeville Library. Mayor White stated it is kind of like speed dating for civic ideas. She has been to these events that Nikki hosts in Lafayette and it is a really great thing. They have experts in different fields who can guide someone in developing their ideas. They have been very successful in Lafayette and she would love to do this in Abbeville one day. It is a great idea for the City to give them our endorsement. It is a new organization in Abbeville to do this and us giving our stamp on it gives the idea to the public that they are a safe entity for them to go and exchange their ideas. That is why she is pitching that we partner with them to give them some credibility here.

-02 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes of the Personnel Interview meetings held on July 5, 2022 and July 19, 2022, the regular City Council meeting held on July 5, 2022 and the special City Council meeting held on July 19, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Broussard stated that Mr. Dre' Evans could not be here tonight because he is at work so she will inform the Council about the Fun Day at McKinley Scott Park. It will be August 6, 2022. He partnered with Pastor Stevens and they will distribute bookbags with school supplies. It is an event because he invited vendors. She wanted the Council to waive the special event permit fee. Ike stated that Sarah gave him the special event permit application that was completed for a basketball event. Councilwoman Broussard stated that they will also have a four-on-four basketball tournament too. Ike stated that is physical activity and somebody could get injured. Do they have insurance? Councilwoman Broussard stated they do not. Councilman Campbell asked if we could waive the requirement for them to have insurance? Ike stated that as the risk manager, he believes that is not a good idea. Councilman Touchet asked if the organization could get a sponsor to get insurance. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she would talk to them about this.

-03 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the special event permit for the Fun Day at McKinley Scott Park contingent upon them getting insurance for the event and to also waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to enter into a public hearing to receive comments pertaining to a proposed ordinance to amend Section 2-9, designation of municipal officers and appointment of same. The amendment changes (1) from Administrative Assistant to the City Council and the City Attorney to Administrative Assistant to the City Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White asked if there were any comments about the proposed ordinance. Ike stated he made his points at the last meeting. He reiterates them without going into more detail or creating more lines that would have to be put into the minutes. The Council knows his thoughts about this.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to reconvene the regular meeting from public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/Hardy
Ordinance 22-03

An ordinance amending Section 2-9, Designation of Municipal Officers and appointment of same to change (1) from Administrative Assistant to the City Council and the City Attorney to Administrative Assistant to the City Council. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS:	5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy)
NAYS:	0
ABSTAINS:	0
ABSENT:	0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote from Solscapes in the amount of \$15,044.00 per week for tree trimming around high voltage power lines and to accept the recommendation of the Electrical Department Superintendent to utilize the Solscapes crew for three weeks. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stewart Head stated that the cost of traditional street lights are \$55 and the LED fixtures would cost \$104. The LED fixtures last longer and are cheaper to run. After September, we will no longer be able to purchase the standard street lights. Mayor White stated that there will be

up to a 50% reduction in load and they will last up to three times longer. Stewart stated that they have a five-year warranty. We have already changed some of the security lights to LED.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to transition from the traditional sodium street lights to LED street lights. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux stated that the gate at Seller's Field has been repaired numerous times. Brandon Briggs can replace the gate for \$5,000.00. The gate at Theriot Field is twisted. It is a 24-foot double gate. It will cost \$2,000.00 to repair that gate. We will make it a 12-foot gate instead of the 24-foot gate. Stewart only needs 10 feet to pass the bucket truck through that. We will close one side of it off using the same panel that is there now. We have posts already that we can use and the City workers will put those in place with the help of Brandon. Councilman Touchet asked if these were hurricane damage. Chris was unsure. Tommy stated that Theriot was not and he is unsure if Seller's was. Mayor White stated that we would check to see if it was claimed in damage. We will pay Seller's Field from Sales Tax unless it was hurricane damage and we received insurance proceeds to pay for the repair.

-08 introduced Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the replacement of the gate at Seller's Field at a cost of \$5,000 and to repair the gate at Theriot Field at a cost of \$2,000. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve depositing \$70,000 into the Sales Tax Fund and \$68,866.45 into the Maintenance and Operation Fire Department Fund from the 2022 two percent Insurance Rebate check recently received in the amount of \$138,866.45. The motion carried unanimously.

Broussard/Touchet
Resolution R22-18

A resolution to request that LA DOTD donate to the City of Abbeville, LA Highway 82 (S. State Street) between St. Victor Street and Concord Street, where the southbound street's east lane terminates in front of Abbeville City Hall in order to allow a drive-thru for a new downtown business that hopes to open a business across from City Hall.

The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to ratify payment of the invoice from Echo Powerline in the amount of \$9,760.00 for the S. St. Valerie Street electrical tie-in line. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Touchet stated that we have dirt stockpiled at Comeaux Park from our project. We want to surplus it and sell it only after we have utilized it for City property to the fullest extent. He asked Tommy and Chris to get together to see where the dirt can be utilized. The money that we would get if we have some left to sell would go right back into the park. Ike stated that we would need someone to give us a value of the dirt. Mayor White asked Chris Gautreaux to handle that. She also added that a lot of our parks need that dirt.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to surplus the dirt stockpiled at Comeaux Park, to authorize Chris to get a value of the dirt and to sell the remaining dirt only after it has been used fully by the City. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Touchet stated that he has distributed a copy of Resolution R14-35 that was adopted at the December 2, 2014 City Council meeting. He wanted to amend the resolution to take the clerical worker away from the City Attorney. We will have to strikeout the language at the bottom of the resolution that allows "staffing to do and perform all tasks assigned and duties incumbent upon the office". That is his request and those tasks would weigh upon the City attorney. Ike stated that if he understands correctly, Councilman Touchet is saying that the City is not going to provide him with any support staff to do the work of the City. Councilman Touchet stated that is correct. Ike stated that at a prior meeting, Councilman Touchet, suggested that he (Ike) could go out and hire someone himself to perform the City's work. It is amazing that four of the five Council members are either currently or have been employed by governmental entities. Councilman Hardy is employed by the Town of Maurice as a Police Officer. Ike asked him if he had to buy his unit or the tickets that he writes. Councilman Hardy stated no. Ike stated that is all provided to you in order for you to do your job, correct? Councilman Hardy stated yes. Councilman Campbell was the second in command at the Clerk of Court's office for years. Ike asked Councilman Campbell if the Clerk of Court always provided him with the materials and personnel that was needed in order for him to perform his job. Councilman Campbell stated yes. Councilman Campbell stated that it was the public that kept them in office there. We made money off of the public. Ike asked Councilwoman Broussard if she is support staff. Councilwoman Broussard stated yes. Ike asked Councilman Touchet if he is the second in command at the Lafayette Public School Systems. Councilman Touchet stated absolutely. Ike stated that you have a large staff to help you do your job. Councilman Touchet stated absolutely. Ike asked Councilman Touchet if he has to pay anything for his support staff. Councilman Touchet stated that he does not. Ike asked how is it fair for him to have to provide the assistance that he needs in order to perform the duties that are incumbent to protect this City and to provide the City Council and the Mayor with legal counsel that he is relied upon for all the time. Councilman Touchet stated that he understands Ike's point and all the things that he talked about. He would never talk to his superintendent like this because he would be on the street. This resolution has some highlights. Back when this resolution was adopted, we had two attorneys that were serving the City. One was serving for \$84,000 and that was Mr. Funderburk. The other one was serving for \$48,000 per year. That was an annual expense of \$132,000. This resolution, at the third to last paragraph, stated that as a City Attorney, he would assume the duties of both at \$96,000 per year. Not aware to him, this \$96,000 salary is not what we are paying our City Attorney after the years he has been working for us. Ike stated because he is an employee, and he like every other employee of this City, get a raise. Councilman Touchet stated that he will only get a raise if this Council says he will get a raise. We are paying our attorney \$108,518 per year. We are paying separate insurance for this attorney for \$5,464 per year. We are paying \$16,819.61 per year for his retirement. We are paying \$6,296 per year for Westlaw legal database for legal research. That adds up to \$137,094.37 per year. We can have him take some of this money and hire somebody for 20 hours to assist him clerically. He is not satisfied with this. Over the past 20 years, when we pass these budgets, these unclassified employees have been receiving a 2% increase per year. The City Council sets the salaries for those employees. We don't have to work with Civil Service for those. We hired a Media person. He said we pay for what we get. She didn't have any experience but she had the education. She is making more money than a lot of people that are sitting next to him. He will not vote for these unclassified employees to get their salaries (raises) when they already got their salaries. At any time during a year, we can vote to give an unclassified employee a pay raise and we don't have to worry about Civil Service. We are paying \$137,000 for one person. We can legally put those duties on another unclassified employee. We have four other classified people. We can put it on our media person, our Main Street manager and those other several different positions. When it is all said and done, you will have to pay those people more money. When he voted on this resolution, he thought we were paying our attorney \$96,000. The words got me. My apologies to the public. He will continue to move on saving taxpayer dollars where we can. Councilman Campbell asked Ike how

long has he been legal counsel to the City Council. Ike stated that over the last 35 years, he has been their attorney about one-half of those. He has been the City Attorney since 2008 and has been in-house since 2015. When he was not in-house, he was paid on an hourly basis based on the work needed. There was also a monthly cap on that. The cap for him was \$4,200 per month but over time that changed. There was period of time when the City paid over one-quarter of a million dollars per year in attorneys' fees. When the City hit that, Councilman Touchet said this has got to stop. He brought Woody Woodruff and him and we stopped the bleeding. The problem with that is that you put a cap on the amount the attorney can do. That attorney bills you for the hours that he spends and baked into that is his secretarial staff, his overhead and all of the other things that he has to cover in order to put meat and bread on the table of his family. Let's think for just a minute. He is 24-7. Council members call him at 7:00 AM in morning when he is brushing his teeth and at 9:00 PM when he is going to bed. He is called on weekends and on vacation. It is not a problem. He is available to you. He is also available to the staff. How many times during the day someone comes by and knocks on his door to see if he has a minute for them. He always does. He is always here. He may not have an answer for you and if he does have an answer, it may not be the one you want to hear but it is the one that he has the professional integrity and responsibility to give you. The biggest part of his job is protecting his client. His client is this City. He has a passion for what he does. He will be 77 years old soon. He is not as old as Mr. Sellers and he may not live that long. He does hope that if he does, that he is doing the same work because there is continuity. There is continuity in the representation that you have. With him being under roof, he has had the opportunity to dive into what this City needs as far as legal representation. When he was on an hourly basis and sitting two blocks away, he would just get a snippet over the telephone or a message and go from there. He wouldn't have the contact. He would not understand how the different elements of the City worked together. He did not have a full understanding of how hard and dedicated the people that work for this City work. How hard they work and how much dedications they have to this City. He knows that now. He has been under roof for 7 ½ years. He feels like, at this point in his career, he has finally gotten to the level where he can understand and anticipate. We never know how much something costs. How many times have we had situations that we could have just been falling off of a ledge and because of communication, which is the most important thing in any relationship, we didn't fall off that ledge. Councilman Touchet stopped Ike to state that we were paying lots of money when he came onto the Council. We put a stop to that and put forth the effort to do that. He is admitting that he didn't pay attention to some of what these things are and this has gotten out of hand. We are paying more money for one person than we were for two people. This thing is not about, Ike, it may be later about whether you are City attorney or not. He will tell him point blank, if we want somebody to come work for us and we say you will come work us for \$5,000 per month and you will be at our beck and call, then if they want the job they will be at our beck and call. We don't have to put an hourly rate. If you want the job, here is the money. We set that. He doesn't want to put clerical work on any unclassified person because we will have to pay them more. We are paying lots of money that could go towards his own clerical person. These are taxpayer dollars. We have been 2% all of these unclassified employees that have been paid \$20,000 and \$30,000 more than our Civil Service people. Those salaries are going up every year. Mayor White stated that she understands that we are moving forward with striking the language out so we can move forward with the hiring of the Administrative Assistant to the City Council. At some point, she and Ike will have to sit down and talk about whether or not we revise his contract with the City. Councilman Touchet stated that is a City Council decision as to what we do with Ike. That is an unclassified employee. He works for the City of Abbeville but you work for the City Council. That is what it comes down to. They negotiate his salary and they could destroy the entire resolution R14-35. We do that. We don't run the day-to-day operations. We don't get into the Mayor's business. The City Attorney reports to the City Council. His thing is that we will look at things moving forward. This is not about whether or not he is employed. This clerical stuff needs to be

absorbed. He called for question.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to strike the language "Staffing to do and perform all of the tasks and duties incumbent on the office" from paragraph 8 of Resolution R14-35 adopted at the December 2, 2014 regular City Council meeting. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS:	5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy)
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

Therefore, the motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize advertisement for bids for the North Henry Street Wastewater Pump Station Number 8 Building and Repairs subject to the approval of the plans by the Board of Health. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White stated that the original plans for the grant for the fishing pier at LaFitte Park had the pier in the center of the pond. It was supposed to be for handicapped accessibility. It was her thoughts, after meeting with Mr. Gene, Todd, Councilwoman Broussard and Bridget Levy, that the fishing pier should be closer to the parking area. By moving it there, it will allow much easier access for handicapped accessibility. It will also save us some money in cement work because the ramp won't have to be so long. In addition to that, we are proposing that we do some excavation work inside of the pond and use the dirt that we excavate to slope the north bank to a 7:1 ratio and possibility put some limestone or a concrete embankment to make it safe. This will require moving the dog park. We are not doing away with the dog park but will be moving it to a better location. We feel like, right now, it is where the pier needs to be. Her hopes are that we add the dog park area back in the area with the trees so that there is some cover and shade. That will be later and is not part of this grant. Basically, it will be excavation work, handicapped parking and a fishing pier built on the northwest corner of the property. This would be our final design. We would submit that in September and then once it is approved, we would go out for bid on this project. We may have to close the park for the construction but that will be decided later. Hopefully the construction will take place during the winter. When it is complete, people will be able to safely fish all the way around the pond. The dogs will not be able to access the pond since we are moving the dog park but we hope to build a small pond in the dog park later for the dogs. That way the ponds would be separate so that people can use the whole pond for fishing.

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the final plan design for the LaFitte Park Fishing Pier project as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify payment of the invoice from MMR in the amount of \$15,582.00 for the clarifier tank gear box project at the Water Treatment Plant and to pay the expense from the Utility System Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/T. Broussard
Resolution R22-19

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a landlord's estoppel certificate regarding the improvements owned by Louisiana Military Museum which it is mortgaging to Gulf Coast Bank.

The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/T. Broussard
Resolution R22-20

A resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of herself to the LEPA Board of Directors.

The motion carried unanimously.

Campbell/Touchet
Resolution R22-21

A resolution authorizing City officials/employees to sign the request for payment forms in connection with the FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program for the Sewer System Improvements Project.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Touchet
Resolution R22-22

A resolution granting the authority to the Mayor to sign and submit all necessary documents along with adopting certain policies, plans and procedures in connection with the FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program, Love Louisiana Outdoors Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White presented the revised scope of work for the Water Sector Program Sewer application for the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. We had already submitted round 1 of funding for the program and we were not funded. Now we are applying for round 2 funding. When the discussion came up as to what we wanted to do and if we wanted to keep the application the same, we had a lively debate back and forth and there was much discussion. We were going to do drying beds, an equalization basin and generators for our lift stations but she is proposing that we try to think where we will be in 20 years. Our current wastewater facility could become obsolete in 10 years. While all of this money is available and there is a surplus of money to fund these infrastructure projects, especially ARPA, we should think about what we will need for our sewer in 20 years from now. We are proposing that the City look at a tract of land that is 30 acres on the south border off of South Guegnon. It gives us plenty of room for future expansion. We would build a state-of-the-art facility that would accommodate 25% of our sewer capacity. We would by-pass 25% of the sewerage to this state-of-the-art facility but there is plenty of room for expansion in the future. As we have a need or have problems at the old plant, we could start redirecting lines to the new facility and continue to expand it. This comes at a cost but this is something we will have to do in the next 10 years anyway so while there is a lot of grant funding out there, we should go for that now. It is the responsible thing to do to consider it. Todd Vincent stated the property is in close proximity to your collection system so you could easily redirect the flow to the new plant. The biggest issue you have is the stormwater that gets into the system and creates problems at the existing facility. The existing plant is over 35 years old and was built in the 80s. It has four boat clarifiers. The limits placed by DEQ have become more stringent than when the plant was designed. You are still able to meet those limits. This new facility will have an equalization basin on site so the excessive flows from the rain water can be redirected into a

pond. Once the rain stops it will be redirected back to the plant. It is a way to manage stormwater without having to build a huge plant to treat all the stormwater. It makes a lot of sense for the long-term planning. The State is offering grants up to \$5,000,000. The preliminary cost estimate for this project is \$9,400,000. That would include the purchase of the property, the equalization basin and the first treatment phase of the plant. Councilman Touchet asked Todd, with Sellers and Associates, and also Kim, with Primeaux & Touchet, to research to make sure that we are not eligible for money under the Infrastructure Jobs Act. This passed in November 2021. If we have to hire a grant writer then we should. Mayor White stated that they talked about this. The Water Sector Program application is due in August and we will also look at other funding mechanisms. LMA is also hiring a grant writer to help with all of this. We will apply for \$5,000,000 from this grant. If we don't get that, then we will not build the plant right now. The out of pocket would be \$4.4 million. We have to say how we will fund that right now for the application. We will use \$1 million from ARPA and the additional \$3.4 million would be a loan from USDA. Now we have time, once we put the application in, to go and try to get grants for this project. We hope to layer the funding with these grants. We are saying that if the State gives us the \$5,000,000 then we will come up with the rest of the funding to build the plant. It is a big commitment. Councilman Touchet stated there will be plenty of opportunities. Mayor White stated that Lee has been a big part of this conversation. Lee Schexnaider stated that the new plant is needed because of the high flows. On a dry day, we are processing about 1.7 million of gallons through the plant. On a rainy day we are processing 6 million gallons through the plant. The capacity of the plant is 2.7 million gallons. Mayor White stated that we will continue to try to find some of this water infiltration but this is a need that we need to address.

-16 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the revised scope of work for the Water Sector Program Sewer application for the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment facility. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Hardy wanted to surplus unit 562, a 2005 White Chevrolet Silverado bearing VIN GCEC13T851112243 from the Abbeville Police Department. It does run and has 144,000 miles. Chris Gautreaux asked about the condition of the vehicle as he needs a vehicle for one of the City's departments. Councilman Touchet asked that in the future we use LAMATS to sell our surplus property. Chief Hardy stated that Chris could look at the vehicle to see if it would be useable by the other City departments.

-17 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to table the request to surplus unit 562 from the Abbeville Police Department so that Chris Gautreaux can see if the truck can be used in another City department. The motion carried unanimously.

-18 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to submit the names of Gibson Bessard, Joey Songne, David Greco and Kimya Hill to an established four-year higher learning institution for the selection of two names to fill two vacancies on the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gerald Gaspard stated that in the future we need to be sure we do not have criminals serving on the Fire and Police Civil Service Board in case the officer comes up that wrote the ticket. There needs to be a background check. He is concerned about that. Mayor White agreed that we need to put in checks and balances. We can do background checks if we can legally do that. She offered to visit with Mr. Gaspard about his concerns. Councilman Campbell stated that a traffic citation would not disqualify someone from serving on a board. Also, he would not submit the name of someone who he knows has a criminal background. We know most of the people in Abbeville. You can always get them off of the board. He asked Ike to prepare a brochure about the

qualifications to serve on each of the boards.

-19 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the appointment of Lynn LeBlanc to the vacant position of Administrative Assistant to the City Council at her current salary. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Thanked everyone for coming and for the Council for being so supportive of all the items on the agenda. She will try to keep the future agendas to 12 items unless they are pertinent time wise.*

Police Chief Mike Hardy

- *Sean Ramke is retiring after 32 years. Hunter Lange has resigned to go back to school. He wants to hire Jacob Hardy and would like a special meeting to be called in order to interview him and hire him.*

Fire Chief Jude Mire

- *Gave a report on the calls received in the last two weeks.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked Chief Mire to inform the Council about the cost saving measures that he will put in place to curb the increasing fuel costs.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Stated that he is the chairman of the Recreation Committee. He asked who the committee consisted of. Mayor White stated that is a Council committee so all members of the Council serve on that committee.*
- *Presented Chris Gautreaux an American flag to be used at Hebert Park.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *We attended the LMA Convention Saturday at the Cajundome and Harmony Park didn't win the big prize but we were Honorable Mention.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Thanked everyone in the audience. Government does not work without you and you are what we work for. Thank you for being here.*
- *Thanked the Council. Anytime we can come together to represent a new business that wants to come into our City, it is good that we can all agree that new businesses are important to our City.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Asked Chief Hardy about resource officers for our public and private schools. Chief Hardy stated that he has met with Mr. Byler and let him know that we are shorthanded and don't have any officers right now. Mr. Byler asked for an officer at Abbeville High at the busy times so Chief Hardy agreed that he could provide that at no charge for right now. He did speak with Pastor Delino today. He has an officer that he is recommending to hire. The guy is a member of his church. He would have to stop working for the Sheriff and then work for APD to work for him. Councilman Touchet asked what about post-certified security. Chief Hardy stated that you won't be able to get somebody like that into an academy if they are not working for a police department. As we get more personnel, then he can move toward having a supervisor in his office. Mr. Byler was not 100% sure that he wanted them in the elementary schools. When school starts next week, his guys will stop randomly to say hello to the teachers and students. We will pass at all the different schools every school day but not at the same*

time. He has not yet had a conversation with Vermilion Catholic but their principal was just appointed this week. He will talk to her and let her know that his guys will stop and walk around at different times of the day. The only one that asked for regular times was Mr. Byler at Abbeville High School. Councilman Touchet stated that he doesn't want this to be on his conscience if something happens in the City of Abbeville. They (Mr. Byler) don't think it is needed at an elementary school. We want to make sure we put this on record.

- *Starting in 2023 there is something called fortified construction standards. The engineers might want to start looking into that.*

Councilman Tony Hardy

- *To any of his constituents who are concerned in reference to the campers across the bayou, as soon as our attorney says we can act on it, we will definitely act on it and we will keep on it until it comes to an end. If you have any more questions, please contact him in about two weeks.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor