

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in special session on December 22, 2020 at 5:30 P.M., at the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center located at 300 A. A. Comeaux Drive, Suite 200, 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  
Bill Spearman, Police Chief  
Marilyn Mitchell  
Mark Campbell

*Mayor Piazza stated we are here tonight for a special City Council meeting to adopt the annual budget for 2021 and to approve an engagement letter for Darnall, Sikes & Frederick. It is the appropriate process before we adopt the budget to go into a public hearing to receive comments from the public regarding the budget.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to enter into a public hearing to receive public comments for the proposed 2021 budget and the amended budget for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing**

*Ms. Marilyn Mitchell wanted to know if the manager's salary for the Park and Recreation budget is included in the budget. Mayor Piazza stated the amount is in the budget. It is located on the very top line, Salaries, and it is \$30,000. That is for the Park Director. Ms. Mitchell asked if the vacant position has been filled. Mayor Piazza stated it has not yet been filled. At a meeting in January, the Park and Recreation Board will receive proposals from QSA and there will be a public hearing during that meeting to talk about whether or not they want to continue the process we have in place or if we want to go in a different direction. Councilman Broussard stated the meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Ms. Mitchell asked if QSA has submitted a proposal. Mayor Piazza stated they have not submitted a proposal in writing. We have requested that they do so. We will have a written proposal by the 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mitchell asked if someone else can submit a proposal. Mayor Piazza answered yes that anyone can make a proposal to the board. Ms. Mitchell asked how much money is allocated to the Parks and Recreation Department. She wanted to know how much we spend there. Mayor Piazza stated it is on page 10 and the amount is \$329,000 in General Fund and \$135,000 in the Sales Tax Fund (page 13). The general fund expenditures are not supported by a tax. Councilman Broussard stated the City does not have a recreation tax or for the parks. That has to come out of the funds that support roads, sidewalks and public safety. Lafayette has different funding than the City of Abbeville. Mayor Piazza added that the \$329,000 comes from the same pot of money that you have to pay firemen and police from. Every nickel I spend in that department is that much less than I can spend in the fire department or the police department or the street maintenance department and any other department. Ms. Mitchell asked why are we spending money there if there are no kids due to COVID. Mayor Piazza stated they are currently taking basketball registration and they will have basketball. They are registering until the end of December. This*

year, for the first time, a lot of the games will be played at Abbeville High School. The City purchased proper goals so more kids from Abbeville could play. Mr. Mark Campbell stated there is a gap between Abbeville and Erath when it comes to recreation. He has the tools to deal with Parks and Recreation. We have to have something here. He sees a lot in the community. The community is scared to come out. We have to take over now. We don't have anything for the kids here. He wanted to make a proposal. We need to have activity at night to make them feel good about themselves. Its not about stopping Tommy Picard. He is doing a good job. We can work with him. We are fighting too much in Abbeville. We need to catch kids 8 years and older and bring them here. Our children are lost right now. Councilman Broussard thanked Mark and everyone else for coming. If we look at recent history, before Tommy Picard, we got to a point where Mrs. Denise Mire had to make the same children play each other every week. That is not what you call a league. Before Tommy Picard ran the recreation, the kids would not come out. That was Babe Ruth, a City operation and the children were not here. When you have a dozen people who can only play themselves several times a week, that is not what you call a league. Mr. Mark Campbell stated everybody knows him in this City and they trust him. Mayor Piazza stated that this is a hearing about the budget. It is not a hearing about recreation. If anyone wants to talk about recreation then they need to attend the Park and Recreation Board meeting.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to close the public hearing and reconvene the special meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

***Touchet/Plaisance***  
***Ordinance 20-02***

*An ordinance adopting the 2021 budget and amending the budget for 2020.*

*The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:*

YEAS:           4(White, Plaisance, Touchet, B. Broussard)  
NAYS:           0  
ABSENT:        1(T. Broussard)  
ABSTAIN:       0

*Therefore, the ordinance was adopted.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the 2020-2021 engagement letter with Darnall, Sikes and Frederick for nonattest services and the audit. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza stated this is all the items we have on the agenda for this special City Council meeting. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank God 2020 is over.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor