

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on October 17, 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, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Ms. Vonn Williams and, Mr. Smart, Envolve Community-Live Oak
Ms. Marshetta, on-site manager of Live Oak Manor
Lauren Trahan, Nehemiah Project

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White led those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. 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.

Councilwoman Broussard had requested that representatives from Envolve Community, Live Oak Manor, attend the meeting to address concerns over crime at Live Oak Manor and to discuss possible solutions. Ms. Vonn Williams and Mr. Smart attended the meeting. The on-site manager of Live Oak Manor was also in attendance at the meeting. Councilwoman Broussard stated that people are living in fear at Live Oak Manor and something needs to be done regarding the crime. Mayor White stated that there have been ongoing issues on and around the property so she set up a conference call to get the crime there under control. They are needing a permit to fix four units and she refuses to sign off on the permit until we feel like we can put people in safe spaces. Mr. Smart stated that he is the director of security for Envolve and oversees 100 properties. He resides in Georgia. They have 32 cameras, security and camera monitoring. They screen their applicants but they cannot screen those who they invite. They have a master list of those not allowed on the property. If they are found on the property, the tenant is evicted. They are now providing that list to the Abbeville Police Department. Ms. Lauren Trahan stated that the low-income housing is in disrepair and she is concerned about the standard of living there. Ms. Marshetta stated that they do inspections. It is the responsibility of the tenant to keep their bathroom clean so that mold does not grow. Ms. Williams stated that the complex was last renovated ten years ago and it will be eligible for a renovation in five years. Mayor White stated that we do have a need for low-income housing and the complex

profits off of the low-income individuals so we need to hold the complex to a higher standard. Stewart Head told the representatives that they need an electrical upgrade now. They could not open the disconnect box when there was a fire. This is a fire hazard. Councilman Campbell is concerned about the personal items being dumped onto the street. Councilwoman Broussard stated that the on-premises security guards should not become friends with the tenants. Councilman Touchet stated that Mayor should not issue the building permit until there are changes. This is about quality of life. Mayor White stated that she will have to see significant progress before she agrees to issue the permit but will continue to work with them to see this through.

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of September 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the budget to actual report for the month of September 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the street name change of Handy Street to Ruffin Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a special event permit for Bikes, Brews and Omelettes Two to be held on November 4, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/Hardy Resolution R23-32

A resolution requesting funding from LA DOTD for the Capital Improvement Plan for the Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve change order number 2 relative to the New Fishing Pier and Wharf at LaFitte Drive-In Park contingent upon the Office of Community Development approval. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve payment of the invoice from Delta Fire and Safety in the amount of \$6,569.92 for repairs to the 2013 HME Pumper. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents relative to the technical assistance program through the Louisiana Infrastructure Technical Assistance Corporation's Technical Assistance Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chris Gautreaux stated that the pilings have been delivered to LaFitte Drive-In Park for the upcoming pier and wharf project. They will be closing the dog park and fishing pond most likely within one week for the work to begin. The walking trail will remain open as long as it is safe. We will post the language about the closing on the sign and social media.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute the Fiscal Agency Agreement with Bank of Abbeville and Gulf Coast Bank effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to grant a variance for the freestanding sign for Chloe Rose' located at 232 S. Main Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White discussed the popup parklet and walkability demonstrations in downtown Abbeville. The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital have granted the City of Abbeville \$10,000 to move the initiative forward. We will be putting things in place as a demonstration prior to them becoming permanent. One of the ideas we are throwing around is choking Highway 82 down to one lane when you get to the split instead of two lanes. We are also considering a four-way stop or a mini roundabout in the intersection. We will observe behavior of drivers and pedestrians, then put a demonstration, observe what it does to speed and walkability and then get feedback from the community. We would then take all these things into consideration before we design the final project. We will also look at safety crossing for the people who work at the courthouse who park in the shelled parking lot on the southeast side. We will do a popup demonstration there to make the intersection safer. We will get feedback and then decide how we will finalize that design. The idea is to see how we can use our streets better for cars, bikers and walkers. Once we implement the demonstrations downtown, we can use them in other areas. The last one is the popup parklet that will be at Tito's. This will allow people to dine outside as a temporary structure. We would be able to see how it affects the business and we could also get feedback from the customers. It will be modular in design so we can use it again.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the re-portion of property lines for 315 Samson Street. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize the purchase of a used 12 X 24 portable building for the Public Works Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *Discussed the various projects the Public Works Department are working on. The gas company bored into our sewer line but it was repaired today. The Street Department is preparing for upcoming VC Homecoming parade and the Omelette Celebration. The Cattle Festival went very well.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Gave the Parks and Recreation Coordinator report since Byron and Kristin could not be here tonight.*
- *She reminded everyone that the Vermilion Reach Group is having a cleanup day on October 28, 2023 beginning at 8:00 AM.*

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *The overtime earned by the Police Department for the Cattle Festival is \$16,702.00. Mayor White added that the overtime for the City crews is about \$4,000.00.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked if Stonebridge is in compliance. Chief Hardy stated they are not. Councilman Touchet stated that we have to hold them accountable and we need to find some teeth to get them in compliance.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *They are beginning to paint the fire hydrants.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *The NAACP banquet will be held Saturday at the American Legion. The tickets are \$25.00 in advance or \$30.00 at the door.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Discussed upcoming events coming to downtown Abbeville. Junior Auxiliary and Rotary will hold a function in Magdalen Square for Halloween. The annual pansy sale and po-boy fundraiser will be held on November 17, 2023 in Magdalen Square. We are having Sounds in the Square on Thursday and the Famers Market on Saturday.*

-12 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to enter into executive session to discuss prospective litigation after formal written demand by Southern Poverty Law Center regarding current district maps. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White stated that the executive session was held to discuss prospective litigation from Southern Poverty Law Center. At this time, we will take this under legal advisement.

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to take the prospective litigation from Southern Poverty Law Center regarding current district maps under legal advisement. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor