

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 2, 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., Terry Broussard, Jr., and Roslyn White

Members Absent: Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Bill Spearman, Police Chief  
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet  
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Sarah Alpough, Director of revenue, codes & permits  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Richard Minvielle, Grants Consultant  
Michael Wiltz, City of Abbeville retiree  
Carlton Campbell, candidate for Councilman at Large  
Dr. Elista Istre, Louisiana Military Museum  
Brian Ford, Boys and Girls Club  
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA  
Mike Hardy, former Police Chief

*Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Carlton Campbell to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Mike Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Mayor Piazza recognized Mr. Michael Wiltz for his service to the City. Mr. Wiltz retired from our Street Department. That is probably one of the toughest jobs and most thankless jobs. You are out there in rain or shine and hot or cold. It gets hot out there in the summer time when you are using a weed eater all day long. It is not an easy job but Mr. Wiltz did it very well and we very much appreciated it. He presented Mr. Wiltz a plaque of recognition. He retired after 14 years of service.*

*Mr. Carlton Campbell announced his candidacy for Councilman at Large for the City of Abbeville. Mr. Campbell served on the City Council for 12 years. He has decided to run because the seat is being given up because the current Councilman at Large is running for Mayor. He has served on many boards. He started the cleanup on Martin Luther King when he was Councilman there. He is the founder of Herbert William Park. We did a lot for drainage in his district and he plans to do more if elected. He is a proponent of recreation to keep our young men busy. He worked at the Courthouse all of his life. He asked for everyone's vote.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the special City Council meeting held on September 21, 2021, the Council personnel

interview meeting held on October 19, 2021 and the regular City Council meetings held on September 21, 2021, October 5, 2021 and October 19, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

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

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a special event permit for the Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville to hold a “Here Comes Santa 5K Run” at Magdalen Square on December 11, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM and to waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve a special event permit for the Louisiana Military Museum to hold their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Veterans’ Festival at the Chris Crusta Memorial Airport from November 12, 2021 through November 13, 2021 and to waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve a special event permit for Abbeville’s Cajun Christmas Celebration to be held in downtown Abbeville on December 11, 2021 from 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to execute change order number 1 relative to Phase I of the City’s LCDBG Clearance Program with Stallion Oilfield Services. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to execute change order number 1 relative to Phase II of the City’s LCDBG Clearance Program with Home Industry Disposal Company. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to execute change order number 1 relative to Phase III of the City’s LCDBG Clearance Program with Vermilion Shell & Limestone. The motion carried unanimously.

**T. Broussard/B. Broussard**  
**Resolution R21-38**

*A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the certificate of substantial completion pertaining to Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the City’s LCDBG Clearance Program.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to appoint Sellers and Associates, Inc. for engineering services at the Abbeville Chris Crusta Memorial Airport and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Sellers and Associates, Inc for same. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to surplus a Glock model 17, 9mm service weapon bearing serial number BMWY520 which belonged to Lieutenant Jason Hebert, who recently retired, so he can purchase the gun at the appraised value. The motion carried unanimously.

## **B. Broussard/Plaisance**

### **Resolution R21-39**

*A resolution requesting LA DOTD to inspect the condition of Louisiana Highway 14 from its intersection with Louisiana Highway 82 to Louisiana Highway 167 (Park Avenue) and thereafter do and perform all the repair and/or maintenance work thereon in a timely fashion in accordance with the best practices of a duty diligent property owner under the circumstances.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the bid for the Baseball and Softball Field Improvements and Lighting Replacement Project at A. A. Comeaux Park to the low bidder, GeoSurfaces, Inc., in the amount of \$2,398,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to surplus unit 489 (2002 Honda Accord), unit 555 (2009 Ford Crown Victoria) and unit 533 (2009 Ford Crown Victoria) for the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant

- *gave the Main Street Manager report on behalf of Charlene Beckett who could not attend the meeting tonight. The overhang that was damaged from the storm was repaired at the Sam Guarino Blacksmith Museum. If Headstones Could Talk cemetery tour will be held on November 12, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the St. Mary Magdalen Old Catholic Cemetery. The Christmas Stroll will be held on December 2, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Charlene and 5 Garden Club members attended the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference in Baton Rouge on October 13, 2021-October 14, 2021. KAB was awarded \$500 because they met all the requirements. The hanging flower baskets for Pere Megret Street have been ordered and the brackets have been made and installed. She is waiting on advice from the Garden Club about plantings. The committee for Harmony Park met on 9/23/21. They have installed a planter at Harmony Park and she wanted to thank Paul Tomino and Aurris Wiltz for their assistance. Without them the project would not have been completed. They are still working to complete the fence and the garden beds.*
- *Allie has been doing the press and graphics for the LDRC townhall meeting we will have tomorrow at City Hall. She took pictures of the Garden Club installation at Harmony Park. She is starting a new segment on our Facebook page called "Community Corner". We will promote the community services and events going on to serve the community, like at the Christian Service Center, the Free Store on Lamar, Harmony Park updates, the Women's Center and others. She is promoting the Christmas Stroll, the Cemetery Tour and the Veteran's Heritage Festival. The bridge closure announcement reached over 14,000 people. We had to update it because the State pushed the start date back. She is working closely with Lieutenant Touchet and Shaun for updated information on what's happening.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Over a 4-pound bass was caught at LaFitte Park this weekend.*
- *The state stopped funding the Louisiana Military Museum and Dr. Elista Istre has made great strides with the museum. He wanted to recognize her and thank her. What she has done at the Museum is incredible. Please go by and visit the museum. It is beautiful.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *She acknowledged the people who attended tonight's meeting. It is important to come and get it here at the City Council meeting where it happens.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *A great time to be in our beautiful downtown. There are a lot of activities that are about to start. It begins with the Historic Cemetery tour on November 12, 2021. The Christmas Stroll will be on December 2, 2021 and we will have a big Christmas event on December 11, 2021. Get out and enjoy.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *He distributed the September 2021 residential electric rate comparison of several other cities and electrical providers. Once again, because of our tremendous electrical franchise agreement that we have with Constellation, we are right in line with SLEMCO and we are way below Entergy and CLECO. For 1,000 KWH if you live south of Abbeville in the City limits you are paying \$120 (with Entergy) compared to \$101 with the City of Abbeville. That is \$20 more per 1,000 KWH. If you are a CLECO customer you would pay \$127 for 1,000 KWH compared to \$101 in Abbeville. That is a huge difference. We have one of the best utility franchise prices in Louisiana and a lot of that savings was passed on to our citizens and businesses.*
- *Asked Chief Spearman about the Neighborhood Watch program. Chief Spearman stated we do have the program. Lieutenant Touchet stated they currently have no active watch groups at this time but if anyone would like to start a watch group, they can call him. He has all the information. Councilwoman White asked Lieutenant Touchet to get with Allie to post that on our social media.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *Tomorrow everyone is invited to stop by City Hall for a quick visit. The Louisiana Economic Development team will be here presenting the goals that came out of the community survey that we did. We want community feedback on those goals. That will be from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM tomorrow at City Hall. Drop in at your leisure.*
- *She is working with the Math Depot and Soulful Eats to plan another City-Wide cleanup on December 18, 2021. She will provide more details as they become available.*
- *She is excited about the Veterans' Day event on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.*
- *We are working on a very exciting day on December 11, 2021. She is excited to work with the different organizations to plan a family fun Christmas celebration for Abbeville.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor