

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on April 20, 2021 at 5:15 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., Terry Broussard, Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Steve Moosa, CPA

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for a Finance Committee meeting chaired by Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. He turned the floor over to Councilman Touchet. Councilman Touchet stated we are here to receive a report on budget revenues and expenses for the first quarter of 2021. He asked Steve Moosa to present the report.

Steve stated we are discussing the first three months of the calendar year. The first page of the presentation shows the revenue analysis and compares this year's actual to last year's actual as well as the budget amounts. In sales tax we are \$150,000 ahead of last year and \$170,000 ahead of budget. This is attributable to the stimulus relief checks that came into the economy. Water and Sewer revenue are both ahead of budget. The water revenue is 6% ahead of budget and sewer revenue is 4% ahead of budget. Electrical sales revenue is ahead of budget 5.8% and this is attributable to the very extreme cold weather we had. KWH sold is also about 6% above the previous year. The City is ahead of budget from a revenue aspect for the first quarter of 2021. Mayor Piazza stated that one of the criteria he has been told so far that would qualify for the some of the American Rescue Plan money would be a direct payment in the loss of utility revenue based on the prior year. Have you heard anything? Steve stated they haven't yet released clear regulations. Hopefully when they do, they will be able to tell you how to spend it. Councilman Touchet asked if he thinks there was a loss of revenue. Steve stated he does not have the 2019 information tonight so he would have to get back with him on that. Mayor Piazza stated there was a loss of revenue especially in the electrical revenues. Steve stated that the effects of COVID did not occur in the first quarter of 2020. It began in late March. Mayor Piazza stated he is impressed with the numbers and the increase in revenues. He is curious to see how that compares to 2018 and 2019 because we have the issue with the rice mill no longer running. He asked Ike if he has heard anything regarding the solar panels for Walmart. Mayor Piazza stated Walmart will pursue that eventually and that is another issue we will have to deal with down the road. Steve said he would have the information for 2018, 2019 and 2020 next month when he reports on the audit. Councilman Touchet stated they wanted to look at the first quarter to see if we could do the McKinley Scott pavilion repair. He asked Councilwoman Broussard if she had received quotes. She stated she did and the Mayor has those in his office. Mayor Piazza stated that would be a sales tax expense. The capital outlay portion we are up \$50,000. The project is in two portions. He would only feel comfortable doing the first phase now which is to elevate the building and fix the structures at the bottom. That portion is around \$60,000. Councilman Touchet stated he would deviate at the next meeting to include this project. Steve Moosa continued with the report by discussing expenditures. The payroll in the general fund is 7% underbudget and the utility system fund payroll is overbudget by 4% so we will have to watch that. Overall, payroll is 4% underbudget. In other expenditures, other than payroll, general fund expenses are underbudget 2.7% and utility system fund expenditures, other than payroll, are .8% under budget. The last page of the report showed expenditures submitted to FEMA as a result of the two hurricanes. We submitted \$1.3 million of expenses. We hope to receive 75% of those costs reimbursed to us. As of December, we only received \$45,000 and that was for Hurricane Barry back in 2019. In the last two months we received \$81,000 for Hurricane Barry and Hurricane Laura. We expect to received another \$868,000 through the FEMA reimbursement program. The City could be exposed to \$300,000 of costs.

We have also filed with our insurance company and we are waiting to hear back from them. FEMA may reimburse some expenses 90% but we didn't want to take that aggressive approach and preferred to remain at 75% and be conservative. Financially you had the funds available by using your reserves. COVID has slowed down things so much. Mayor Piazza stated that the last time Kathy reached out to them, she was told that our FEMA representative was pulled and sent to Texas for the ice storm. Mayor Piazza stated there is some good news in the report and it is good to see our businesses doing well. All departments across the board are doing their job and doing their due diligence.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor