

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on June 21, 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 Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members, Francis Plaisance, Terry Broussard, Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet  
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Gene Sellers, Jr., Architect  
Tommy Picard, Park Director, QSA  
Pastor Steve Delino Park and Rec Board  
Bridgett Levy, Park and Rec Board  
Carlton Campbell, Councilman-at-Large- Elect  
Mrs. Suzanne Piazza  
Mrs. Vana Plaisance

***This was the last meeting of Mayor Mark Piazza after serving as Mayor for 20 years. This was also the last meeting of Councilman Plaisance after serving as Councilman-at-Large for 16 years.***

*Mayor Piazza asked Pastor Steve Delino to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Plaisance to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to appoint Leslie “Les” Hollister and Lucas Meaux to the position of Firefighter with the Abbeville Fire Department, pending successful completion of all post-hire procedures. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Touchet had a special recognition of Mayor Piazza and Councilman Plaisance. He stated that tonight will end for two men who have been very important to the City of Abbeville. This is their last meeting. They have brought so much over the years. Mayor has served 32 years (12 as Councilman and 20 as Mayor) and Councilman Plaisance served 16 years. It is important to take some time out of our meeting to honor these two individuals. Both of them have done so much for the citizens of Abbeville and we should always be grateful and we should show our appreciation. He knows that, in this retirement part where they are moving towards, they will enjoy their families and spend time with their grandkids. He began by reading a proclamation aloud for Councilman Plaisance and also presented him a plaque. He then followed by reading a proclamation aloud for Mayor Piazza and also presented him a plaque. He congratulated both of them on their retirement. They have both done great work for the City of Abbeville.*

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to deviate from the agenda to approve a quote from DeHart Shipyard in the amount of \$7,387.00 to repair the water/slurry (sludge) tank truck. The motion carried unanimously.

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

-03 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to receive public comments regarding the adoption of an ordinance to annex the Hollier property which is owned by the City of Abbeville, into the corporate limits of the City of Abbeville. The property is located adjacent to the Abbeville RV Park and fronts Coulee Kinney. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza announced that we are in a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public on the proposed ordinance. There were none.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

***Plaisance/T. Broussard***  
***Ordinance 22-02***

*An ordinance to annex the Hollier property, which is owned by the City of Abbeville, into the corporate limits of the City.*

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

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

*Therefore, the ordinance was adopted.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve change order number 1 relative to the Lime Sludge Thickener Unit Rehabilitation project at the Water Treatment Facility. The change order increases the contract amount of \$7,700.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve estimate for partial payment number 2 (final) in the amount of \$44,442.00 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC for the Lime Sludge Thickener Unit Rehabilitation at the Water Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Gene Sellers stated that bids were received for the Abbeville Downtown Streetscape Phase 2 project recently. The low bidder was Southern Constructors, LLC however it was \$100,000 over the budget. The state has approved paying for their share of the amount overbudget. That would be an additional amount of \$80,000. After speaking with Mayor Piazza and Mayor-Elect White it was decided that we should accept the extra grant money. Councilwoman White stated that total out of pocket costs for this project will be around \$151,000.00. It will add handicapped accessibility near the City Hall and the Court House. We have about \$72,000 in the budget for street overlay this year. The CPA recommended that we use those funds. The project won't start until later in the year and we can allocate the additional funds needed in next year's budget. Mr.*

*Gene stated that the state has approved the overlay from Main Street to State Street. That will be a state project and the state will pay for that. It will happen once the sidewalk project is complete.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the contract for the Abbeville Downtown Streetscape Project, Phase 2 to the low bidder, Southern Constructors, LLC and to accept the additional grant funds from the state since the bid is overbudget. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to appoint the Abbeville Meridional as the official journal for the City of Abbeville from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to table payment of application number 6 (final) in the amount of \$119,000.00 payable to GeoSurfaces, Inc. for the Comeaux Park Turf and Lighting project because the lighting and turf still have some issues that have not yet been resolved. The motion carried unanimously.

**White/T. Broussard**  
**Resolution R22-15**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a termination of easement agreement originally dated 12/20/2000 by the Ollie Trahan Trust et al.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-10 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a variance to move a 1999 mobile home from 412 Chevis to 611 N. Lamar. The variance is needed due to the age of the mobile home. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a variance to move a new mobile home to 308 Loraine Street. The variance is needed because this is a no mobile home corridor. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilwoman White stated that she is granting the variance to move the mobile home from Chevis to N. Lamar because the mobile home is in excellent shape and it is only being moved a few blocks. It will not result in an increase in mobile homes in District A. The new mobile home being placed at 308 Loraine Street replaces a very dilapidated mobile home that was on that property. They have demolished the old mobile home and they are ready to move forward with a brand-new mobile home.*

-12 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to appoint Nikki Vidos to the Vermilion Economic Development Alliance Board to serve on behalf of the City of Abbeville. This is to replace Mayor-Elect Roslyn White whose term recently expired. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to repair the air conditioner at the Blacksmith Shop Museum Annex. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the quote from Abell and Son, Inc. in the amount of \$10,805.27 to repair the blue tractor. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the quote from Dehart Shipyard in the amount of \$7,387.00 to repair the sludge truck. The motion carried unanimously.

Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet

- *Discussed calls responded to recently.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Discussed calls responded to recently.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Since 1990, for the past 32 years, I've had the distinct privilege of serving the City of Abbeville and have a seat at this table. I've served alongside 5 different Chiefs of Police and 13 different City Council Members. I served as the Abbeville City Councilman for District A under Mayor Brady Broussard for 12 of those year. Alongside Mayor Brady and the City Council, many great things happened. The Magdalen Square Gazebo was built, the Abbeville Christmas lights and the Christmas Stroll were started, the Airport Helipad was built, the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame Museum began and the Fruit of the Loom Company was brought to Abbeville, along with several Baseball World Series, Regional and State-wide tournaments, just to name a few. I was then elected in 2002 to the Office of the Mayor, where I served for the past 20 years. The new administration got off to an extremely difficult start by being annihilated by Hurricane Lili after being in office for only 3 months. We were out of electricity for 14 days. Since then, we've been involved in one way or another in 17 major hurricanes, 22 tropical storms and the flood of 2016, the worst in 76 years. But many great things have happened in those years including the building of a new police station, a new fire station, and a state-of-the-art airport terminal, which won us the LMA State Community Achievement Award for Economic Development. Other notable ventures are 3 new City parks, 2 new electrical substations, a flood prevention pond, 2 museums and a downtown Welcome Center with outdoor public restrooms and new handicapped sidewalks, a skateboard park and splash pad, a new Event Center, a walking trail, a fishing pond and dog park, new tennis courts and the elevation of McKinley Scott Park pavilion. We have new turf baseball fields as well as a neighborhood community garden. Our water and wastewater systems have been improved and upgraded numerous times through millions of dollars in CDBG Grant Funds and generators have been installed at every public building. We upgraded the water plant, sewer plant and numerous sewer lift stations. Along with these infrastructure improvements, we've added events to entertain our citizens and promote tourism. We started the Daylily Festival, the Sicilian Celebration, the Blacksmith Shop Museum, Sounds on the Square, the Cake and Ice Cream Festival, the Farmers' Market and Christmas festivities, to name a few. The Abbeville Film and Visitors Commission was created along with the Abbeville Planning and Zoning Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Aviation Board, and my personal favorite, the KAB organization. Thanks to KAB, our Mainstreet Director and the Abbeville Garden Club, we have 8 District Cleanest City contest titles, 3 state titles and we were honored by the State KLB for our beautification efforts. Along, with these efforts, we've also added 2 new entrance signs and a historic downtown clock. But, the additions and improvements to our community have not always been limited to material items. The Council and I have always had a grave concern for our constituents, especially the poor*

*and the elderly. Because of this concern, we've reduced the cost of electricity 4 times through tough contract negotiations with electrical providers, lowering utilities for the City, its citizens and our businesses. Finally, none of these things would have happened without the hard work. The hard work of our City Council and our City employees have made those things possible. He is proud to have been a part of these accomplishments. Our City employees have received raises 19 out of the 20 years for their hard work and efforts and it has been a pleasure to have worked with all 13 City Council members and to have served the citizens of our great City. He thanked each and every one and wished the best of luck for the incoming administration. He knows they will do a fantastic job. He is not going anywhere if they need any assistance. He thanked everyone for their support over the years and the citizens of Abbeville for giving him the honor of serving our community.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *It has been a pleasure working with Mayor Piazza. It was her first term. Thank you for answering her calls. Thank you for helping. She wished best wishes to Councilman Plaisance and his family. Best wishes for your future endeavors. Get out there and travel.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *You guys have served our community and you both will be deeply missed at this table. You have been a permanent fixture and have been in so many discussions that have moved the City forward. Thank you both. Please reach out to us if you need anything.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *She thanked both Mayor Piazza and Councilman Plaisance. You have both taught her a lot. Thank you, Mayor Piazza, for being so supportive of her desire to run. It is huge shoes to fill. She does not plan to fill them all the way the first year but she will work on it. Thank you for always being there and guiding us.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *He announced that Mayor Piazza has been selected at the 2022 Louisiana Cattle Festival Association Grand Marshal.*
- *When I first came aboard in 2006, all I thought you did was flip a switch and the lights came on. All I thought you did was flush the commode. All I thought you did was pick up a glass of water. I didn't understand anything about the inner workings of the City. He started with a learning process for 16 years to learn how things operated. To see the frustrations and the costs of everything. He had the pleasure of serving on the committee that has locked in our utility rates until May 31, 2024 at natural gas of \$1.37. He and Councilman Broussard are very proud of that. Councilman Touchet also served on the committee at an early time. The 16 years on the Council has been very rewarding to him. He came from one of the worst jobs in the country; a child abuse investigator. It has some great rewards but the nature of the work is such that, when he came on board, Betty Cormier was here and she asked if she should screen his calls. He said no that he wanted every call because that is what he had been doing for 20 years. When you are in child protection investigation, you are answering calls at all hours of the day and night. So, he came from that to working with a wonderful experience working with the public with the City. The first 12 years as Mayor Pro-Tem stands out as being some of his best years although all 16 years have been very great. He has enjoyed all of them. His pride and joy is LaFitte Park and he certainly hopes to see the progress continue there. He is very excited about the park. He thanked Mayor Piazza for always being there for him. We had a lot of good times together and it has been a pleasure working with him and all the Council*

*members. Councilman Touchet and I have been on opposite ends at some times but when we got together, we got things done. We got the raises done. One in 2006 and the other in 2020. That is something that he is very proud of. He was able to be here when the new police station was built and when the new terminal at the airport was built. He loves the City of Abbeville and he is passionate about it. Tonight is bittersweet for him. Wishing Mayor-Elect White best wishes and the new Council as they move forward. He is looking forward to great things in the future in the City of Abbeville. Thank you very much, thank you to the citizens of Abbeville, thank you to the Police and Fire Department for the great job they do in saving lives and thank you for everybody who is here tonight. You have supported this Council as we have done our difficult jobs.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor