

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on September 3, 2019 at 5:00 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor presiding.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Lloyd Campisi, Insurance Agent

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for Committee meetings. The first committee is the Insurance Committee chaired by Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. He turned the floor over to Councilman Broussard.

Councilman Broussard stated that we are at a point that can look at a program that can save the City about \$100,000.00 per year. This is a Medicare Advantage Program. It is quite impressive as to the services it will provide for our elderly retirees. This is something that has added features in addition to Medicare. He asked Mr. Lloyd Campisi to explain. Mr. Campisi stated we have been looking at two things to make improvements to our group health insurance program. We began looking at these before the July 1, 2019 anniversary. Those two areas were a wellness program for the employees through Abbeville General Hospital and a Medicare Advantage program through United Health Care. Councilman Broussard has been negotiating the wellness program with Abbeville General Hospital and the paperwork is nearing completion. United Health Care brought the proposal for the Medicare Advantage program prior to our last renewal. Our goal is to provide the absolutely best benefit we can for every one of our employees as well as our retirees. We have a very generous retiree health program. If an employee has 25 years of service and they retire, their Medicare supplement is paid in full by the City. If they wish to add their spouse or dependents, they will pay only \$158.34 per month. When United Health Care came to us with this plan, he was very skeptical because it is hard to beat the plan we have in place. The plan we have in place for our retirees is the same the City has for their regular employees. It pays everything that Medicare doesn't cover. The Medicare Advantage Plan offered by United Health Care is a PPO. The first thing that we all know is that he would never propose something that he doesn't believe is a good benefit for the retirees. He believes this benefit will greatly assist some of our employees. We don't want to force our retirees to join a medical plan. So, we designed, with the help of United Health Care, this plan as a PPO. The preferred provider organization includes any physicians and facilities that currently already accept Medicare. If the retiree is seeing a doctor now, they will be able to continue to see that doctor because he is currently taking Medicare. Mayor Piazza added that when our employees retire, Medicare is primary and our insurance is secondary. So, our retirees are already going to the Medicare doctors and facilities now because that is their primary coverage. We require our retirees to have Medicare part A and B. This Medicare Advantage Plan is only for retirees over the age of 65 and their spouses or dependents over 65. Mr. Campisi stated this Medicare Advantage Plan has the same benefits as our current plan so our retirees will not have less benefits than they already have. United Health Care will send a team down to discuss this benefit with our retirees and answer all their questions. If the retiree chooses to change to the new plan it is for one year. After the year, they can continue with the new plan or can go back to the old plan. Lisa with United Health Care told us that they don't always have 100% participation the first year but she has never had a retiree go back to the old plan after joining the Medicare Advantage Plan. Usually we can expect a 70% participation the first year then the next year the 30% who did not join speak with the 70% who did join and then the other 30% join. There are other benefits with the Medicare Advantage Plan. One of these is the coverage of hearing aids. There are many other benefits included like house calls, silver sneakers and routine podiatry care. Mr. Campisi stated this will also benefit the City in another way. He was invited to a meeting earlier in the year

with the City's actuary consultant who does the pension plan liability computations. He pointed out that the Federal government had just included health care benefits in the liability computation for future funding. The consultant estimated this to be about \$15,000,000 of future funding. However, if you have a Medicare Advantage plan, the liability shifts from the City and goes to United Health Care. Another advantage is that this is a lot cheaper for us to purchase for our retirees. Councilman Touchet asked Lloyd how many participants 65 years and older who are retired that could choose this plan. Lloyd stated we have 42. We would recognize the \$100,000 savings if they all move. Councilman Broussard stated there are incentives as part of this program that can make it in the retirees' best interest to move to this. This plan is a win for the retirees. Mayor Piazza stated when you look at this plan, it is a win, win, win for the employees. It will save them thousands of dollars and they will have benefits they currently don't have with Medicare. Plus, they can still see the same Medicare doctors that they are seeing. The benefits are better on the Medicare Advantage for our retirees than our regular plan. We have looked at this plan and there are no fine print exceptions. We were able to modify this because this is still administered through UMR and Lloyd's office. If they have a question, they can still call Lloyd's office or UMR. This is still the City's group plan. We structured the plan. The prescription drugs and pharmacy are still available to our retirees with this plan and the co-pay is actually lower. Mr. Campisi stated he is available to meet individually with any Council member to discuss this further. The plan is scheduled to begin January 1, 2020. Mr. Campisi stated UMR will come to meet with our retirees and explain the plan. The retirees will be notified of the availability and benefits of this plan. These people are trained specifically for this type of plan.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to recommend to the City Council, at their next meeting scheduled for September 17, 2019, to authorize the Mayor to move forward with the Group Medicare Advantage PPO. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated the next committee to meet is the Ordinance Committee chaired by Councilwoman Terry Broussard. Councilwoman Broussard stated the committee will discuss amendments to the sign ordinance. She asked Mr. Funderburk to explain. Mr. Funderburk stated this amendment to the sign ordinance is an effort to regulate, as gently as possible, promotional signs. These are signs that are not permanent and they include, but are not limited to blade signs, banners, balloons, feather flags, inflatables, air dancers, inflatable tubes and pennants. Mr. Funderburk read the proposed ordinance aloud. Councilwoman White asked if our current ordinance restricts promotional signs. Mr. Funderburk answered yes. Councilman Broussard asked if the Planning Commission was ok with this proposed ordinance. Mr. Funderburk answered yes. Mayor Piazza stated that he has some reservations about this ordinance. When we adopted the original ordinance, letters were sent out to the car dealers and they mostly ignored the letters. With this we are at least trying to accommodate them in order for them to use their promotional signs for advertising. Some of the dealers do it very tactfully and some others go overboard. We are trying to regulate it but we will get some feedback from the automobile dealers. Some businesses will be more affected than others. Automobile dealers use these types of promotional signs often. Mr. Funderburk stated the ordinance can be modified.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to recommend to the City Council, at their meeting scheduled for September 17, 2019, to adopt an ordinance to amend the sign ordinance pertaining to promotional signs. The motion was put to a vote and the thereupon was as follows:

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

Therefore, the motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor