

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
July 18, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on July 18, 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 Superintendent
Ann Hardy, Civil Service Personnel Director
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA
Charles Dill, Glenn Suire & Dudley Broussard, American Legion
Troy Hebert, Candidate for State Representative

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. She then asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Tony Hardy 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.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify the appointment of Warren Alpha to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department, pending successful completion of all post-offer assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Jude Mire stated that he brought a request for disciplinary action to the Mayor. The employee has multiple days of no doctor's excuses and it drug on for a couple of months. We tried to get in touch with him but he wasn't home and did not return calls. Chief Mire brought it to the Mayor for her review. Mayor White stated that some of the Fire Department members would have like to have an opportunity to speak at this meeting but that opportunity will be during the appeals process. Mayor White stated the issue is not whether he was sick or not or that he is not a good fireman or because of his character, it is that he had 29 missed absences and did not report to his superior officer or follow company policy when he was able to speak or respond to his superior. He is being terminated for repetitive violation of policy as far as missing work and not following the policy that he needs to be in contact and give proper notice. This is not the first time that we have had a series of ongoing violations of policy with this employee and it is the Chief's recommendation. Even though after reviewing all information, she agrees that there are some issues that he has. The issue is the violation of policy, repetitively. It is never easy to let any member of our team go, but given all the facts, looking at all that happened as well as the history of this employee, she has to agree with the Chief. The

opportunity to speak on his behalf was during the hearing or during the appeals process. He did not bring anyone to the hearing.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to terminate Jesse Dupas, from the Abbeville Fire Department immediately for repetitive violation of policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Troy Hebert discussed his candidacy for State Representative. Due to redistricting, District 31 will now come into a portion of Abbeville.

Mr. Charles Dill, Mr. Glenn Suire and Mr. Dudley Broussard presented several certificates of appreciation to the City and QSA due to the success of their recently held American Legion State Baseball Tournament.

-03 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2023 Committee meeting and the June 6, 2023 and June 20, 2023 regular City Council meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of June 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the June 2023 budget to actual report. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dre Evans was not at the meeting so Councilwoman Broussard stated that the Second Annual Momentum Youth Basketball Shoot Around is to be held at McKinley Scott Park on August 5, 2023 and it is the same event he held last year. She did tell Mr. Evans that he needed to come to the Tax and Permit Department to apply for a Special Event Permit since it is being held on City property.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve Mr. Evans having the Second Annual Momentum Youth Basketball Shoot Around to be held at McKinley Scott Park on August 5, 2023, pending receipt of a completed Special Event Permit application. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to submit the name of Louis Garrot to serve on the Abbeville Fire and Police Civil Service Board to replace Katrina Harris who is no longer on the board. The term expires July 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Two names had to be submitted to the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board to fill one vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Bud Zaunbrecher.

-08 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard to submit the name of Corey Lege to the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board to fill one vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Bud Zaunbrecher. The motion died for lack of a second.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to submit the name of Gerald Gaspard to the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board to fill one vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Bud Zaunbrecher. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Hardy)
NAYS: 2(Campbell, Touchet)
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the motion carried.

-10 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to submit the name of Bud Zaunbrecher to the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board to fill one vacancy created by the expiration of his term. The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/Campbell
Resolution R23-19

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents associated with the DOTD Road Transfer Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/Touchet
Resolution R23-20

A resolution to ratify the purchase of a bucket truck for the Electrical Department from Specialty Fleet Sales, LLC in the amount of \$201,150.98.

The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify payment of the expenses in the amount of \$14,816.87 for the water line extension to the Fire Training Tower. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve payment of an invoice from Capital Electric & Supply, LLC in the amount of \$6,159.23 for the Water Plant lime feed gear. The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held pertaining to the recommendation of the City Tree Board to impose a tree mitigation fine to Project Carnival (Amazon) for heritage trees that were removed without a permit. The original recommended fine was \$10,300. Councilman Broussard stated that he thought it would be good to charge only \$5,000 and to receive 5 heritage trees that the Mayor could plant at her discretion. Mr. Don Benoit stated that they will be replanting 37 live oak trees on the property so he hoped this would serve as tree mitigation and there would be no fine.

-13 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to deny the recommendation of the City Tree Board to impose a \$10,300 tree mitigation fine to Project Carnival for heritage trees that were removed without a permit. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to accept the 37 Southern Live Oaks trees that will be planted on the Project Carnival property as tree mitigation for the removing heritage trees without a permit in lieu of a monetary fine. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the recommendation of the Abbeville Planning Commission to grant a variance for the landscaping around the sign for Starbucks. The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the recommendation of the Abbeville Planning Commission to ratify the re-subdivision of property for boundary line adjustment on lots at 805 and 809 E. Vermilion. The motion carried unanimously.

-17 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to rescind the motion from the June 20, 2023 regular City Council meeting that awarded the contract for demolition at 1006 Franks Alley to Acadiana Demo & Waste, LLC because they are not able to complete the project as expected. The motion carried unanimously.

-18 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to award the contract for demolition at 1006 Franks Alley to HIDCO in the amount of \$9,860.00. HIDCO was the second lowest bidder after Acadiana Demo & Waste, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

-19 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to declare the following list of structures that have submitted demolition agreements condemned in order for them to be placed on the Clearance Program application: 1001 Greene, 1009 Vernon, 1100 S. St. Valerie, 1102 S. St. Valerie, 1104 S. St. Valerie, 1101 S. East, 1104 S. East, 1109 S. St. Charles, 1208 Vernon (main house to the most southern part of the property), 1310 Greene, 307 S. Lamar, 315 MLK, 802 I. J. Joiner, 806 Alphonse, 1313 Vernon, 1200 S. State, 1302 Clover, 413 Chevis, 409 Chevis, 806 Jean Edias, 208 S. Gertrude, 1110 Felicity, 1307 Greene, 1611 Fairmont, 714 Jean Edias, 204 S. Gertrude, 912 Felicity, 910 Felicity and 608 S. Lamar. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Hardy
Resolution R23-21

A resolution granting permission to remove and demolish additional structures declared vacant and blighted under the LCDBG FY 2023 Clearance Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/T. Broussard
Resolution R23-22

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a servitude/easement agreement with the property owner, Quyntvi Vu Dinh, to provide utilities to the City of Abbeville to said property.

The motion carried unanimously.

-20 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to award the bid for cutting of overgrown underbrush, bamboo, chicken trees and downed trees on all property lines at 1928 Charity Street to the low bidder, Ticket Services, LLC in the amount of \$4,500.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/Campbell
Resolution R23-23

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute agreements with DOTD and FAA and to award and sign related contracts for FY 2023 Projects at the Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

-21 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to award the base bid to the low bidder, Mesotech International, in the amount of \$119,414.63 for the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) III P/T Replacement Project at the Airport contingent upon DOTD and FAA grant award and approval. The motion carried unanimously.

-22 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to grant a variance for Moe's located at 2031 Charity Street for the location of a dumpster pad and an 8-foot wood fence to separate commercial from residential property. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux discussed the projects he is working on at the Water Treatment Plant.

Byron Dozier stated that baseball is finished. Soccer registration is now available and flag football registration will soon be available.

Mayor White stated that the visit today at the Water Treatment Plant with Delta Regional Authority went well. The DRA funds will be better used for some critical issues at the plant so we may be able to change the scope of the project. We had a surprise visit from Commander Waddell and Colonel Slaven with the Louisiana National Guard. They are constructing the Fire Training Tower and stopped by. She recognized Councilman Broussard for his and the Rotary Club's hard work for the American Legion Baseball Tournament. She traveled to Rhode Island to view a wind farm since they are close to signing leases in the Gulf of Mexico for wind structures. Austin Belaire is making a video of the City.

Chief Mike Hardy stated that he is getting a lot of compliments on the new curfew.

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. stated that there are a lot of trashy people in the City. They do not take pride in their property. We need to crack down on residents and businesses.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. thanked Mr. Glenn Suire, Mr. Charles Dill, Mr. Dudley Broussard and the Abbeville Rotary Club for the great job during the American Legion Baseball Tournament.

Councilwoman Terry Broussard congratulated Councilman Campbell because his grandson signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor

