

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 6, 2019 at 5:30 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: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Minvielle, Grant Consultant
Ryan Bourriaque, State Representative
Joseph Vallee', Municipal Civil Service Board member
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion & Chamber of Commerce
Avery Franques, Girl Scout

Mayor Piazza asked for a moment of silence in lieu of a prayer for the victims of the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. Mayor Piazza asked Ms. Avery Franques, a local Girl Scout, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the probational appointment of Randall Nugier to the position of Police Officer in the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Ryan Bourriaque was at the meeting to provide an update on the recent legislative session. Representative Bourriaque stated he wanted to come and visit. It has been a pretty interesting six months. He was fortunate to get put on some committees right away that he thought could help the district and your city. One of those committees was the Ways and Means Committee. That is where the capital outlay program begins. In the middle of July, he was appointed by the speaker of the house to serve on the legislative select committee for disaster recovery. The importance of that committee is that it is made up of representatives and senators state-wide and we are charged with sitting down and discussing community development, GOHSEP funds, hazard mitigation and grant program funds. His background in local government and in grant consulting will allow him to understand what the needs are of your city and voice those in a clear and concise manner to those in Baton Rouge to make sure we are getting our just dues. He had a chairman in Ways and Means that took him under his wings and provided very good guidance. We were fortunate enough to move one of your projects through the process. He is sort of an optimistic-pessimistic person. He gets really excited early on and then he gets really nervous when it is time to move through with something. Having projects come on then come off the bill was a learning experience. He thanked Senator Hensgens for keeping your project in the

bill. We are also fortunate to have LGAP and CWF. Those are fully funded. That will be another shot in the arm for you. Even though those funds may be minimal, you can always identify that specific need that you didn't have the money available in the budget. We have also worked on discretionary funds. The State's financial position has not been a secret the last few years. We were fortunate enough to have a surplus this year. We will keep an eye on those discretionary funds for you. He wants to get the feel of the City and get your ideas and goals. He also wants to know your thoughts on a piece of proposed legislation. He appreciates you taking his calls. Moving forward we will have more opportunity for discretionary funds. He will keep in touch with the City. There are other projects that are in the State grant funding process, such as LaFitte Park. That \$99,000 will do some good and is priority for the City. If there is anything that he can do, he will be glad to do that. His office is right across the street. If there is a need, you have questions, you need some assistance with a state agency or a grant, please give him a call. He tries to be as present as he can be especially understanding his experience in local government. He participated in the OEP briefings so he could understand what impact is upon us and be ready to get to work with everyone in the Governor's office to be sure we at least get our just dues. He appreciates the opportunity to serve as your State Representative. He wants to keep our momentum going and he has an understanding of the process. We have some relationships in place that will help facilitate the needs and identifying of those funding mechanisms and deliver those with a quick turnaround. Councilman Broussard thanked Representative Bourriaque for his work to get the drainage project moved through that will help drainage in four different areas in the City. This was a project we have been requesting funding for since probably 2005 or 2006. At this time, drainage is important to everyone. Mayor Piazza stated at the meeting this morning in Intracoastal with Ryan, several members of coastal restoration and protection were there along with representative from GOHSEP. There was quite a lot of discussion about the Vermilion watershed and he pointed out that we have really grave concerns about the possible dredging of the Vermilion River in Lafayette Parish.

Mr. Gerald Gaspard with American Legion presented an official award of appreciation to the City for all the help for the Downtown bridge rededication ceremony.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meetings held on July 2, 2019 and July 16, 2019 and the special City Council meeting held on July 11, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify bills paid in the month of July 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Avery Franques stated she is with the Vermilion Parish Girl Scout Troop 067. For her Gold Award project, she would like to put a little free library in Godchaux Park. The Gold Award is the highest award she can earn. It addresses a situation the Girl Scout finds in her community and allows her to give back to the community. In our community, too often, books are neglected especially because there are other forms of entertainment. Loving books is something that gets lost. The concept of the little free library is that you build a wooden shed to place the books into. People take books and then bring those back. They can also put new books into it. There is a lot of traffic in Godchaux Park so she hopes the library will be utilized a lot. Councilman Broussard added that Ms. Franques also received the blessing of the Friends of Godchaux Park to place the library in the park. Mayor Piazza asked that Ms. Franques meet with Charlene Beckett and Councilman Broussard to choose the site.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the request to place the little free library in Godchaux Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify payment of the invoice from Solpowerlines, LLC in the amount of \$18,980.00 to replace the triple-circuit pole at the By-Pass Substation that was damaged as a result of Hurricane Barry. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify payment to Solpowerlines, LLC for the distribution poles change out/replacement project in the amount of \$38,605.44. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/White
Resolution R19-19

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with LEPA and its member cities to provide emergency assistance.

The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/White
Resolution R19-20

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit an application for the 2019-2020 Louisiana Government Assistance Program and the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the final payment estimate in the amount of \$5,616.70 payable to Teche Construction for the Sassy Suds Sewer Extension Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve contract change order number 2 for the FY 2018-2019 LCDBG Sewer System Improvement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the recommendation of the hearing officer for the hearings held on July 31, 2019 for the following properties: 1105 Charity St/tarp on roof/given 74 days, 721 Parkview Dr/multiple junk items on property/given 5 days, 1910 E. End St/tall grass & overgrown brush/given 5 days, 506 Thomas St/multiple junk items on property/given 5 days, 705 S. State St/tall grass and junk items on property/given 5 days, 207 S. Gertrude St/tall grass and demolition/given 5 days and 1715 E. Lafayette St/tall grass and demolition or secure/given 5 days. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the special event permit for Abbeville General Hospital to hold the "Making Each Day Count-Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness" on September 7, 2019 in Magdalen Square from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and also to waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the surplusing of Lieutenant David Hardy's firearm and allow him to purchase it upon his retirement from the Abbeville Police Department in accordance with LRS 33:4712 (G). The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to award the contract to change the roof on Fire Station #3 (Maude Avenue) to the low bidder, Ducote Roofing and Construction in the amount of \$8,874.20. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to surplus the following vehicles from the Abbeville Police Department: Unit 478-2006 Ford Crown Victoria, Unit 556-2009 Ford Crown Victoria, Unit 564-2008 Dodge Durango and Unit 565-2009 Dodge Durango. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *Discussed the Mechanical Screen project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The contractor is processing his shop drawing. The delivery date of the equipment is 11/28/19 and he plans to be on site to start preparing for that equipment on 11/1/19. He anticipates to complete the project in two months.*

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *Discussed the four drainage projects recently approved for funding by the State. The areas that will receive the project are: Riverside Drive, E. Lafayette Street and S. Louisiana, Robert Wells Drive and Wildcat Drive and Cedar Street. We are anticipating bidding those jobs individually in order to get them out quicker. We hope to have the projects completed by March 2020.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Appreciate Ryan being here tonight. He is very active in Vermilion Parish and we really appreciate that.*
- *Recently attended the LMA Convention. It was a good convention and he attended several workshops especially those dealing with blighted property and a way to expedite the removal of tires. We will tighten up some of our ordinances. There is always something to learn at these conventions.*
- *At the next meeting he will request to abolish the Utility Committee chaired by Councilwoman Roslyn White and to replace it with the Public Relations and Social Media Committee chaired by Councilwoman Roslyn White. This will provide a way to communicate with the constituents.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *We will have a Farmers Market in the Square on 8/17/2019 and a free concert on 8/22/2019. Shelly Fairchild will be performing.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Thanked Mr. Gene Sellers for the nice evening during the LMA Convention.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor