

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
January 18, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on January 18, 2024 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
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent
Willie Leger, Street Maintenance Superintendent
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Luke Hebert, C. H. Fenstermaker
James Noel, Jr., Developer for Dovetail Subdivision
Rockell Ficklen, to complain about her neighbor's dog

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White explained that the regular meeting was originally scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 but because of the freezing temperatures and the slick roads the meeting was rescheduled for today.

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. Brady Broussard, Jr. to accept the recommendation of termination for Warren Alpha, a Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to accept the resignation of Sargeant Tracy Sonnier from the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to accept the recommendation to appoint Shawn Sunday to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White discussed the Complete Streets demonstration renderings. She encouraged

everyone to complete the survey that is available in order to get feedback from the community about the demonstration. There will also be a public meeting on January 30, 2024 at the LSU Ag Center beginning at 5:30 PM. All the information collected will be utilized to prepare the final plans. Those plans will most likely be presented to the Abbeville Planning Commission first and then to the City Council for approval.

-04 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2023 regular City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify bills paid in the month of December 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the December 2023 budget to actual report. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rockell Ficklen had requested to be on the agenda to complain about her neighbor's dog. She lives at 703 Clover and the neighbor lives at 701 Clover. She has contacted the Police Department but nothing was done. The dog is loose and has attacked her dog. Chief Hardy stated that he would pull the file and offered Ms. Ficklen his business card so that she can contact him directly. Bart Broussard stated that the complaint can be taken by either the Abbeville Police Department or animal control. He then explained the next steps that should be taken according to the City's ordinance.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to award the bid for the demolition of the structure located at 814 Solomon to the low bidder, Vermilion Shell & Limestone, at a cost of \$8,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute the audit engagement letter with Darnall, Sikes and Frederick for the audit services for fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreed Upon Procedures Audit engagement letter for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White explained that there will be no action needed for the Class B liquor permit for Smoke N Go #405 located at 201 S. State Street because the ordinance was changed. All future liquor license permits will not come before the City Council due to the new administrative permitting approval process in the ordinance.

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 3 in the amount of \$119,143.23 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC relative to the LCDBG-LLOP new fishing pier and wharf project at LaFitte Drive-In Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/B. Broussard
Resolution R24-01

A resolution pertaining to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report (January 2022 through December 2022).

The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote from Echo Powerline in the amount of \$68,000 for labor and approximately \$12,000 (purchased by the City separately from another vendor) for materials for an interconnect line to allow load shift in summer months. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the quote from Altec in the amount of \$8,613.06 for the repair of Unit 493, the pole truck in the Electrical Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute the master agreement for engineering and associated services for C. H. Fenstermaker Associates, LLC to prepare the MS4 permit and to provide other services as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize repairs to the Cypress Lift Station by Griner Drilling and Luke Deshotel Construction. The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion began regarding the installation of a gravity sewer line extension at an estimated cost of \$152,000.00 and future upgrades to the Ollie Sewer Lift Station at an estimate cost of \$175,000.00 to accommodate Phase I of the new Dovetail Subdivision off of Wildcat Drive. Councilman Touchet stated that the electrical extension was approved at a previous meeting so we should approve both of these so the developer can begin the subdivision. At completion the subdivision will contain over 100 houses. The sewer gravity line is on the right-of-way and we will need to upgrade that to serve the subdivision. We will also need to upgrade the sewer lift station at some point. We would do this for anyone else. The area does not flood. If we don't approve this, the developer will go elsewhere. We will get the road dedicated to us once the subdivision is completed. This subdivision will accommodate those getting jobs at the new solar facility in New Iberia. Councilman Broussard asked the number of homes that will be built in the subdivision. There will be 118 homes in total and Phase I will be 65 homes on the Abbeville High School side. Mayor White stated that after the electrical work was approved, we realized that Ollie Lift Station can only handle about 30 more homes. We also didn't know we would have to install a gravity sewer line either. We did apply for LCDBG funding for this upgrade and others but we are not sure we will receive that. We won't know about the award of that until next year. In the future we need to look for all needed upgrades when a developer approaches to develop a property so that we know all expenses upfront.

-15 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to agree to install a sewer gravity line extension at an approximate cost of \$152,000.00 and future upgrades to the Ollie Sewer Lift Station at an estimated cost of \$175,000.00 to accommodate Phase I of the new Dovetail Subdivision off of Wildcat Drive. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

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

Therefore, the motion carried.

-16 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Abbeville and Noel Land Investments, LLC regarding utility installations for Dovetail Subdivision. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

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

Therefore, the motion carried.

Mayor White thanked all involved in helping with the recent freeze and the staffing of the warming center.

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *Distributed the 2023 stats of calls responded to.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked about the compliance of Stonebridge with the cameras and security. Chief Hardy stated that they are still not in compliance. Bart stated that he would contact their attorney again. The opinion of Stonebridge's attorney is that they are grandfathered in. You cannot retroactively govern. Bart stated that one year ago, he was told in an email that they had the required cameras and there was someone on security duty. Chief Hardy stated that was not the case. Bart stated that he was not informed that they were not in compliance. There is obviously a communication disconnect.*

-17 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation pertaining to the Abbeville Police Department employees regarding pay increases. The motion carried unanimously.

-18 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White explained that the executive session was held to discuss pending litigation filed by some Abbeville Police Department employees regarding their pay. Mr. Bart Broussard stated that no action is needed at this time.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor