

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on July 19, 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 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: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Lieutenant Todd O'Bryan
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent
Ann Hardy, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Tommy Picard, Park Director, QSA
Pastor Lane Payne
Pastor Steve Delino
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion

Mayor White asked Pastor Lane Payne to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Carlton Campbell to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the job description for the new classification of Utility Collection Specialist II and to authorize open advertisement to fill the vacancy. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the revised job description for the classification of Utility Collection Specialist I. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to accept the amendments to the bereavement policy as approved by the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to accept the changes to the Emergency Appointment Policy as approved by the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the probational appointment of Cobe Moore to the position of firefighter in the Abbeville Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Lane Payne of New Life Church was at the meeting tonight to announce his candidacy for U. S. Congress. He has been serving as a pastor in this community to help our people. He believes elected office is about serving people. He believes that Washington D C has forgot that. The election is November 8th. Councilwoman Broussard asked Pastor Payne to name one thing that he would like to change in Washington D C. Pastor Payne stated that he has 16 of them but one main thing is FEMA. He is so sick and tired of seeing our people being treated like criminals whenever there is a disaster here. They need to be treated like people. Mayor White stated that Lynn, in her office, has Pastor Payne's contact information.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of June 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Campbell began a discussion regarding food distribution by non-profit organizations once a week. He would like to tweak the rules to allow a certain non-profit organization in the City to cook food from the back of their trailer and distribute it to people in different neighborhoods without them having to go through all the rules and regulations that are on the books. They will be giving the food away. The organization is the Nehemiah Project. Mr. Funderburk stated that the food truck ordinance regulates the quality of the food that is being served to constituents. It ensures that the standards that have been established by the State of Louisiana are abided with. The food trucks are also regulated by the City so that we would not be inundated by food trucks and therefore be detrimental to our brick-and-mortar restaurants. If you are looking for a non-profit exemption to the food truck ordinance that could be something in the realm of possibilities as long as they do have all of the requirements that are required by the Department of Health. We certainly don't want someone, even though it is a well-meaning non-profit doing good for the community organization, to get ill from food that was inappropriately prepared from their truck or trailer. Councilman Touchet stated that food trucks are making profit. This organization is donating food just like the Christian Service Center. Mayor White's recommendation is to either look at an exemption or to give them a form that we can give out to those non-profits. Ike felt that an exemption from the ordinance would be better. If they come to us for that exemption, it is to stop someone who might say they are a non-profit but would be collecting cash on the side without us being aware of that. The exemption would provide documentation that the City is aware of them and they are a bonafide non-profit not collecting money.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to exempt the Nehemiah Project from any City permitting requirements for distribution of food in the community as discussed contingent upon them meeting all requirements as set forth by the Board of Health. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Broussard stated that to rent the Recreation Center at A. A. Comeaux Park cost \$400.00 plus a \$125.00 cleanup fee. We require a deposit, insurance and security (if they will be having alcohol at the event). She wanted to know if any of the Council members wanted to change that. Mayor Piazza turned over everything over to Lynn for the rentals prior to him leaving. We need to put that under Parks and Recreation. Mayor White asked if anyone was requesting to rent the recreation center between now and the next meeting. Councilwoman Broussard stated no. Mayor White suggested that it be tabled so everyone can look over the specifics and then come back. Tommy Picard stated that there will be a problem with parking when we have a

tournament. If we do rent it out, we need to have an Abbeville employee there for the duration of the event. The renter of the recreation center would pay for that employee. The employee would be a monitor. It is your building. Mr. Gerald Gaspard stated they always have a monitor when they rent the American Legion building for events. It protects your investment. Councilman Touchet stated that we need to make a decision if we want to rent the facility. The former administration did not want to get into rentals. This Council needs to make a decision. This needs to go with someone who can coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department. Mayor White asked Councilwoman Broussard to send the information she had to everyone for them to review. Tommy also asked that the hall not be rented out from February through August due to tournaments. Parking will be a problem anytime there is a sporting event at A. A. Comeaux Park.

-08 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to table any decision on the rental of the Recreation Center until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract for asbestos abatement and demolition of the structure at 601 S. East Street to the low bidder, Tickets Service in the amount of \$12,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to get an appraisal of the Broussard property on South Main Street. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify the purchase of two non-clog pumps for the Sellers Lift Station at a cost of \$12,065.76 from MMR Constructors, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to accept the managed service proposal in the amount of \$1,650.00 per month from Comtech Systems of Louisiana. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to move forward with the purchase of the air conditioner units at the Cultural Center based on availability. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White stated that she had reached out to the Cultural Alliance and the Tourist Commission to ask them if they could help us with the cost. They both have committed to helping the City with the cost of this and we really appreciate them doing that.

Mayor White stated there have been a lot of questions about the hours of LaFitte Park. She has never clearly understood the hours over the last four years and it was not clearly communicated to us. In the future, we will all know what is going on. She met with Councilwoman Broussard, Bridgett Levy, who oversees the park, and Tommy Picard and we spoke about how things are operating now and how we would like to see it operate through the rest of the summer and where we go from here. Her recommendation is to have LaFitte Park opened Thursday through Sunday through Labor Day weekend. This will provide additional hours for the community to utilize the park. Her recommendations are 7:00 AM, opening of the whole park, and close the big gate at 6:00 PM or 8:00 PM. The walking trail will be opened daily and we will open that at 7:00 AM and close it at 8:00 PM because it is dark then. Bridgett's recommendation is that we close the big gate at 6:00 PM. Mayor White further recommended that on Sunday we open the park at 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Bridgette stated that she mostly gets cars in the afternoon on Sunday. Mayor

White stated that the dog park would be opened at the same time as the park would be open, not the walking trail hours. We have been awarded a \$400,000 grant to build a fishing pier and that will probably go to bid after Labor Day. We may have to close the park for construction at some point. We will have a better idea after Labor Day when this will take place. This gives the community a place to go during the summer. We would like to have it open everyday but we need to do some more work there. We will post the hours on the sign, the Facebook page and the City website.

-14 introduced Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to accept the recommendations of the Mayor to open LaFitte Park as follows: Thursday through Saturday 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM through Labor Day, Sunday 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM through Labor Day and the walking trail will be open everyday from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the special event permit application for the Vermilion Catholic Booster Club Annual Alumni Co-Ed Softball Tournament to be held August 19, 2022 through August 22, 2022 at Comeaux Park and to waive the special event permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Campbell
Resolution R22-17

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with the State of Louisiana, Department of Children and Family Services for the lease of the Recreation Center at A. A. Comeaux Park for space for emergency distribution of DSNAP benefits.

The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote from ITA Truck Sales and Service in the amount \$43,221.52 for a remanufactured engine for unit #602, a large bucket truck in the electrical department, and to pay the invoice from sales tax. The motion carried unanimously.

The one item of old business was to submit four names to fill two vacancies on the Abbeville Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board so that the names could be submitted to a four-year higher learning institution for selection. At the last City Council meeting four names were submitted however two of the names submitted requested that their names be removed from the list of submission so two more names were needed. The remaining nominees were Gerald Gaspard and Johnny Gaspard. Councilman Campbell asked if the nominee needed to reside in the City limits. Ike stated yes. Mr. Gerald Gaspard stated that he does not live in the City limits. Mayor White asked Ike to clarify the rule, communicate the clarification to the Council and for each Council member to bring at least one name to the next meeting.

-17 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to table the request to submit four names to fill two vacancies on the Abbeville Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board until the next meeting to receive clarification from the City attorney about the requirements to serve on the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- Brought a map showing the property line for Comeaux Park.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *He had his initial meeting with LWCC to try to improve our safety. We decided that we will have quarterly safety meetings with a live speaker from LWCC.*
- *GeoSurfaces is coming Friday to see about finishing up the punch list that he has. This has to be done before we pay them.*
- *We have three employees at the Louisiana Rural Water Association water class in Lake Charles trying to get their licenses.*
- *We recently hired two Street Maintenance Worker 1 employees and two part-time employees to assist us to cut grass. That should improve soon.*

Tommy Picard, Parks and Recreation Director, QSA

- *Tournament season finished Sunday.*
- *We had 40 people playing pickleball Sunday in Henry. It is very popular.*
- *We are working on getting a tractor for Sellers field. We are looking at renting a Georgia buggy. Mayor White suggested that Tommy reach out to some of the schools to see if they could assist us with a tractor and an operator before we rent something.*
- *2D damaged our mounds two weeks ago so we are getting a quote to get them fixed. 2D said they would pay it.*
- *You definitely need a monitor when you rent the recreation center to protect your interests. The renter pays for it.*

Mayor Roslyn R. White

- *She met with Mr. Gene and DOTD on Thursday of last week about the street overlay of the Downtown streets. We are all thankful to Senator Bob Hensgens for putting some cash in the State DOTD budget allocated for the overlay of the downtown streets in Councilman Broussard's district. DOTD will design it and they are discussing overlaying from the Courthouse to Main Street and potentially construction would start the summer of next year. It needs to be designed first.*
- *We did have a technology meeting with our tech support staff and some of the in-house staff here. We are pulling fiber into City Hall so we will have 100mbps up and down. It is being provided by Kaptel at a very nominal increase in our monthly rate. We will have fiber internet service into City Hall soon. We did have a discussion about live streaming the meetings and we discussed a larger monitor in the City Council meeting room for the audience. She will bring that proposal back to the Council when she has those numbers. We also discussed and purchased a TV for the lobby that will have a rolling billboard of events. We had some discussions about how to extract information better from our software to give the Mayor more up to date numbers on our budget on a daily basis.*
- *She will be talking with each of the Council members about the sewer system grant from the Water Sector program. We will be shifting gears and instead of going for drying beds or a basin she is proposing a new project which is a state-of-the-art sewer plant on the south side. We will do a presentation at the next meeting.*
- *Thank you for everybody for being here. Thank you to the Council for your patience. Thank you to the City team. They have been amazing and very patient with her in this transition. She is not yet able to return every call quickly at this time but that turn around call time will get shorter as she progresses. Thank you for being patient with her.*

Lieutenant Todd O'Bryan

- *Presented the call numbers on behalf of the Police Chief. There were 387 calls in 2 weeks.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked Lieutenant O'Bryan about the camera requirements at apartment complexes. They were mandated to have cameras. Was that something that*

was available to the APD at the recent incident at the apartment complex? Lieutenant O'Bryan stated that he is not aware because he was not called out for that. Mayor White stated that she and Ike met with the Police Chief on Friday morning to discuss what he could discuss about the incident. In that conversation, she asked the same question. She does not have the answer as to whether or not the cameras were working but what she does have the answer to is that another part of the ordinance is that it is supposed to be tied into the monitor at the Police Station and they are not. So, we need to know if their cameras were working and if they were, why wasn't there a live feed. Lieutenant O'Bryan confirmed that they do not have access to their cameras. She asked Ike to notify the apartment complex and get them into compliance. Ike stated that they will be moving forward. Councilman Touchet stated that this governing body passed an ordinance so where was the breakdown. Ike stated that part was up to the Police Department to make sure that the cameras were being utilized and connected to them. He spoke on more than one occasion with our previous police chief who promised him that they would do this but he never received a report on it. He was told that a particular officer was assigned that duty but Ike never got a report from anybody. Councilman Touchet stated that there has to be some confirmation of things being done. Mayor White stated that the checks and balances we can put in place is that once a week she will take the agenda and the minutes and review them and go through check by check to make sure we executed things on the agenda and if we didn't make sure we follow up with that. Councilman Touchet stated that would be a perfect job for their new Council Secretary to do that. Mayor White asked Lieutenant O'Bryan if the Police Department ever had a live feed of Stonebridge. Lieutenant O'Bryan said no. The only live feed they have is Live Oak.

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Had three new firefighters start working this week. They will go to school in September.*
- *The truck on Joffre Street has a broken water pump. It will be fixed tomorrow.*
- *Discussed calls received in the last two weeks.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Thanked Mayor White for communicating with the Council. That has been outstanding.*
- *Thanked Mayor White for the pursuit of technology. We have been far behind and we need to get things moving forward.*
- *Our employees need to understand that when we ask people to do certain things with their property that we should be replicating that with our own property. We expect people to clean their yards so we should keep our yards clean.*
- *We need to take care of infrastructure. We need to have a plan for that.*
- *We need to make sure that we can get some officers in our schools for the safety of our kids. We have to protect our kids. Interested to see if the Police Chief has discussed this with the school administrators.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *On October 1, 2022, it will be the Great Acadian Awakening in Magdalen Square where our Canadian cousins and visitors will be with us. It will be a big opportunity to show the beauty and cultural jewel we are in Acadiana.*
- *He looks forward to seeing the Mayor and the Council members at the Louisiana Municipal Association conference in Lafayette beginning Thursday of next week. That is where we can go and work for you and bring back best practices that are working in other communities.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *She is having a school supply drive. There is are drop off locations at City Hall, Soar on Concord, at the Fire Department on the By-Pass and at Ena's Nutrition Place on the corner of Charity and Gertrude.*
- *Asked Ike to provide to her, for the next meeting, the consequences for the apartment complexes that aren't following the ordinance. Ike stated that the fines are in the statute.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor