

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
December 19, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on December 19, 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  
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent  
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant  
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Byron Dozier, QSA Parks & Recreation Coordinator  
Elaine Dill, Municipal Employees Civil Service Board  
Charles Dill, Abbeville Planning Commission  
Kevin Bihm and David Bergeron, LEPA  
Kristin Moore, Pathways Forward

*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 asked Mr. Charles Dill 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 Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the annual 2% pay increase for the unclassified position of the Mayor's Administrative Assistant. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the recommendation to appoint Marc Wright to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

*Ms. Kristin Moore with Pathways Forward discussed the recent visits to several colleges with several students. The tours were held early mornings on Saturday. The students and their parents are very dedicated. 30 students participated. She will also be researching workforce for those who aren't going to college.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the November 2023 budget to actual report. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White announced that the January 2, 2024 regular City Council meeting has been cancelled because City Hall is closed that day. No action was necessary.*

*Mayor White began a discussion to add a deputy City Marshal. The deputy City Marshal could assist us with code enforcement. The prospective candidate is Reggie Hilts who currently works as a school resource officer at J. H. Williams. The SRO is under contract with the City Marshal's office. He would continue to be under the control of the City Marshal's office and would continue serving as an SRO. When he is not an SRO, we could utilize him in various ways. We are not quite ready to move forward at this point as we are conducting additional research. Mayor White was looking for advice of the City Council as to whether they wanted him employed part-time or full-time.*

-04 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to take the topic of employing a deputy City Marshal under advisement for the City Attorney to conduct additional research but if and when appropriate, to open it up as a full-time position. The motion carried unanimously.

**T. Broussard/B. Broussard**  
**Resolution R23-38**

*A resolution setting forth rules to govern expenditures and transfers pertaining to the Road Maintenance Fund.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to table any action on the acquisition of tasers for the Abbeville Police Department in order to get additional information and to bring it back up at a future meeting when all information is obtained. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to enter into a public hearing to receive public comments pertaining to an ordinance to adopt the 2024 budget and amend the 2023 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White asked if there were any comments pertaining to the proposed ordinance to adopt the 2024 budget and amend the 2023 budget. There were none.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to reconvene the regular meeting from the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

**Hardy/T. Broussard**  
**Ordinance 23-10**

*An ordinance to adopt the 2024 budget and the amended 2023 budget.*

*The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:*

YEAS: 5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy)  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

*Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.*

**Campbell/B. Broussard**  
**Resolution R23-39**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with local municipalities/governing bodies to provide reciprocal aid to each other in times of need.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mayor White stated that our current electrical provider contract will be expiring in May 2024. Our current provider, Constellation, offered a 45% increase. We did not feel that would be acceptable so we sought out request for proposals from other providers. Constellation did come back with an offer but it was still 19% higher than the current rates. Right now, LEPA is 9% higher and that is the best offer we have had. Other municipalities are in the same boat we are in. Councilman Touchet stated that the sweet deal is over. The product of a fixed rate is no longer offered. We can't have what we have had in the past. The rate will depend on the market rather than be fixed. We have no other choice. LEPA has provided the best deal. Councilman Broussard added that this is the best rate we can get at this time. Mayor White stated that if we take action tonight, then the LEPA board will meet in January 2024. If they approve it, we will give notice to MISO by February 15, 2024 and we will start the new contract with LEPA on June 1, 2024.*

*-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to move forward with LEPA as the power provider for the City of Abbeville beginning June 1, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Touchet/B. Broussard**  
**Resolution R23-40**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents in order to proceed with LEPA as the power provider for the City of Abbeville.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Hardy/T. Broussard**  
**Resolution R23-41**

*A resolution designating the City of Abbeville holidays for 2024.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

*-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract in the amount of \$60,000.00 with CPEX for consulting services for the Abbeville Master Plan. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mayor White provided a Complete Streets Demonstration update. This is recommended to make the people using the courthouse safer. It slows traffic down by design. It makes it safer for people who have to cross the street. Now that those streets are no longer state highways and are City streets, we are trying to figure out the design before we go to construction. This is something that we have never done before. She is aware that there have been some negative*

*comments and we have also had some very positive comments. Anyone can contact her office regarding the demonstration. We will have other times to come and give public comment before permanent design. The cones will stay up one month. We stripped the road where 80 to 90 percent of the vehicles can make the turn but they have to slow down to make them. Every day we go out and check the cones and where there are cones ran over multiple times, we adjust those. The goal at the end of the month is to know what the tightest radius is that we can have to slow the traffic down and still have the vehicles manipulate the turn. They have to hit their brakes to make the turn and that is the whole point. We also utilized reverse angle parking. Many people are adjusting to that. The reverse angle parking is the most recommended safety improvement for one-way streets in a high pedestrian area. Most people in the public say, "Do you know how dangerous it is to stop and back up into a spot"? Her response to that is, "When you go to parallel park, tell me what you do? You go up and back up and then have to maneuver several times to get into a parallel spot". With a 45-degree angle rear entry parking, you pass the spot up, put your blinker on and then back up at a 45-degree angle in one maneuver. When you are leaving the parking spot, you can see anyone that is crossing on foot or on a bicycle right in front of you. It makes it much safer for when you are pulling out into the road. It is a change and our community does not like change. If it is not the right thing, we will not fix it into the final product. There are a lot of people happy with how many parking spots we have next to the courthouse. There are a lot of people that are happy that they can park in those spots to get access to the courthouse. It will take some adjusting but it was done with research and merit and with the safety of our community in mind. These safety concepts have been tried in other communities. We will take all sides seriously. The demonstration was completely funded by a grant.*

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of partial payment number 2 in the amount of \$43,691.35 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC relative to the new fishing pier and wharf project at LaFitte Drive-In Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify payment of the invoice to Capital Electric & Supply LLC in the amount of \$11,765.00 to change the electrical panel at the Abbeville RV Park sewer pump station. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the expense of \$12,217.85 to repair the belt press at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to ratify the payment to Ray Chevrolet in the amount of \$9,342.30 for the repair of Abbeville Police Department Unit 595, a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify payment in the amount of \$39,999.99 to Crossroads Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram for the purchase of a used 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the bid for the demolition of the structure at 1110 Martin Luther King Drive to the low bidder, Acadiana Landfill, in the amount of \$6,769.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 9 in the amount of \$19,522.50 payable to Shaw Construction Services, LLC relative to the FY 2021 LCDBG Sewer rehabilitation project. The motion carried unanimously.

Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA

- *Started first weekend of Bidy Basketball last weekend.*

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *Mayor White asked for an update on Maison du Monde. Chief Hardy stated that he would ask the officer who responded. She asked Chief Hardy to provide an update to the owner of the facility. He called for that.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked Chief Hardy about the cameras at Stonebridge. Chief Hardy stated that the City attorney is speaking with their attorney. They have not complied. Councilman Touchet stated that we need to hold the accountable. Mayor White stated that we are supposed to be writing citations to them every day for non-compliance. Bart stated that he thought all of this had been taken care of. Councilman Touchet would like to meet in a meeting with them to discuss his concerns. Mayor White stated that Chief Hardy should provide an update to Bart and then Bart can pursue this.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor