

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on June 15, 2021 at 5:15 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, 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: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Carlton Campbell, Municipal Civil Service Board Member
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Bridget Levy, Parks and Recreation Board Member

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for an Ordinance Committee meeting chaired by Councilwoman Terry Broussard. He turned the floor over to Councilwoman Broussard. Councilwoman Broussard stated we are here to discuss possible amendments to the code of ordinances to address unruly behavior on public property including but not limited to Section 10-67-Penalties pertaining to Special Event permitting. The reason for this is that a few weeks ago she was notified of something happening in Abbeville on Maude Avenue. She received calls from ministers and citizens reporting that our community is “not that” and we are better than that. They asked what we could do as a City to prevent this. The word that they used was “Bock Party”. The minister that was supposed to be here tonight had to fly out for a funeral and she did let him know that we would carry on with the discussion anyway. She asked Ike Funderburk to explain the proposed amendments to the ordinance.

Mr. Funderburk stated that he has distributed a series of City ordinances that deal with improper behavior. We have one that deals with disturbing the peace, we have one that prohibits loud amplification devices on public ways, we have one that deals with open container, illegal possession of firearms, loitering, unreasonable noise which requires the use of a sound level device that registers the decibels, we have a noise ordinance that prohibits the use of megaphones and loudspeakers, and we have an ordinance that regulates the noise levels emanating from private property. We have an arsenal of ordinances already. We also have a State statute dealing with obstruction of public passages. If people are having a “block party” and they are out in the street then we have all of these tools that can be used to stop the illegal behavior. There was some talk about amending our code of ordinances to make some changes to the noise ordinance but he does not recommend that but he will entertain any thoughts that the Council has. His suggestion is that we already have something in place that prohibits people from using public property. Street and sidewalks are public property. We have a special event permit application process that requires anybody that will have an event on public property to come in and do all of the work that is required to get a special event permit for that. What we are having is people that are throwing a “private party” and it migrates onto public property thus blocking the street and creating noise. He feels like we need to have a penal provision in our special event permitting ordinance. He has provided that to the Mayor and Council. Any person who sponsors or organizes or hosts an event without complying with the provision of the special event permitting process shall be subject to criminal prosecution and if found guilty shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$500, and/or incarcerated for not more than 60 days, or both, for a first offense; shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$750 and/or incarcerated for not more than 60 days, or both, for a second offense; shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 and/or incarcerated for not more than 60 days, or both for each subsequent offense. For the purpose of these provisions, relative to permitting a special event, any act taken by a person which facilitates a non-permitted event or encourages other persons to attend the non-permitted event shall be deemed to be a sponsor,

organizer or host of the event. Law enforcement would have to make the determination as to who that individual is. This will give us another tool to work with.

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to recommend to the Council to adopt, at their next regular meeting scheduled for July 6, 2021, an ordinance amending Section 10-67, Penalties pertaining to Special Event permitting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor