

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
November 1, 2022

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 1, 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: Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Mike Hardy, Police Chief  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
T. J. Savoy, Engineer  
Arlene Collee, Giant Omelette Festival  
Charles Dill, Abbeville Planning Commission  
Billie Menard, Beansies for St. Jude  
Patrick Donahue, Dunn Exploration

*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 public comments from the audience on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.*

*Mayor White stated that in the interest of moving things forward on our agendas, she will be limiting presentations to seven minutes or less and any public comment on any agenda item will be limited to three minutes or less. If you are here for a specific item and the item has been covered, you are free to leave if you want to.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the appointment of Jerry Braun to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

*Ms. Billie Menard discussed the history of Beansies for St. Jude. They have been in existence for 23 years. On Saturday, January 28, 2023, they will be holding their annual gala at Magdalen Place beginning at 5:00 PM. The theme this year is "Hunting for a Cure". The cost of the ticket is \$100 and this is for two people. A table that holds 10 people will cost \$500. They will also hold their annual fun walk in Kaplan on March 11, 2023.*

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the

minutes from the Committee meeting held on October 18, 2022, the special City Council meeting held on October 4, 2022 and October 18, 2022 and the regular City Council meetings held on October 4, 2022 and October 18, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White stated she put a discussion and possible action regarding security during sporting events in the City based on the unplanned discussion at the end of the last meeting. She met with Chief Hardy, Chris Gautreaux and QSA about recreation that was going on and how they should proceed. Chris got with the school board. She yielded the floor to Chief Hardy to discuss this item. Chief Hardy stated they do have a schedule from QSA for the football games. Every lieutenant that comes on duty will know about the schedule. They will send an officer to walk around the football field and Comeaux Park. He met with Mr. Turner to discuss the high school football games. The school board will hire a few more officers for security inside the facility and Chief Hardy will provide officers outside the perimeter of the football game. It seems to be working as they had no trouble last week. They are no longer allowing people to loiter outside of the perimeter of the field. Mayor White stated that she did speak with Coach Moy and he thanked us for the help with this. Chris Gautreaux stated that he spoke with Mr. Turner and Mr. Byler. He sent Stewart to check the street lights that were out. He cut trees and fixed the street lights needing attention. The City will do whatever they need to do on the outside of the facility. The school board needs to look on the inside of the facility to see what they need to do. We brought the Police Chief's power plant last night. The problem appears to be solved and there is no council action needed at this time. Councilman Hardy asked Chris about putting a windscreen on the fence. Chris stated the fence is the school board's property so they would have to make a decision to install that. Unfortunately, the windscreen will last a while but then it will fade and deteriorate. It can actually bring a fence down at that point. Chris stated that the school board will also have to have the trees cut on the visitors' side. That is their responsibility. Councilman Touchet asked about security for the QSA games. Chris stated that QSA may have to hire a security company. Councilman Touchet asked Mayor White to get with QSA regarding the security for the upcoming travel baseball tournament season. Councilwoman Broussard agreed that QSA needs a plan for the park. Mr. Marc Turner thanked the City for their assistance. When people come to a sporting event, they need to feel safe. Mayor White stated that she pledges to continue to work with the school board and QSA to make the events as safe as possible.*

-03 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to enter into a public hearing to receive comments from the public regarding a proposed ordinance to set the speed limit at the 700<sup>th</sup> address block of 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 15 MPH. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

*Chief Hardy explained that this is a closed-in loop off of South Bailey and would be very helpful. No one will complain about it.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to reconvene the regular meeting from public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ***Campbell/T. Broussard Ordinance***

*An ordinance to set the speed limit at the 700<sup>th</sup> address block of 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 15 MPH.*

*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

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract between the Military Department, State of Louisiana and the City of Abbeville for 12.243 acres near the Abbeville Airport for the National Guard Readiness Center. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute a pipeline right of way contract with Dunn Exploration for property at the Abbeville Airport subject to FAA and DOTD Aviation approval. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve payment of the invoice from MMR in the amount of \$5,836.37 to repair unit #108, a mobile generator. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment to the pole attachment agreement between the City of Abbeville and Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to surplus a Snapper Pro mower bearing serial number 2000387858 and Unit 631, a 2002 Ford pickup bearing VIN 1FTRW07L92KB10977. The motion carried unanimously.

## **B. Broussard/T. Broussard**

### **Resolution R22-31**

*A non-binding resolution in support of the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District Capital Outlay request for funds to construct and equip a new Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory and to consider committing matching funds in the amount of \$189,302.00 should said capital outlay request be funded by the State of Louisiana and matching funds are required.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve a special event permit and to waive the fee for the Rotary Club of Abbeville to hold Abbeville's Cajun Christmas Celebration in Downtown Abbeville on Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to retain the services of the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) to audit and assist with updating City Codes and redevelopment planning for a fee not to exceed \$25,000 and to be paid from sales tax. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *Discussed the upcoming downtown sidewalk project. Contractor will move in after January 1<sup>st</sup> because of the Christmas events that will occur in downtown.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *The Water Department fixed 39 water leaks in the month of October.*

- *The new transformer for Felicity Substation has been delivered. Stewart stated that it will be installed when the weather is cooler. That way it will be easier for us to put the load on another substation without any outages. It should take at least four to five hours to remove the spare and install the new transformer.*
- *They are preparing for the Harvestime parade on November 10, 2022.*
- *The tennis courts at the park are nearly finished. They are planting rye grass at Comeaux Park and he is working with Gene, Jr. regarding the handicapped accessibility plan.*

#### Mayor Roslyn White

- *She is in talks with DOTD regarding the road transfer program. They are considering giving us Business 14 and 82 so that we would have more control in our downtown area. She will bring that back to the City Council when appropriate.*
- *They are working on their due diligence regarding Riviana. The decision to accept the donation will be made this month and she will present the documents when they are ready.*
- *She congratulated Chief Hardy since the suspects have turned themselves in.*
- *The Omelette Festival is this weekend. A film crew will be coming in for the event and they will feature Abbeville.*
- *She has asked Chris to take care of the flower beds and the hanging flower baskets. He is having those redone since they looked horrible.*
- *The Veterans Heritage Festival will be held on 11/11/22 at the Abbeville airport.*

#### Chief Mike Hardy

- *His staff is ready for the Omelette Festival.*
- *He has asked the media for assistance and it is working. He thanks the public for their participation.*

#### Chief Jude Mire

- *He has three recruits at academy.*
- *All stations are good and he is still having trouble with truck repairs.*
- *They had 147 calls in the month of October. He discussed those.*
- *Had enough smoke detectors for 33 homes.*
- *They are running 800 medical calls each year. About 40% of those are calls, we go and hold their hand. It takes up our employees' time and runs our trucks. We are trying to pair those down. He met with the Mayor and Acadian. He has made a new list of calls that they will run. He will bring the list the next Council meeting. If someone has a minor breathing problem or they have COVID, they don't need us there. If it is major problem, then they will respond. We run about 20 types of calls and we will pair that down to about 10. Mayor White stated that in the meeting with Acadian Ambulance they discussed that some of the calls that we are running, we have no authority to do anything about. We are putting our people at risk and we are putting ourselves at risk because they can get in an accident on the way. Basically, they get there and there is absolutely nothing that they can do. Acadian Ambulance needs to take the lead on those calls because that is what they are in this town to do. Our people should not be running to those calls unless they are in need of support. It will alleviate some of the burden to our personnel and our equipment. We won't make any kind of final decision without the Council knowing but this is an effort to hold Acadian more accountable for doing business in our community and for the Fire Chief to focus on what our department should be focusing on. Hopefully it saves us some money but it will definitely save wear and tear on our staff and our equipment.*

#### Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Omelette Festival is this Saturday and Sunday. There will be great music, great food and*

*great vendors.*

- *The Christmas Stroll is December 1, 2022.*
- *The Christmas parade is December 10, 2022. This is zydeco music, 40-50 vendors, a classic car show and a whole lot of things for families.*
- *The COX office has closed in Abbeville.*
- *The cemetery tour, "If Headstones Could Talk", will be held on November 11, 2022.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Asked Chief Hardy about the apartment complex camera situation. Chief Hardy stated he was told that they are updating their cameras but they are still not connected to the police department. Mr. Bart Broussard stated that their attorney reached out to him and he gave them the deadline of 11/30/22 to come into compliance or we will have to file suit against them.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Thanked Councilman Hardy for assisting him to do a Halloween motif at Hebert Park.*
- *At a future meeting he would like to have a commendation for Tommy Picard for his years of service with recreation in the City of Abbeville.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor