

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
April 4, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 4, 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, Brady Broussard, Jr., Terry Broussard, 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 Department Superintendent  
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks  
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA  
Representative Jonathan Goudeau  
Tommy Byler, VPSB Superintendent  
Marc Turner, VPSB Assistant Superintendent  
Pastor Steve Delino, Harvesttime  
Christine Dubois, Vice Principal Vermilion Catholic

*Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. She then asked Councilman Carlton Campbell to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

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

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize advertisement for the part-time position of Code Enforcement Officer under the jurisdiction of the Tax and Permit Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the appointment of Jacob Desormeaux and Colt Punch to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department, pending successful completion of all post-offer assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

*Representative Goudeau discussed the projects he is working on and the legislation he will introduce at the next legislative session.*

*Since Officer Jeremy Deville was not at the meeting, Mayor White informed everyone that the Police Officers will be picking up donations at the intersection near Shop Rite on May 2, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The donations are for St. Jude Research Hospital.*

*Councilman Touchet began a discussion about hardening our schools. He would like school resource officers at each school in the City. He offered for the City to pay for 50% of the salary and the school would pay the other 50%. Mr. Tommy Byler, Mr. Marc Turner, Pastor Steve Delino and Ms. Christine Dubois all responded favorable although Pastor Delino stated they could not afford the 50%. Councilman Touchet asked Chief Hardy to meet individually with each representative and to report back to the City Council at the next meeting regarding this.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to enter into a public hearing to receive comments from the public regarding a proposed ordinance to change the curfew for those under the age of 18. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing**

*Mayor White explained the changes to the curfew as per the proposed ordinance. It would change the curfew age from 17 year of age to 18 years of age. The curfew times would be adjusted to 8:30 PM to 5:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM Friday and Saturday. There would also be a fine imposed on the parents of any minor caught after curfew. The first offense would be \$50.00, the second offense would be \$75.00 and the third offense would be \$100.00. At the judge's discretion, community service could be imposed in lieu of the fine. These times are related to the crimes we are seeing. Councilman Touchet added that parents need to be held responsible for their children. Mr. Tommy Byler asked that the changes be communicated to the School Board so they can let visiting teams know the curfew. Several members of the audience discussed their thoughts on the curfew. Some were concerned about commerce and others were concerned about racial profiling and others were concerned about penalizing the parents. Mayor White stated that it is important that we try to remain fair. When we change and ordinance, we won't always get it right on the first try but we have to try to make needed changes. Councilman Touchet added that we have to keep the kids safe so we have to make an effort to change something.*

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

### **Touchet/Hardy Ordinance 23-06**

*An ordinance to change the curfew for those under the age of 18.*

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

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

*Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.*

*Mayor White discussed rental of the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center. She asked Chris to discuss the issues. Chris stated that there are issues with the roof. We don't know if the facility is up to code in order to rent it. QSA stores some of their equipment and supplies in the facility right now. Councilman Touchet asked Chief Jude Mire to invite the State Fire Marshal to inspect the facility and to report his findings so a decision could be made.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement of understanding between the City of Abbeville, Erin Benoit,

representing The Brown Bag and Coby Bengtson, representing B & B Daiquiris, pertaining to the leasing of City property located at 1103 Veterans Memorial Drive.

**B. Broussard/T. Broussard**

**Resolution R23-09**

*A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Abbeville, the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and the Vermilion Parish School Board for a street overlay project of Eaton Drive from Sylvester to Regina Street. The City share will not exceed \$20,000.00*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-06 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the purchase and installation of a pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$17,697.90. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 6 in the amount of \$32,775.00 payable to Shaw Construction Services, LLC relative to the FY 2021 LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation project. The motion carried unanimously.

**T. Broussard/B. Broussard**

**Resolution R23-08**

*A resolution to recognize the importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program and to designate the week of April 10, 2023 through April 14, 2023 as National Community Development Week.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the quotation in the amount of \$7,683.48 from Versalift to repair Unit #602, a bucket truck in the Electrical Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quotation in the amount of \$6,600.00 from Kaptel to provide Wi-Fi to A. A. Comeaux Park. The motion carried unanimously.

*A discussion was held with Ms. Pearl Plowden regarding the dilapidated structure located at 509 S. Young Street. Ms. Plowden wants to convert the structure into a greenhouse.*

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to grant the owner of 509 S. Young Street a 30-day extension to convert the structure as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

*A discussion was held with Mr. Shawn Joiner pertaining to the dilapidated structure at 909 S. Lyman. Mr. Joiner stated that they are in the process of having the structure demolished. No further action was necessary.*

*A discussion was held with Mr. Van Viator and Mr. Don Callahan pertaining to the dilapidated*

*structures, junk, garbage, rubbish, overgrown and fallen trees and tall grass at the master tract of land with the address of 1841 Graceland. This master tract includes the addresses of 1847 Graceland, 1855 Graceland, 1857 Graceland and 1859 Graceland. The owners stated that they do not live in the City of Abbeville. They only own the land. The people who own the dilapidated mobile homes are trying to repair them. They agreed to clean up the property and will meet with the City Attorney regarding the legalities.*

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to grant an extension of 30 days to the property owners of the master tract with the address of 1841 Graceland, including the additional addresses of 1847 Graceland, 1855 Graceland, 1857 Graceland and 1859 Graceland, to demolish the two mobile homes and clean up the property. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to table the request to condemn the structure located at 1106 Vernon Street and to move forward with the demolition. The motion carried unanimously.

*Byron Dozier provided an update of the events at Comeaux Park.*

*Chief Jude Mire stated that they will begin doing safety checks on businesses to make sure they are still in compliance with safety codes.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE;

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor