

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in emergency special session on December 30, 2021 at 5:00 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: Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Lieutenant Sean Ramke  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Tommy Picard, Park Director QSA

*Mayor Piazza stated that we are here to declare a state of emergency because of the vandalism of Felicity Electrical Substation. This will allow him to do all acts necessary to replace the transformer as expeditiously as possible. He will not go through all the details about the acts of vandalism and the efforts that were made to restore electricity as quickly as possible. Each Council member was there and saw exactly what happened and what we had to do to restore the power. It took longer than we were hoping for but those were things that could not be avoided. This is no different than a hurricane event. We are now operating on our backup transformer. We need to act as soon as possible with the advice of Harvey Dubois and Stewart Head. Stewart and the electrical crew did a fantastic job. He will wait for Harvey's evaluation of the existing transformer before acting. This emergency declaration will allow him to purchase some things that may be necessary. Councilman Touchet stated that the Mayor will have the ability to do what he needs to do and to put us in a good position. He is not comfortable because we don't have a spare transformer. Stewart and his crew did an outstanding job. They worked non-stop. Chris Gautreaux did an excellent job. He provided updates to him. He was on top of it and he did what he needed to do. He led our guys, did what needed to be done and he was a leader to the crews. He thanked Chris for what he did. Councilman Broussard stated that this Council works so well together and we are being proactive 5 hours after this crisis ended. This will authorize the Mayor to find the transformer in a crisis, nationwide, supply chain issue. This will not be as easy, as fast or as affordable as it once was. Mayor Piazza stated that Kathy has already reached out to our insurance company and it appears that we will have some coverage for this. Councilwoman White asked Mayor Piazza if the City would cover the perishables and other losses of constituents. She had been receiving a lot of calls about that. What is the City liable for? Mayor Piazza stated that Ike is not here and he is not an attorney but he thinks that Ike would say that even in a state of emergency, such as this, you can't contribute, donate or give to the public City funds under any situation. Unless this would be something distributed through the National Guard or FEMA or something along those lines. He does not believe that the City can hand out money to people to help them pay for food because of an act of vandalism or an act of God. It has never been done in the past. Councilwoman White distributed the research that she had done on the property adjacent to the substation. The lot was sold in September 2021 for a very low amount. When you are looking at your action plan, please think about this property because we do need a little*

*more room to maneuver and this property is vacant. We should be able to acquire the property for a relatively low amount. Councilman Touchet stated that we need to have the trees cut and get them out of there. Mayor Piazza stated that we will have to take the trees out because we need to be able to go in there with a crane when the new transformer comes in. Councilwoman Broussard thanked the Mayor and the City Council members for being out there and for Chris and all he did during this crisis. Mayor Piazza added that we also need to thank Shirley for answering all the phone calls.*

**Plaisance/T. Broussard**  
**Resolution R21-51**

*A resolution declaring a state of emergency because of vandalism of Felicity Electrical Substation and to authorize the Mayor to do all acts necessary to replace the transformer as expeditiously as possible.*

*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