

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
December 5, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on December 5, 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
Ann Hardy, Director of Municipal Employees Civil Service
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Byron Dozier, QSA Parks & Recreation Coordinator
Steve Moosa, CPA

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White led those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. 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.

Mayor White explained that she will table item number one under personnel until the next meeting.

-01 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of November 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to accept the recommendation of the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board to amend the sick leave and leave without pay policies. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White explained that Ali Miller requested that the City contribute to the pay for a part-time employee to help at the Cultural Center because Cristian cannot always be there because she is needed for projects at City Hall. Cristian stated that when she does have to leave and no one else is at the Center, she leaves a note on the door with her cellphone number. Anyone needing access to the facility can call her and she can go and meet them. Mayor White wanted to know if the Council wanted the budget adjusted for this request. The City of Abbeville is the only municipality in the parish contributing and paying expenses for the Center. Ali stated that she will also reach out to other municipalities to ask them to contribute. The Council did not

move so the Mayor stated that we will pull Cristian as needed and she can leave a note on the door as she currently does.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to table any action pertaining to the request by the tourist director at the Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance Center for the City to contribute to the pay of a part-time worker at the Cultural Center. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/B. Broussard
Resolution R23-36

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a quit claim deed regarding property in Eastridge Subdivision.

The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract for the demolition of the structure at 803 South Guegnon to the low bidder, HIDCO, in the amount of \$15,151.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Hardy wanted the Council to increase his 2024 budget by \$15,000.00 for the care and equipment for the K-9. Councilman Touchet asked Mayor White what is his current budget for 2023 and 2024. Mayor White stated \$3,660,000.00 for 2023 and \$3,755,000.00 for 2024. Councilman Touchet asked if all the money had been spent from this year's budget. Chief Hardy said it had not. Councilman Touchet suggested that Chief Hardy find \$10,000 already in the 2023 budget to modify the unit for the K-9 and then find \$5,000 in next year's budget for the other expenses. They will not increase his budget because the funds he already has should be adequate.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize Chief Hardy to expend \$10,000.00 to modify the Police Unit for the K-9 with funds he already has left in the 2023 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement for application of treated sewage sludge for beneficial agricultural use between the City of Abbeville and Scott LeMaire and Tammy LeMaire Gaspard. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to award the contract for the subsurface geotechnical investigations at the Abbeville Water Treatment Plant to the low bidder, Raba Kistner from Lafayette, Louisiana, in the amount of \$9,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize the acquisition of two dump trucks in 2024, one for the wastewater department and one for the street department, by either direct purchase or by lease. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/T. Broussard
Resolution R23-37

A resolution accepting the contract with Quality Sports Authority effective January 1, 2024 and

to authorize the Mayor to execute the same.

The motion carried unanimously.

Todd Vincent, Engineer

- *Provided an update on the LaFitte Park Pier and Wharf project and the LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation project.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works and Park Director

- *Fixed pot holes on South East Street.*

Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator for QSA

- *Just had Toys for Tots tournament. It was with 36 teams. Had 950 people in park Saturday and 780 people in park on Sunday. Basketball will run from December 15, 2023 through January 21, 2024. He is already visiting with the high school baseball coaches for the upcoming season.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *We have had \$11 million investments from grants pledged to Abbeville in the last 16 months. That will affect roads, water plant, fishing pier and strategic planning. That cost to the taxpayers will only be \$700,000.00. We will make sure that every area of our community sees improvements over the next 10 years.*

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *Thanked David Ashley with F & R Air Conditioning for the donation of 50 gift cards. The police officers will be stopping motorists that show good driving habits and awarding them a gift card.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Christmas Stroll is this Thursday and the Cajun Christmas Celebration will be held on Saturday, weather permitting. They may have to alter their plans due to the predicted weather on Saturday. They hope to announce any changes by Thursday or Friday.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *There is a big Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration organized by the Vermilion Reach Group that will take place in January.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor