

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2022

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on September 6, 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
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manger
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Tommy Picard, Parks & Recreation Director, QSA
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion
Hailee Wiggins & Nikia LeBlanc, Abbeville Community Cleanup Day

Mayor White asked Charlene Beckett to lead 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 public comments from the audience on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

Ms. Hailee Wiggins discussed Abbeville's Community Cleanup Day that will be held on September 24, 2022 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. She asked for input from the City Council regarding the areas that need to be cleaned up. They will start the day at the Christian Service Center on Chevis Street and they will also end there at about 12:00 PM with lunch. The City will help us with the pickup. She distributed a map of the proposed areas that will be cleaned. Mayor White stated that Lynn had submitted an email to the City Council members to ask for any areas of concern in their districts. She asked the Council Members to submit their list to Lynn as soon as possible so they can map it out. Last year was a very successful event. There were over 120 volunteers and they picked up 530 tires in one day. Hailee would like the routes as soon as possible. Keep Abbeville Beautiful will be helping them. The Police Jury will allow us to bring in whatever we pick up that day. Ms. Hailee stated there is a Google form for people to sign up to volunteer so they can have a head count. Soulful eats will supply them with some burgers. Charlene Becket stated that KAB wrote a supply grant for grabbers, trash bags and other things that we can give them to help with the cleanup. Councilman Touchet stated that we have people who come to the City of Abbeville every day and the entrances are the first thing they see. What will it take for the public to understand not to litter? We have to find a solution to keep this area clean. Mayor White stated that our resources are very limited. We have two teams out there. If you read our ordinances, it is actually the individual landowner's responsibility to keep their grass up and pick up litter on their shoulder in front of their house. Everybody needs to take pride in the house they live in. She

walks outside every day and picks up litter in front of her house and her neighbor's house. That is what it will take. The people of Abbeville will have to decide that they don't want to live in filth and pick up the trash in front of their house. It will take the citizens being responsible for their own little kingdom and keeping it up. We can't pay enough people to keep it up. The volunteer days are great but in between it gets bad. It will take enforcement and people taking pictures and shaming them when they throw something out of their window and it will take people being responsible for their own property. Charlene stated at the KAB meeting this morning, they decided to bombard people with pictures of litter and write an article about the trash going in our river. This is one of the reasons why we flood. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she had rode around her district and took pictures about the dumping and then Shaun put that in the newspaper. It had helped. It is the young people who are littering. Charlene stated that they will try to do four cleanups per year. A lot of the problems are the piles that need to be picked up by the Police Jury. That is their responsibility. Mayor White stated that public awareness will help us with the littering issue too.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the minutes from the Personnel Interview meetings held on August 2, 2022 and August 16, 2022, the Committee meetings held on August 2, 2022 and August 16, 2022, the special City Council meeting held on August 4, 2022 and the regular City Council meetings held on August 2, 2022 and August 16, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the payment of bills for the month of August 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

-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 amend Section 2-9, Designation of municipal officers and appointment of same, to remove (2) City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the proposed ordinance. There were none.

-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.

**Campbell/T. Broussard
Ordinance 22-05**

An ordinance to amend Section 2-9, Designation of municipal officers and appointment of same, to remove (2) City Attorney.

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

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. discussed the Great Acadian Awakening to be held in Magdalen Square on October 1, 2022. There will be up to 1,000 people in our downtown. We will have food and French music by our French Immersion children and our Grammy award winner, Steve Riley

and the Mamou Playboys. We will have gumbo and oysters. This is the story of the people of South Louisiana. We will have a play. The entire Vermilion Parish community will be represented. Abbeville is fortunate enough to have the grand opening of the Great Acadian Awakening. He and the Mayor are working with the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission and Louisiane-Acadie. Louisiane-Acadie is putting on the event October 1, 2022 through October 9, 2022. It will move all over Acadiana. The City and the Parish are working with the Lieutenant Governor's office for funding from the State to assist us with this. We are the warmest and most loving people to welcome our cousins and guests and visitors who want to learn what we do. Mayor White stated that Charlene and Allie have been working with Ali Miller to plan this. We are looking forward to this day and it is an honor to have been chosen for the opening ceremony. We have moved some funds in order to secure the bands. We are committing about \$6,000.00 for this event. We hope to get all or a large portion of this back from the Lieutenant Governor. She gave props to Madeline DeHart. She came up with the \$4,000.00 that it will cost for Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys. He will do something in partnership with the schools under her creative arts program. He will do in person lessons with the children in the schools. He will invite them to be on stage with him. It is important that we celebrate our Acadian and Cajun heritage and we should celebrate it more.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the annual Main Street contract and authorize the Mayor to execute it. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White asked Charlene Beckett to explain about the Main Street district. Charlene stated that to be a Main Street District you have to have historic properties. There has to be a value of the number of buildings you have and how many of them are historic to qualify. Thirty years ago, it was easier to become a Main Street Community. Now it is very competitive. We are lucky to have that. What they do is they send State staff down here and they are the ones that designate where that district lies. Ours is a 10-block district from the Rice Mill to behind the Church then to the bridge and then behind the Courthouse. That is the building stock that qualified to be more historic than other places. We could request that other streets be added but that would be difficult because it has to be contiguous. We have a National Register District, a Commercial National Register District and a Residential National Register District that happened before Main Street. Main Street is larger than all of these. We also have a Cultural District. Mayor White stated that one of Charlene's duties is to plan events and work specifically with businesses and properties that lie within the Main Street District. That is why a lot of the time her efforts are focused there.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to move the Cake and Ice Festival General Fund expense budget in the amount of \$3,500.00 to the Sounds on the Square expense budget in the Main Street Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White stated that we had budgeted \$3,500.00 for the Cake and Ice Cream Festival and that is not happening this year. We did not budget enough money for Sounds on the Square. Councilman Touchet asked that when we redo the budget that we remove the Cake and Ice Cream Festival from the budget and increase the budget for Sounds on the Square. We have to pay for good bands that will draw people here. Charlene stated that this is a good thing and a bad thing. We started Sounds on the Square and people came but also others caught on to that so now Shuck's has a band on Thursday night and so does Riverfront. Dupuy's also sometimes has a band on Thursday night. Councilman Touchet stated then we can move ours to Wednesday night. Charlene stated that her point is that we need to get bands that are decent that will draw people. Councilman Touchet stated that he really wants Charlene to think about getting away from Thursday night. There are some high school football games that are being played on a Thursday. Also, other areas like Youngsville have their function on Thursday. We need to find a way to keep

some of our people here. Mayor White stated that it is her intention to ask for a lot more money in next year's budget for events. She plans to have 52 events for the 52 weeks of the year. Charlene stated that the Sounds on the Square schedule is as follows: on October 6, 2022, Donny Broussard and the Louisiana Stars will be playing, on October 13, 2022 it will be Terry and the Zydeco Badboys and on October 20, 2022 it will be Blake Luquette. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she agrees with Councilman Touchet that we need to add more money to the budget so that we can get some top people to come to draw a crowd. We can't let money be an issue.

B. Broussard/Campbell

Resolution R22-24

A resolution requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2022-2023 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Fund Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to submit the names of Tim Creswell and Troy LaPorte to fill one vacancy on the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote from Southern Constructors in the amount of \$35,000.00 for the replacement of the sludge blowdown valve. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Sellers stated that bids were received for the North Henry Street Wastewater Pump Station number 8 building and repair project on September 2, 2022. We received 2 bids. One bidder was Southern Constructors, LLC in the amount of \$210,000.00 and the other bidder was E. B. Feucht & Sons, LLC in the amount of \$217,500.00. We have not had an opportunity to review the bids so he recommended that the Council take them under advisement so that he can meet with the contractor to see why it is over the proposed budget of \$168,000.00. Mayor White stated that this was not a budgeted item for this fiscal year so it may have to wait until next year for approval.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to take the bids under advisement for the North Henry Wastewater Pump Station number 8 building and repairs project so that a discussion can be held with the contractors. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to surplus a Glock model 17 Gen 5 bearing serial number BMWY530 which was Chief Spearman's weapon so that the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #48 may purchase it at fair market value to present to Chief Spearman. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- The water department repaired 24 water leaks and they replaced a fire hydrant on Clover.*
- The truck that was given to us from the Police Department is almost ready to be used.*
- We are working hard at A. A. Comeaux Park to get the fields ready for baseball season.*
- We are having trouble with the scrappers on the bottom of the lime sludge tank at the Water Plant. We will be repairing that.*
- Councilwoman Broussard thanked Chris for the work he is doing in her district.*
- Councilman Hardy asked Chris about the ditches on Coulee Kinney. Chris stated they did not*

have to dig them. They went and took the trash out of the ditches.

- *Mayor White asked Chris to look at the ditch that runs along St. Paul behind the guest bleachers that hold water. Chris stated that he noticed that the other day and he thinks it is a drain that is continuously draining and it is a low spot. He will examine it further.*
- *Stewart is cutting branches and we will get those picked up. When it rains a lot, we can't get up the hill at solid waste so the trees stay a little longer than we really want them to.*
- *We have 26 road cuts from the gas company cutting the road. They are supposed to have a crew on the way to repair those.*

Tommy Picard, Parks & Recreation Director, QSA

- *We are meeting with another group besides 2D and USSSA to try to bring some games here. It is called Off the Chain and we are meeting Thursday.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *She had a call with Eric Dauphine, the regional director of DOTD. He called her about the letter we sent about abandoning the lane. He gave her some recommendations on how we might move forward. He is waiting on Mr. Jim Broussard's plan to be submitted. She will follow up with Jim. Mr. Dauphine wants to work with us. We also spoke about the possible acceptance of some other State highways through our downtown and what they would like to do. She will set up a meeting with him and then she will have more information to give the Council. He doesn't know if he can approve what they want but in the long term he is willing to work with us so that we have more control on what happens in our downtown area.*
- *We had a lightning strike at the Water Plant and we have been struggling to work through that. She thinks we have it all figured out and we have most of the repairs done. That was an unexpected expense for the Water Plant.*
- *There were some questions about lighting at LaFitte Park. She met with Stewart and he got some prices together. We first started pricing solar just to see but we don't think that will be reasonable. She and Stewart discussed another plan of going in with some L E D lights. That will be coming back to the Council about the costs and then you can decide. She is working on that and hopes to have the costs together by the next meeting. Councilman Touchet stated that he believes we should wait on the lighting so that it happens at the same time we have to shut down the park for the construction. That way it will all happen at once. We will only have to close it down once.*
- *She has a meeting with Bart and they will discuss the food truck ordinance. She met with the Chamber of Commerce today and they gave her their input on what they would like to see so we will work on that and present it to the Council. She and Bart will also work their way one by one on all of the ordinance that need to be changed.*
- *She met with the liaison for AT&T and he asked us to give them a list of issues so he could take care of that.*

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *He is actively recruiting to hire people. We are about 12 short.*
- *He issued citations at the apartment complex. The citation states three of the non-compliance ordinances that we have and then the officer went again the next night and they did not have a security guard so that is another ordinance they did not comply with. They are looking at non-compliance of four ordinances. Bart has suggested that we put the manager's name on the citation. That way we have somebody we can attach to the paperwork. Councilman Touchet stated that he is glad the Police Chief stated this in a public meeting. That way if something else happens, the people who live there, know that our Chief of Police went out there and issued citations to Stonebridge. Chief Hardy stated that they are in non-compliance until they notify us that they have done what they need to do to be in compliance. There are*

finest that they will have to pay for being in non-compliance. You can't close them down because a lot of people live there but you can hit them with these fines. Live Oak Manor is in compliance and is fully working. He gave Stonebridge 30 days to get into compliance before he began writing citations but they still did not comply.

- *Mayor White commended Chief Hardy for putting all the office personnel on the road.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *The new three recruits will be starting the academy next week.*
- *We will be receiving 72 more smoke detectors to put in homes.*
- *He distributed the call report sheet. They responded to 95 calls in the last two weeks.*
- *Councilman Broussard thanked Chief Mire for speaking with his department about the gasoline saving measures.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Our new City Prosecutor is Mr. Ronald Melebeck.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *We are privileged to have Nikia here as a leader of the Community cleanup and we thank you and Hailee and Roderick.*
- *Reminded everyone about the Great Acadian Awakening to be held on October 1, 2022.*
- *Our first Sounds on the Square will be held on October 6, 2022.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Mayor White has been a great communicator so far. He asked that when Sarah in the tax department gets notifications about new businesses coming or businesses closing that the Council Secretary be notified so she can let them know.*

Councilman Tony Hardy

- *He talked with Mr. Joseph Pillette today. He hauled away at least 10 loads. He did a lot of work. He told Mr. Pillette that he would go to bat for him but it would be up to the Council.*
- *He will get with Chief Hardy tomorrow in reference to the campers on Coulee Kinney.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor