

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on May 4, 2021 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 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: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Jason Hebert, Police Department Lieutenant
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Richard Minvielle, Grant Consultant
Tommy Picard, QSA
Bridget Levy, Parks and Recreation Board

Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Roslyn White to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the probational appointment of Jared Ruffin to the position of Firefighter with the Abbeville Fire Department, pending all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2021 and April 20, 2021 special City Council meetings, the April 6, 2021 and April 20, 2021 Committee meetings and the March 16, 2021, April 6, 2021 and April 20, 2021 regular City Council meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments on any agenda item prior to action from the public. There were none.

Mr. Richard Minvielle stated we took bids on the first six houses for the LCDBG Clearance program. We had four bidders with very competitive prices. This will include complete demolition of everything on the site and we will haul in dirt as needed. The lot will be completely clean. The low bidder was Stallion Oilfield Services at a cost of \$48,310.00. There are 10 other structures that we are working on. All but maybe two have been tested for asbestos. They all have asbestos. The asbestos has to be abated before the house can be demolished. 8 of the 10 houses we have very detailed reports and the others we are awaiting a more detailed report. We hope to expedite things to put a package together and hope to get a turn key job. We hope to hire a contractor with an asbestos abatement license and then a demolition contractor. We will look at those

houses and then divide them up into those packages. We will mail the contract to Stallion tomorrow and we will issue a notice to proceed within 30 days.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to award the contract for Phase I of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program to demolish six structures to the low bidder, Stallion Oilfield Service, at a cost of \$48,310.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the advertisement for bids for the remaining structures to be demolished for the City's LCDBG Clearance Program once the specifications are finalized to the Mayor's satisfaction. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated we received a letter from the Governor awarding the City of Abbeville \$1,000,000 as part of the LCDBG. This is for the excessive infiltration issues within the City of Abbeville's sewer collection system. This is from the HUD program. This project will go well into next year. One element of this project is to address the sewer collection issues on the west side of the Vermilion River and it will provide a second river crossing. We have never had that in the history of Abbeville. This will help the sewer problems we have on the west side of the river. This will work in conjunction with the number 4 pump station on Lorraine Street and will increase that capacity. The second element of this project is extending the force main pump station number 13 at Guegnon all the way to the sewer treatment plant. This will allow the City to expedite the removal of wastewater from the collection system. The third element of the project will be a smoke test of the system that will aid in helping us identify the infiltration problems that we have in certain areas of the City. This is a very extensive project that we have waited many years for. Councilman Plaisance asked if we will be able to fix infiltration problems that are not on our right-of-way. Mr. Minvielle stated that this is a rare opportunity that we have. If we find leaks on private property and the resident qualifies based on their income and they give us permission to go on their property, we can do it. We have allocated a portion of this grant to do this. We need to prioritize those. Mr. Todd Vincent stated they are excited to work on this project especially adding the redundancy with the additional river crossing. This will help the entire collection system. The difficult parts will be prioritizing the leaks on private property that we can fix. We hope to bid the project at the end of the year. Mr. Minvielle stated the grant is for construction funds and the City will pay the engineering and consulting.

Plaisance/White
Resolution R21-21

A resolution granting the authority to the Mayor to sign and submit all necessary documents along with adopting certain policies, plans & procedures in connection with the FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program for a Sewer System Improvements Project.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/T. Broussard
Resolution R21-22

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement on behalf of the City to acquire the interest of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury in properties located at 1110 and 1112 Greene Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote to replace the fence at the football field at Comeaux Park for a total price of \$18,436.90 which includes the fence panels from Ideal Steel, the wood from Lowes and the labor provided by Tim Briggs. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the quote from Progressive Tractor & Implement in the amount of \$8,401.79 to repair the Street Department backhoe. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the contract, from bids submitted, for the removal of a tree on the structure and cutting of grass, weeds and overgrown brush from the entire property located at 206 Alleman Street to Tony Landry at a cost of \$999.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Jude Mire stated that the property next to station #2 may be available for purchase. It is on the south side of the Fire Station on Joffre. After the flood of 2016 we had to tear that station down and rebuild it on the same piece of property because we could not find another piece of property. We would really like to purchase this property because we could have another driveway for the safety of backing up the truck. We would tear down the back wall and move some electrical and water and we would have to move the big fan out of the way. We would rebuild a new driveway on the back side a put a new door. He would like the Council to authorize the Mayor to get an appraisal on the property so we can see if this is feasible. There is a house on the property but it can be moved so the City should be able to sell the house.

-08 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to get an appraisal on the property next to Fire Station #2. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the proposal from T & T Asphalt, Inc in the amount of \$12,500.00 to fix several road cuts. The motion carried unanimously.

Clay Menard stated this is a company he located that is willing to do a few road cuts at a time instead of having to wait for the other contractor who does very many of them at a time. We used to have to wait until we had a very long list of them now, we won't have to.

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *The tree trimming contractor has completed the work. We still have the electrical contractor assisting our electrical department on a day-to-day basis.*
- *We have started doing the dress up around the splashpad so the splashpad can be pressure washed. We have individuals that Charlene found that will paint a layout on the splashpad. Charlene has a copy of the layout. We plan on putting sod around the splashpad once the work is finished. Bayou Fencing has received all the materials for the fencing. We have some more concrete work that we need to do there.*
- *We removed some sidewalks on Lafayette Street and South Jefferson Street. We will get that formed up and we plan on pouring sidewalks there and at the splashpad and a road cut on South St. Valerie.*
- *The Street Construction Foreman will be going on vacation from May 6, 2021 through May 17, 2021.*

- Councilwoman Broussard asked about the situation over there and how that is going. Clay stated things are going well. He had conversations with the lead workers. They are working together and are accomplishing a lot more than when they were split up. He reminds them to spread out and not bunch up. The mini-excavator was down and we just recently had it repaired.
- Councilman Plaisance told Clay that one of the concrete tables had been moved at LaFitte Park and he asked Clay to have the crew move it back.
- Councilwoman White asked about the catch basins on Assay. Clay stated the welder is constructing the grills. The catch basins are finished except for that. She also asked what type of fence will be put around the splashpad. Clay stated it is a black coated chain link fence.

Tommy Picard, Park Director

- We are playing all our rained-out games here instead of Erath.
- He contacted the coach from VC to move all of his stuff out of the concession stand at Sellers Field.
- There will be a tournament here on July 1, 2021. We will use Luquette and Delcambre.
- He needs to order a mound. Asked how he does that. Mayor Piazza stated to get quote, submit it and then we will call Wilda for a PO. Wilda can set up an account with a new vendor if needed. Ike stated to read the purchasing procedures material that he had recently given to him this past week.
- Formed a basketball committee.
- Had a Vermilion Parish Adult Basketball tournament at Abbeville High School. Asked Ike to come up with an agreement for us to use their gym for free since they use our fields for free.
- They changed all the locks at the park so that one key opens everything. He would like the City to pay to change the rest of the locks. It is \$55 per lock and the keys are \$7 each. There are 9 locks that need to be changed. He will bring in the quote.
- He got a set of rules for the tennis court from Youngsville. The hours should be from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Councilman Broussard would like them to check in with the office and have a two-hour limit.
- Got 3 quotes to put a building behind the office. It is a 20 X 20 building with a 15 X 10 lean to. One is \$26,000, one is \$23,000 and the other one is \$15,000. It would be built where the camera is. It is for storage. The container buildings are \$2,000 to \$2,300 each. Councilwoman Broussard asked how long we had to decide on the building. Tommy stated there is no hurry. Councilman Broussard asked Tommy about the metal container buildings. Not these metal ones that can be cut with shears. You don't want it made of thin sheet metal. These are the heavy gauge metal and they can't be broken into. He asked Tommy to bring the data for those at the next meeting. Tommy asked if we can move the cameras.
- Councilwoman White asked for the Parks and Recreation budget for the next meeting.

Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager

- We have two new businesses downtown, Calabria and Dales' Woodworking.
- We have two more benches that have come in but they have not yet been installed.
- The next Farmers' Market is on May 16, 2021.
- The Daylily Festival is on June 5, 2021. She has 26 vendors registered and some of the vendors have more than one booth space.
- We are not doing the Cleanest City Contest this year.
- We removed the Ligustrum trees in Magdalen Square and planted 6 Little Gem Magnolia trees.

- *We replaced the two holly trees on Pere Megret.*
- *She complimented the City workers for their work.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked if we can force some of the building owners in the downtown area to maintain their buildings? Ike stated they could go through the same process if the building is dilapidated.*
- *Three flower pots have been ordered for the bump out on Pere Megret. She also looked at getting some flower pots for Blacks. She has funding for that.*
- *All garden plots are sponsored in Harmony Park but we don't have enough people who have adopted the beds. Mayor Piazza asked Charlene about the planned layout for the beds and water lines.*

Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant

- *She did the press for the Abbeville Family Fish Fest and she is keeping track of how many posts and press each City sponsored event gets. That way it is fair across the board and everybody gets the same amount of coverage.*
- *She is updating the addresses of the parks on the City website and she will eventually add Harmony Park.*
- *She is working on changes to the website and adding new sections and an RFP.*
- *It is National Tourism Week this week. She is covering that for Ali.*
- *She has the Garden Tour and Daylily Festival promotions coming up.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *The Abbeville Family Fish Fest is this Saturday, May 8th. It is at LaFitte Drive-In Park and we are still accepting donations. The first 100 kids will receive a gift pack from Wildlife and Fisheries. There will be different prizes that will be given out too. Right now, we have over 200 people registered. Wildlife and Fisheries will be bringing 10 people from their Baton Rouge office. There will also be two enforcement agents that will help with security. The Abbeville Police Department is providing two officers too. He still needs some volunteers to help. It will be a very nice event. Passe Patout will be at televising off and on at LaFitte Park Friday from 5:00 AM to 7:00 AM. There will be four catfish tagged and if you catch one of those, you will receive \$100. Brac will release those on television Friday during the broadcast. It is from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. He has received permission from LaFitte Cinema to park on their parking lot if there is an overflow. Lance Broussard is doing the cooking.*
- *Please pray for Richard Sysak and his family. They have lost 5 family members in a short time.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *She was notified about one hour ago by Dr. Twyla Damond that Pastor August is send a truck here tomorrow from Houston to be located at the Herod grounds. She will get with her after the meeting to get more information.*
- *She found out a couple of weeks ago that Pastor August purchased Herod Home on East St. Victor.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Today is International Fireman Day. It is a time to reflect on the great job that the Fire Department does. We have an excellent Fire Department and that doesn't happen without great leadership. He wanted to recognize the Abbeville Fire Department.*
- *Wished all the mothers in the City of Abbeville a Happy Mother's Day this weekend. You are the best workers in our community being mothers.*

- *Recognition for our great Abbeville Garden Club who on Arbor Day planted a new oak tree in LaFitte Park. Thank you to them who are always making our community beautiful.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Inquired about an email sent to the Mayor from the housing authority in which they received a grant. That grant is to provide the installation of security cameras, extra street lights and fencing to provide more safety for the residents. He asked Mayor Piazza if they told him what they will be doing. Mayor Piazza stated that this started several months ago when the issue of cameras came up and we were installing cameras in Abbeville and we were also discussing cameras at some of the apartment complexes as well as Live Oak Manor apartments. He contacted the director at the housing authority to see if they had cameras in place and she said they didn't but she was looking at a grant opportunity for that. He encouraged her to do that as it could work with our cameras that we are installing. She applied for it and received a \$250,000 grant. There are only two housing authorities in Louisiana out of 300 that received this grant and they are one of them. She is in the process of looking at the state contract to see what cameras are available and she has been in contact with the Abbeville Police Department. She will work with them as far as camera locations. She is wanting to utilize some of our poles for some of the placement. We will work with her for that because it would be beneficial to us too.*
- *Mayor Piazza stated that he wanted to let Councilman Touchet know that the airport did open up yesterday. Councilman Touchet is the chairman of the Airport Committee.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *Saturday evening at the Red Barn the Young Farmers Fundraiser put on by Farm Bureau will be held.*
- *Tomorrow is SOLA Giving Day. The Community Foundation does an annual fundraiser on May 6th throughout the state. We have at least three organizations in Abbeville: The Christian Service Center, Vermilion Arts Council and Vermilion DAIP. If you want to give to those organizations on SOLA Giving Day, they will get some matching funds. Depending on how much they raise, they can also get additional funds. It is a good day if you are looking to put some money into a non-profit. Visit Solagivingday.org.*
- *A group from Vermilion Parish started the Vermilion Parish Community Foundation which is an arm of the Community Foundation of Acadiana. Recently they received a \$500,000 donation that they will receive if they can match it. They are up to about \$300,000+ in that match. It is an arm of the Community Foundation of Acadiana specifically dedicated to Vermilion Parish and they will use the interest off of the money that they raise to give small grants. One of the first grants was the community garden and the flower pots.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Councilman Touchet asked about the pavilion at McKinley Scott Park. Mayor Piazza stated that we signed the contract and he asked Clay to discuss the topic. Clay Menard stated that we signed a contract with Acadiane' Renovations, Ltd. He could not give us a timeframe when the material will come in because that market is so volatile now. One of the concerns that the Mayor had was the height of elevation. The Mayor came across a pavilion in New Iberia that is very similar to this one. Clay visited that pavilion and spoke to Mr. Hidalgo with Acadiane' Renovations and he directed Clay to Jennings Parks and Recreation. He visited with their director and our pavilion will be about five to six inches lower than New Iberia's. We are two feet higher than the one in Jennings and they have no issues. Where we are is a good height and if we go any higher, we will have to make some modifications to the foundation and do some other type of bracing that would be very costly. Mayor Piazza stated that when we first priced it out, we used six feet as an*

estimate. Once the Council allocated the funds, we wanted to make sure that six feet would be adequate for these guys to play basketball underneath it. He came across that pavilion in New Iberia and sent Clay to measure it. It looks just like ours. We are within five inches of that. The contractor, who does this stuff for a living and comes highly recommended, said if he goes more than the six feet, he is very leery and will have to start changing the foundations. We didn't bargain for that since we had priced it for six feet. He will lift it and add a piece of metal because he didn't feel comfortable doing this higher than six feet. They won't be shooting from half-court but they will be able to shoot three pointers.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor