

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on May 18, 2021 at 5:15 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
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Lindy Broussard, Centerpoint Energy

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for an Ordinance Committee meeting chaired by Councilwoman Terry Broussard. He turned the floor over to Councilwoman Broussard. Councilwoman Broussard stated we are here to discuss an ordinance pertaining to the Centerpoint Energy Franchise proposal. She asked Ike Funderburk to explain the ordinance.

Mr. Funderburk stated the City of Abbeville and Centerpoint Energy, or its predecessors have had a franchise agreement that have traditionally been for a period of 25 years with a favored nation clause. A favored nation clause is where they pay us as much as they pay any other community in the State that has a franchise agreement with them. 4 1/2% is the going rate right now but if Shreveport again pushes them up, then we would automatically get that increase also. This the standard franchise and is a continuation of the one that was done many, many years ago. He will put into final form, if it meets the approval of the Ordinance Committee, and we will adopt that at our next regular meeting scheduled on June 1, 2021. Mayor Piazza stated that of all the utilities we deal with, like Cox and AT&T, Centerpoint Energy is always the easiest to deal with and the most accommodating. Clay can attest to the work relationship that he has with Lindy and Centerpoint Energy. Centerpoint Energy has been doing a lot of work in Abbeville over the past few years. They have been upgrading their systems. It hasn't always been easy but they have always been right there with their follow up to make sure the work is done properly and in a timely manner. Councilman Broussard agreed that Lindy has always answered the call when we make it and that says a lot about him and the company he works for. It is a pleasure to do business in that way.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance pertaining to the Centerpoint Energy Franchise proposal at their regular meeting scheduled on June 1, 2021. 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