

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on January 7, 2020 at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, 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: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Jason Hebert, Police Lieutenant
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Joseph Vallee', Municipal Civil Service Board
Reverend Osborne Taylor
Claire Broussard – Abbeville RV Park

Mayor Piazza asked Reverend Osborne Taylor to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Lieutenant Jason Hebert to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify bills paid in the month of December 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the Committee meeting held on December 3, 2019, the Personnel Interviews held on December 17, 2019 and the regular City Council meetings held on December 3, 2019 and December 17, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Terry Broussard began a discussion of possible code violations at 1603 Charity Street. She asked Ike if he had seen the pictures. He stated he is looking at them now. Councilwoman Broussard stated she has received several calls from neighbors and she would like to know what is in our range as to what we can do. Can we take any steps in having him remove the eyesore? Mr. Funderburk stated Charity Street is part of the Louisiana State highway system. We cannot regulate parking on that street. That is done by the State of Louisiana. If they do not want people parking there, then they have the capability to regulate that. We have been told on more than one occasion, by DOTD, that we cannot regulate parking on their highways. Mayor Piazza stated that some of the issue is the farm machinery and equipment. Do we have anything City wide about that? Mr. Funderburk stated all we have are prohibitions from 18-wheelers parking in residential areas. That is the only restriction he is aware of. The vehicles are all licensed and registered so those are legal to be parked in front of somebody's house. Councilwoman White suggested that we could reach out to Bill Oliver, with DOTD, and tell him we are having complaints

about this. Councilman Plaisance stated there is also a mangled building on the property. Clay Menard stated that he would contact Randy with the local DOTD office and get back with Councilwoman Broussard and Ike. The property owner is definitely parked in DOTD's right-of-way. Mr. Funderburk stated the vehicles and tractors are being utilized. Councilman Broussard stated the tractor is junked and it does not work. It was dumped there on a trailer. He collects this stuff. Councilwoman White stated that it is possible that he is doing mechanic work there. Clay stated this guy used to live on Alleman Street. He is a farmer. Councilwoman Broussard stated she would get with Sarah about the mangled building.

Councilwoman Broussard discussed the upcoming Martin Luther King Day activities. The theme for 2020 is Embracing the Dream and Celebrating Unsung Heroes. The t-shirt with the theme will be available beginning January 13th. We are asking you to buy a shirt and wear it at the upcoming event. The annual Heritage Walk and Exhibit is January 18, 2020 beginning at 11:00 AM at the Abbeville Cultural Center in Magdalen Square. The annual revival is at Faith Hope Christian Fellowship on 405 Duroq Street. This will be held on Wednesday, January 15th through Friday, January 17th. It begins at 7:00 PM, nightly with Bishop B. K. Stevens. The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast is Saturday, January 18, 2020. Doors will open at 8:30 AM and breakfast begins at 9:00 AM. This will be at the Greater Pleasant Green Baptist Church Fellowship Hall with Reverend M. L. Derouen, Pastor. The guest speaker is Mr. Donald Wright of Star Pilgrim Baptist Church in New Iberia. The annual church sit in service will be held January 19, 2020 at 8:30 AM at St. Mary Congregational Church with Pastor Kevin Williams. It is located at 213 S. Louisiana Street. The annual day of celebration will be Monday, January 20, 2020 beginning with a stump service at 9:30 AM on the corner of I. J. Joiner and Green Street. The guest speaker will be Pastor Derouen of Greater Pleasant Green Baptist Church. The service will begin at 9:00 AM with a march from Greater Pleasant Green Baptist Church. The parade line up will follow at 10:30 AM at Comeaux Park. The parade will start at 11:30 AM going down State Street and then returning to the point of origination. The program will follow the parade at the Youth Center located at the Boys and Girls Club. The 2020 Grand Marshals are Bryan Plowden and Jarkata Petry. She has phone numbers for anyone that are interested or have questions about the activities. We will be selling tickets for the prayer breakfast too.

Councilwoman White discussed the proposal to purchase 6.76 acres located adjacent to the Abbeville RV Park. The appraisal came back at \$19,000 and the purchase price is \$16,900. It is a good investment for our citizens. Ms. Claire Broussard stated this is a benefit for the Park and the City. We would like to add canoeing to the park and it would be a good amenity to add. Parks that have more amenities are more popular. Councilwoman White added that they were able to investigate the property and walk all the way to the water. Councilman Plaisance stated that this is a good asset for the City. He asked who we are purchasing the property from, who is responsible for clearing the land and the cost of a dock and where will we get the funds for that. Mr. Funderburk stated we are purchasing the property from the heirs of F. N. Hollier. He will get an abstract of the property and he will make contact with the realtor. It is his understanding that this property would be left as a wilderness area so it would not be cleared other than what is necessary for the walking trails. Councilwoman White stated that this is a revenue producing park and the plan is that we will negotiate with the current management of the park to renegotiate their lease. In the renegotiation we will discuss who will be responsible for what expenses and what the actual plan for building it out will be. At this point, the plan is to purchase the property and then sit down with the management of the RV Park since it is them that will be planning it out and producing the revenue then paying the City back. Councilman Plaisance stated that when we renegotiate the lease, we need to do better than what we are doing now which is 2 ½ %. Councilwoman White stated that there will be a plan in place before any progress on the property starts. Right now, we want to secure the property and then come up with a plan and

negotiate the lease to incorporate it into the RV Park. Ms. Claire Broussard stated that she recently found out from Charlene Beckett that there are a lot of grants out there to give access to waterfront property. Councilman Broussard stated that ecotourism is huge and growing. To bring those types of people to our community and their dollars in our restaurants would be a good thing and he hopes we can take it to its full potential. The market is there. Councilwoman White stated there is a huge opportunity to start a canoeing trail from Lafayette down Coulee Kinney to Abbeville RV Park and then down to Palmetto State Park. That is huge right now and it is a growing market. We are located at a great stopping place and it will bring people to our restaurants. You can do bike rentals there so they can bike into town. It will be a huge growth opportunity for Abbeville. Ms. Claire Broussard stated she has been in contact with someone from Pack and Paddle. They have been very helpful. Mr. Funderburk stated the City owns the Park and there is a management agreement between the City and Monar. We have a management agreement and not a lease.

**White/T. Broussard
Resolution R20-01**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents to purchase 6.76 acres located adjacent to the Abbeville RV Park that would include access to Coulee Kinney.

The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to award the bid for asbestos removal at 608 E. Oak Street to Pelican Environmental Services, Inc. in the amount of \$4,995.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment #7 payable to M. P. Dumesnil in the amount of \$63,342.55 for the FY 2018-2019 LCDBG Sewer System Improvement project. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve change order #2 for the Rehabilitation of the Main Hangar project. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *Discussed the Streetscape project and the pre-construction meeting that will happen later this week. The project is about to begin.*

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *The Lafayette Street drainage project is turning out to be bigger than first perceived because there are a lot of utilities in the way so we are trying to find a spot where there are less utilities.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *The splashpad at Comeaux Park is about 75% complete. The majority of the work was done in-house. Our crews did a great job.*
- *We will be starting the resurfacing of the tennis courts as soon as possible.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Was at airport the other day when two jets landed. The new terminal and the hangar look great.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *She has a plan for District D that will be coming.*
- *She is looking forward to the beautification of Martin Luther King Street.*
- *She has a vision moving forward to get businesses to locate here to employ people here and ask everyone to get involved. We have a lot of vacant buildings and we should put forth effort to do better with that.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday with their family.*
- *This is football season and never has the State of Louisiana had such an outstanding collegiate bowl season. LA Tech a winner. ULL a winner. Tulane a winner. LSU a winner and LSU will do it again on Monday night. Go Tigers and he hopes everybody continues to enjoy the rest of January. Our pro team is out of the picture but our college team is still alive.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Asked about the old Phillips sign next to the hangar at the airport. Clay stated Mike is looking at doing a branding with a fuel distributor. They would take care of the sign and put up a new sign.*
- *Asked about the drainage on the north side across from the armory. Clay stated Richard has called in the Louisiana One call and will get started on that.*
- *Asked for suggestions because there are people riding around throwing things out of vehicles. Litter is everywhere. He had the crews go street to street to pick up litter. He cannot understand why the public doesn't take pride. If we didn't have to pick up this litter then we could be doing more beneficial things. As a public we need to do a better job in taking pride in what we have. We have a beautiful City but, in some places, it is not that way. He is disgusted with what is happening.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor