

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on September 15, 2020 at 5:30 P.M., at the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center located at 300 A. A. Comeaux Drive, Suite 200, 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 Lieutenant
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Mike Mouton, Airport Manager
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
T. J. Savoy, Engineer
Anne Falgout, Vermilion Economic Development Alliance
Mr. Jamar "Doc" Montgomery, candidate for U. S. Senator
Pastor B. K. Stevens

Mayor Piazza asked Pastor B. K. Stevens to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Jamar "Doc" Montgomery to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to accept the resignation of Michael Spencer Leon, a firefighter with the Abbeville Fire Department, effective October 13, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mire also informed the Council that Assistant Chief Allen Hebert will be retiring effective tomorrow, September 16, 2020, after 38 years of service. Bryon Perry will step up to fill the vacant position of Assistant Fire Chief and Mike Soirez will step up into the position vacated by the promotion of Byron Perry.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the probational appointment of Leah Ganey to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jamar "Doc" Montgomery stated he is a candidate for United States Senate. He is number 9 on the ballot. He wanted to introduced himself. He knows some of the other candidates only go to the bigger cities but it is important to him to visit smaller cities because he receives a lot of support from those cities. He is 31 years old. He is an attorney and is currently a juvenile public defender in Caddo Parish. He is also an engineer. He began attending college at the age of 10. He worked as a weapons system engineer for 5 years and then he went to law school. He was

working for the NAACP at the time. He is originally from Shreveport. He received his law degree in 2013. He is here to represent all on the federal level.

Mrs. Anne Falgout discussed the parcel fee proposition on the November ballot. This would be a sustaining fund. It would sustain their professional organization and would help fund projects that assist the existing businesses and the creation of new companies. This would also help to attract jobs and businesses opportunities to our parish. We want to preserve the economy and also grow it into the future. The parcel fee would \$7.75 collected annually. Those with homestead exemption would not pay the fee. Also, those who do not own land would not pay the fee. The fee would be levied for 10 years. The expected annual collection will be \$236,438. It would also allow VEDA to build bonding capacity, leverage state and federal grant funding with matching dollars, provide resources for community planning, promote Vermilion Parish externally and invest in real estate to attract projects. A parcel is one piece of property belonging to an individual. This will not hurt our farmers or cattle producers and all those who have a lot of acreage. This would replace the original funding we received from municipalities. We would not have to compete for those dollars that our municipalities need for other government functions.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify bills paid in the month of August 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meeting held on August 4, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. T. J. Savoy presented the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Plan for the airport. We will submit this plan to FAA and DOTD as required. It shows the planned projects for the next six years. Although the funding of these projects is not guaranteed, this is a planning tool naming the projects. For 2021 we are requesting funding for 2 projects. Those are the Construct Hangar Development Area, Phase I design, and the Approach Lighting, Phase I land acquisition. The first project will place a hard service on the hangar development area for future development. The second project will be installed on the northern end of the runway and the first phase will get this project started. We will obtain a long-term lease of a portion of the land. This project will receive 100% funding from the State. For the next five years there are several proposed projects. These include an LED upgrade to the runway lighting. We also have an apron taxilane rehab project. We will also replace the existing AWOS. We are also planning an obstruction removal project. Finally, we are planning the construction of a concrete agricultural loading area and a runway and taxiway seal coat project. The estimated cost for all of these projects is \$3.5 million dollars with very little funding from the City. She also wanted to state that they have postponed the runway/taxiway overlay to February and March of 2021 since some of the businesses at the airport did not want the runway closed at this time because this is their busy season and would need the runway open. FAA and the contractor have agreed to the requested delay.

Plaisance/White
Resolution R20-17

A resolution adopting the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Plan for the Airport and to request funding from FAA and DOTD for these projects.

The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify the purchase of a reconditioned transformer for Gertrude Substation from T & R Electric in the amount of \$127,000. This transformer would replace the spare that was used. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the quote from Pro Tech Track and Tennis Surfaces, Inc. in the amount of \$115,314 to place a post tension slab on top of two existing tennis courts at A. A. Comeaux Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Gave a cat/dog report. Nobody has the same rules except for the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and Maurice. Maurice adopted the Police Jury ordinance. He does not recommend that we do that. He has done a comparative analysis of each municipalities' rules on their ordinances. He provided a spreadsheet with nine items for review to each Council member as well as the other municipalities. We hope to come up with a model ordinance that can be used throughout the parish. This will take some time to get done.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *The Governor has moved into Phase 3 for COVID. Our numbers continue to be moderate in the parish. They are becoming more and more a safer level. As of yesterday, we have resumed full operations at City Hall. There is no further need to be in a state of emergency. We can always go back if needed. All departments in the City should resume normal operations. We are back to full staff at City Hall and the lobby is open. We are still monitoring the numbers allowed into the lobby and we are still requiring that masks be worn as per the Governor's mandate. We are being careful. This is the right thing to do. We have to get back to normal. We have learned some valuable lessons and that was for the best. Businesses are open, mostly, and people are back to work.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Police Jury has stared their contractor pick up of debris. Our citizens have to separate their debris or it won't be picked up. He thanked the Police Jury for getting that started. Councilwoman White added that she has put that on the City's Facebook page.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked Doc Montgomery and Pastor B. K. Stevens for being with us tonight and for attending our meeting.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *The Abbeville Rotary Club has teamed up with the Louisiana Cattle Festival to do a fundraiser. We will be selling jambalaya dinners for lunch on September 23, 2020. We will be on Passe Patout tomorrow morning and on KATC 3 Monday morning to promote the event. He thanked Councilman Brady Broussard and the Abbeville Rotary Club for their involvement.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *There is a Farmers' Market this Saturday.*
- *The Christian Service Center will start serving hot meal service to go plates on Monday.*

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

ATTEST:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVE:

Mark Piazza
Mayor