

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on December 3, 2019 at 5:00 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: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
William Spearman, Police Chief
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent
Steve Moosa, CPA
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Joseph Vallee', Municipal Employees Civil Service Board

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and the Ordinance Committee. We have three items on the agenda all pertaining to the budget ordinance. He asked if there were any public comments on any agenda item. There were none so he turned the floor over to Councilman Touchet, the Finance Committee Chairman.

Councilman Touchet stated that the first item was the presentation of the budget for 2020 and the amendments to the budget for 2019. He turned the floor over to Mr. Steve Moosa to share that information with us. Mr. Moosa discussed the 2020 budget and the amendment to the 2019 budget. In this budget we have the line by line budget for the General fund and for the Sales tax funds as required by state law. The budget does account for the required principle and interest payments on the debt service. The City is in good shape as far as the debt. We have 150 employees with the City. This includes all full-time and part-time employees. The budget also includes the pay increases for all City employees from the new sales tax. Councilwoman White asked about the pay raises for the City Court employees. Councilman Broussard stated these raises are not part of the raises dealing with the sales tax. Mr. Moosa stated the general fund revenues are \$1.865 million and the special funds revenue are \$5.1 million. A budget for the Utility system fund is not required by state law. The expenditures for the general fund are \$10.5 million and expenditures for the special revenue funds are \$989,000. We support the general fund by transfers in from the utility system fund. Mr. Moosa stated at the next city Council meeting you will approve the budget for the next fiscal year. This is a good balanced budget. Mayor Piazza highlighted two items on page 11 dealing with sales tax. We have budgeted money for the website as requested by Councilwoman White. On page 12 we have budgeted the City's match for the streetscape project. That project will be beginning January 6, 2020. He also discussed Capital outlay expenditures. These expenditures include the completion of the splash pad, the Lafitte walking trail and the renovation to the tennis courts.

Councilman Touchet stated the next item is to review and recommend for adoption an ordinance amending Chapter 2, sections 2.1 and 2.21. He asked Mr. Ike Funderburk to explain the proposed ordinance. Mr. Funderburk stated the Mayor and the Chief of Police have their salary fixed by ordinance. The current salary for the Mayor is \$67,000 per year and for the Chief of Police it is \$55,520 per year. He was asked to draft an amendment to those ordinances. He left the dollar amounts blank so there could be discussion as to any salary modifications that need to be made. If there any changes, it would go into effect at some point during the month of January 2020. Councilwoman White stated that she did some research to find out when the Chief and the Mayor had received their last pay raise. The last time the Mayor received a salary increase was in 2010 and the last time the Chief received a pay raise was 2012. She ran some calculations based on a 2% cost-of-living increase like our regular employees receive. She took the Mayor's current salary and added a 2% increase. She also did this with a 1.5% increase and a 1% increase. This would give us a starting point to calculate from. With a 2% increase the Mayor's salary in 2019 would be \$80,071.20. With a 1.5% increase his salary would be

\$76,607.13. With a 1% increase his salary would be \$73,276.91. The Chief's base salary in 2019 would be \$63,775.03 with a 2% increase. The annual salary would be \$69,775.03 including his \$6,000 supplemental pay. With a 1.5% increase his base salary would be \$61,618.59. His total annual salary would be \$67,618.59 with the \$6,000 supplemental pay. If we calculated with a 1% increase the base salary would be \$59,524.95. This would compute to an annual salary of \$65,524.95 when the \$6,000 supplemental pay is added in. She would like to see the Mayor making about \$77,000 per year and the Chief would be at about \$65,000 per year plus is \$6000 supplemental pay for a total annual salary of \$71,000. These increases would put the Mayor a little bit above 1.5% and the Chief above the 2% mark. Councilman Broussard stated he likes the research and homework that Councilwoman White did. He is not sure that the pay rate proposed by Councilwoman White would satisfy what the Mayor does for this City and for the hundreds that rely on him in this City. He is a tremendous value to the City of Abbeville. Councilman Touchet stated that the Mayor would be making less than the people that he supervises. He would like to see the Mayor making somewhere between the 1.5% and 2%. He is proposing an annual salary for the mayor of \$79,000. We will be moving the Chief up too but he also gets the benefit of the state supplemental pay of \$6,000 per year. He feels like the Chief's salary should be set at \$65,000 per year. Councilwoman Broussard thanked Councilwoman White for her numbers. She is comfortable with the numbers Councilman Touchet proposed. She cannot see an employee making more than the Mayor. Councilman Plaisance also wanted to add that the increase for the Mayor and the Police Chief is not associated with the new sales tax. The money will be coming from the general fund budget. Mr. Gene Sellers stated that he's been serving this City for 60 years and he works closely with the Mayor and the Mayor's pay should be above any City employee. Mr. Joseph Vallee' stated he is okay with the increase too. He has been a great Mayor for all of these years. Mayor Piazza stated he appreciates anything and wherever the numbers fall he will be okay and very grateful. He is satisfied with whatever they feel his salary should be.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to recommend an ordinance for adoption to the City Council at their meeting scheduled for December 17, 2019, amending Chapter 2, Sections 2.1 and 2.21 whereby setting the annual salary for the Mayor at \$79,000 per year and for the Chief of Police at \$65,000 per year to be paid from the General Fund budget. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance at the December 17, 2019 meeting, to adopt the 2020 budget, including the recent recommendations for amendments to Chapter 2 pertaining to the Mayor and Police Chief's salary, and amending the 2019 budget. 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