

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on September 6, 2022 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 Roslyn R. White, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members Carlton Campbell, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Mike Hardy, Police Chief  
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Tommy Picard, Parks & Recreation Director, QSA

*Mayor White stated we are here for an Ordinance meeting chaired by Councilman Tony Hardy. She asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item. There were none. She turned the floor over to Councilman Hardy*

*Councilman Hardy stated we are here to consider a proposed ordinance to amend Section 12-35, Authority to take possession of abandoned motor vehicles. Bart Broussard stated that Sarah approached him and stated that she has been having a problem for years regarding abandoned, junked vehicles sitting on people's property or on public roads. Every time she went to remove them, we could not because our ordinance did not allow for it. The third parties that we relied on did not feel they were empowered to remove them on behalf of the City. Mayor White stated that we would send in a towing company to remove the vehicle from private property, the tow company wanted some type of official letter from us and we felt that there our ordinances had some loopholes that we felt that we needed to sew up to be able to safely provide that to them and for them to feel confident that they can go on the private property and remove the vehicle. This pertains to those individuals who have an abundance of vehicles that have been sitting on private property and are accumulating as junk. This will give us a little more ground to have something official that the vehicle can be removed by a third party. We were not able to find a company that was will to go on private property to remove the vehicle without this. Councilwoman Broussard asked if there is a timeframe for a vehicle to be sitting on private property. Bart stated that there is nothing in the ordinances that state how long it has to sit there but there is a 10-day notice to the title owner of the land or the title owner of the vehicle that you have to give to them before removal. Councilman Campbell asked about those vehicles that are abandoned but are still mortgaged. If we remove those vehicles, who will we assess the costs? Bart stated that if the vehicle is mortgaged in any way, the mortgage company should be trying to seize the vehicle. We would have to address those issues on a case-by-case basis. His intention with this ordinance is to add two additional paragraphs specifically stating what is prohibited and what the City can do and the timeframe to give notice. Now, the City will have the authority to issue a letter or notice to the third-party tow company giving them the authority to remove the vehicle. Mayor White read the proposed language as follows: The storing or abandoning of junk, wrecked or used automobiles or motor vehicles, or any part or parts thereof, on any vacant lot, or any portion of an occupied lot, neutral ground, street or sidewalk, within the municipality shall be prohibited. The city may take into custody any motor vehicle found abandoned on public or private property. The city may employ its own personnel, equipment and facilities or may employ persons, equipment and facilities for the purpose of removing, preserving and storing abandoned motor vehicles. The city may assess the cost of removing any of the aforementioned described property to the title owner of the vehicle or title owner of the property. Notice shall be given to the title owner by sending a registered or certified letter, properly addressed, return receipt requested, at his/her last known address, giving said owner 10 days to remove the vehicle. Chief Hardy suggested that when we prepare the letter to give to the third-party tow company that we look to other municipalities to see what type of letter they are using. Councilman Broussard stated that we are not talking*

*about garaged, fenced project cars here. Bart stated that we could handle each situation on a case-by-case basis using common sense.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance amending Section 12-35, Authority to take possession of abandoned motor vehicles, at their next meeting scheduled for September 20, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor