

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on April 18, 2023 at 4:30 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, Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Sarah Alrough, Director of Tax and Permits
Kim Marousek, Center for Planning Excellence
David Whitley, Center for Planning Excellence
Joni Hammons, Center for Planning Excellence

Mayor White stated that we are here for an Ordinance Committee 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. He announced that the agenda item was a code audit discussion and recommendations with the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX).

Ms. Kim Marousek stated they have been conducting an audit of the codes for Abbeville. They also recently began looking at nuisance codes and codes that pertain to blighted property. CPEX visited the entire day today with different stakeholders of the community. She also met with Councilman Campbell and looks forward to meeting individually with all other Council members. That way they can better understand the problems in everyone's district. Abbeville currently has no zoning ordinances. Today we heard from stakeholders in the community about how they want the city to look and the needs and problems of the community. Mr. David Whitley stated that there is a lot of passion for the community. They are interested in focusing in on what will retain and attract young people by bringing jobs and other industry here. Ms. Joni Hammons stated that the people she visited today stated that the community is built on families and individuals. Parents want resources connecting them to good paying jobs. The elderly want access to good health care. Ms. Kim Marousek stated that downtown should be reinvigorated and revitalized. We need to create a job base in Abbeville. There are a lot of things happening in Abbeville that are good but they are disconnected. We need to figure out how to connect those. Everyone has a deep love of the community. As far as dilapidated and blighted property, we need to research the entire problem of why properties get like that to begin with. When you tear it down, you are at the end of the problem. Mayor White agreed that we need to address the cause in the first place so that it doesn't repeat. We also need to do more work in looking at the entire code and consolidating nuisance codes. She would like to continue working with CPEX to rework our ordinances.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor