

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on February 20, 2024 at 5:30 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, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Rani Lege, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Ruben Rivera, Thompson, Smith & Leach
Dreon Levine, Juneteenth Day Celebration

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked Councilman Carlton Campbell to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Tony Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

-01 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the annual 2% salary increase for the unclassified position of Main Street Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Broussard stated that Mr. Dreon Levine wants to have an event either at Comeaux Park or McKinley Scott Park to celebrate Juneteenth. He plans to have guest speakers, food and other events. She will be in touch with him to work out the details and will get with the Mayor to see if a special event permit will be needed.

-02 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of January 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the budget to actual report for January 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rani Lege discussed the details of the upcoming March into Health and Wellness Event to be held on March 2, 2024 in Magdalen Square.

-04 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve a special event permit for the Boutte Riders Trail Ride to access Rodeo Road to South Airport

Road from the Red Barn on May 5, 2024 pending receipt of insurance and their liquor permit. The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held with the property owner pertaining to the dilapidated structure at 710 Solomon. The owner wants to demolish the structure utilizing Louisiana Restore Funds so she needs the City to declare it condemned.

-05 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to condemn the structure located at 710 Solomon so that the owner can demolish the structure utilizing Louisiana Restore Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to award the contract for the demolition of the structure at 703 S. St. Valerie Street to the low bidder, Savoy's Excavation, in the amount of \$4,200.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract for the demolition of the structure at 1802 Oscar Street to the low bidder, Savoy's Excavation, in the amount of \$3,950.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve payment of estimate for partial payment #1 in the amount of \$91,525.75 payable to Mesotech International, Inc. relative to the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) III P/T Replacement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the renewal of commercial general liability, law enforcement coverage, errors and omissions coverage and automobile liability coverage with Louisiana Municipal Risk Management Agency effective March 1, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the renewal of property coverage, auto/equipment package coverage, airport general liability and boiler machinery/equipment coverage with Thompson, Smith and Leach effective March 1, 2024 and to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the lowest price utilizing option one. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize advertisement for bids for the Downtown Abbeville Street Improvements Project. The motion carried unanimously.

**Campbell/Touchet
Resolution R24-03**

A resolution granting the authority to the Mayor to sign and submit an application for funding along with signing all necessary documents related to the Safe Routes for Public Places Program grant for safety improvements on North Lyman Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White provided an update on planning efforts for the Imagine Abbeville Strategic Planning grant funded by Delta Regional Authority. The grant amount is \$150,000 and we have contracted with CPEX, Sellers and Associates and Acadiana Planning Commission. On February

26, 2024 we will have a Public Visioning Walking Tour beginning at 6 PM. We will meet at City Hall and walk the Downtown Area with an Economic Development Specialist to hear comments and suggestions. He will take those and incorporate it into the master plan. In March we will have a larger planning event. Plan to come to these throughout the year. Within two years we will have a strategic plan for Abbeville set by the community.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *Introduced Mr. Willie Leger, the Street Maintenance Foreman. He is Chris' right-hand man. Willie recently constructed the parklet, installed cameras at the Street Maintenance Barn saving the City a lot of money and he also redid one side of the forward angle parking Downtown within four hours.*
- *They are getting ready for baseball season at the park.*
- *The Street Department has been cutting grass they are responsible for and filling potholes Downtown until the overlay.*
- *Will be installing cameras at the Utility Building.*
- *The sewer crew has been running the camera in a bunch of lines and the water crew have been fixing water leaks.*
- *The three workers in the Park Department, Paul Tomino, Aurris Wiltz and Jetero McKinney, were recently awarded the Civic Pride Award.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Gave Parks and Recreation report for Byron Dozier since he was not at the meeting. Biddy Basketball has finished and there are two teams in All-Stars. They are accepting baseball registration through February 29, 2024. High School baseball and softball kicks off tonight. The first select tournament is coming on March 2 and March 3.*
- *The Downtown Street project was a challenge for our team but they did a great job. It is a long-term vision for safety especially for those who walk and bike. We do not have the capacity to do old school policing as the Police Department is short-staffed even after an annual increase of \$13,000 to their salary. She thanked everyone for the support of the vision.*
- *We received a \$400,000 grant to add sidewalks and overlay Graceland. We will start at State Street and work towards the park as far as we can go. We will review the plans that have just been completed but it has to go to facility planning and control for approval. We hope to be in construction before the legislature goes back to the capitol.*

Fire Chief Jude Mire

- *Thanked the fire departments who came to help with house fire on Oak Street. He thanked the Mayor for coming to the fire.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The next Sounds on the Square will be held on March 14, 2024.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor