

City of Abbeville  
Regular Meeting  
February 7, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on February 7, 2023 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, Brady Broussard, Jr., Terry Broussard, Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney  
Mike Hardy, Police Chief  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Kelly Mire, Assistant Fire Chief  
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent  
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks  
Charlene Becket, Main Street Manager  
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA  
Nikki Vidos, Vermilion Economic Development  
Charles Dill, Abbeville Planning Commission  
Elaine Dill, Municipal Employees Civil Service Board  
Mother Madge, St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Preston Summers, Candidate for Vermilion Parish Sheriff  
Mark Creswell, Acadian Ambulance

*Mayor White asked Mother Madge to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Police Chief Mike Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to amend the agenda to move new business item #10, City attorney update on whether two ambulance services can operate in the City limits and if so, what are the next steps to move forward, to the last item under new business because the City attorney had to leave briefly. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item prior to action. There were none. She asked that comments would be limited to three minutes and to limit presentations to ten minutes or less in order to keep the meeting moving forward since it is lengthy.*

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the appointment of Rhett Suire, Lance Hobson and John Dunning to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

*Ms. Nikki Vidos stated that she would wait for Ms. Victoria Bourque to give the update for Vermilion Economic Development at the next meeting. Ms. Vidos wanted to make sure that the Mayor and City Council had received their invitations for the Stakeholder Dinner to be held this Thursday at the Erath Community Center. They will let you know what their board has been planning for 2023. The social hour will begin at 5:30 PM and the program will begin at 6:00 PM.*

*Mr. Preston Summers is a candidate running for Vermilion Parish Sheriff. He has been a State Trooper for 27 years. He worked in patrol, the bureau of investigations and the hazardous and explosives unit. He retired as a supervisor for the southwest region of the state that encompasses 15 parishes. He immediately went to work as a security manager at LNG exporter in Cameron. He is still employed there now. When he arrived there, he began managing a security force of 130 personnel. In 2020 he realized that our liberties were jeopardy and it is essential that local enforcements believe in the freedom of the people and a right to be left alone. He would also like to reverse the trend of crime. Things are worse today than they were 5 or 10 years ago. He would like to implement some things to change that. It can't continue to get worse. We need to put crime on the run instead of hard-working people. He wants to focus patrols in areas and times that will result in more deterrence of crime. He wants to implement merit-based appraisal and pay, annual reviews and accountability for not doing your job. Those who are doing a great job and those who are not should not be rewarded across the board. Law enforcement has to be involved with the youth. He has a vested interest in Abbeville. He wants to work with Chief Hardy to put some effort in the City of Abbeville. He asked for everyone's support.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the minute from the regular City Council meeting held on December 6, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of January 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the budget to actual report for the month of December 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute the cooperative endeavor agreement between Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Inc. and Keep Abbeville Beautiful to fulfill the Beautification Grant application project. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the quotations to install a 15 X 24 canopy, extend the concrete slab and purchase sod for the Blacksmith Shop Annex and to pay the expenses from the Blacksmith Shop Museum account. The motion carried unanimously.

**Campbell/T. Broussard**  
**Resolution R23-02**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Abbeville and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury for improvements to Margaret Street and Landry Drive for a maximum expenditure of \$25,000 per street.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-08 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of partial payment estimate #4 payable to Shaw Construction Services, LLC in the amount \$39,139.81 relative to the LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the street name change of Cypress Street to Nicolas Demary Street. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify the Mayor's execution of a scope and cost proposal submitted to the City of Abbeville by Southern Constructors for electrical additions to the Downtown Streetscaping Project and to pay those with City Sales Tax Capital Outlay funds since the City's match is already being paid from those funds for the rest of the project. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve the quotation from Sunbelt Solomon in the amount of \$29,942.00 for a transformer for the Abbeville General Hospital upgrade and to pay for that invoice from the City Sales Tax Capital Outlay Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract to cut and remove all overgrown grass, underbrush and weeds at 805 and 807 Alphonse and 701 Graceland Avenue to the low bidder, Ticket Services, in the amount of \$4,800.00. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor White announced that the next regular City Council meeting scheduled for February 21, 2023 will not be held because it falls on Mardi Gras. We will most likely hold a special City Council meeting prior to month end for renewal of insurances that will expire on March 1, 2023.*

*Mayor White stated that the Lafayette Juvenile Detention Center has complained that their invoices for juvenile detention are not being paid timely. It is because of the process that it must go through to get approved. First it goes to City Court. Once they approve it, it goes to the Police Jury and then they approve it and then it comes to the City of Abbeville and we approve it and it gets paid. This way the Police Jury would pay the entire invoice and then bill us for our portion. The City is responsible 100% for the first 72 hours and then after that the City is responsible for 50%.*

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve a change in the payment process for juvenile detainees as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Touchet/B. Broussard**  
**Resolution R23-03**

*A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Abbeville and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to assist with the electrical site lighting work for the Fire Training Tower facility to be located at 1105 West Port Street.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Campbell/Touchet**  
**Resolution R23-04**

*A resolution adopting the annual Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for audit engagements for the purpose of auditing the fiscal year ended 12/31/2022.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 1 in the amount of \$26,711.55 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC relative to the Abbeville Streetscaping Phase II project. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the purchase of transformers in the amount of \$20,955.00 from Sunbelt Solomon for the EV charging station at Ray Chevrolet and to pay the expense from the City Sales Tax Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement to relocate electrical lines along Young A. Broussard Road at a material cost of approximately \$16,000.00 to be paid from City Sales Tax Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Touchet began a discussion on field usage fees for Comeaux Park for schools within the City limits. Abbeville High School does not pay a field usage fee because we use their facilities for basketball. Vermilion Catholic would like to give the City the concessions and to continue letting us use their gyms for basketball. Mr. Byron Dozier stated that the City does not and has not used the gyms at Vermilion Catholic. It might be someone else but it is not QSA. We had to take the catholic school courses and we did not so, we did not use their facilities. Mayor White asked who would work the concessions for Vermilion Catholic's games. Chris Gautreaux stated that QSA would work it. Mayor White stated then QSA would get that money. It is good for the schools to use it for free but we need to figure the logistics regarding the concession stands. Bart Broussard stated that letting QSA keep the concession may be beneficial later in restructuring their contract and reducing the fees they charge us. We can evaluate it at that time. Mayor White asked Bart to research the legality too.*

-17 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to allow Vermilion Catholic to use the fields at Comeaux Park at no charge and to authorize the City attorney to work out the logistics in regards to the exchange for concessions and the use of their gyms. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Touchet asked the City attorney to provide an update on whether two ambulance services can operate in the City limits and if so, what are the next steps to move forward. Bart stated that he reviewed our ordinances dealing with ambulances and there is nothing that he saw that require us to be one with the Police Jury. We have our own set of ordinances that govern it within the City limits. Anyone can apply for permitting pursuant to Section 10-70 of our ordinances. Section 10-73 is a specific ordinance outlining several factors for the Council to consider in determining whether to grant that permit. It is a lengthy process and the Council would have the final vote for the permit. Councilman Touchet asked Bart to email the ordinance to them. He doesn't understand about Acadian being in compliance 80% of the time. Who wants*

to be on the 20% side? Councilman Broussard stated that Acadian Ambulance has upgraded their fleet on 2/2/23. There is now a 24-hour a day ambulance in Kaplan, Erath, Abbeville, a daytime ambulance in Maurice and a daytime one in Lafayette parish dedicated to Vermilion Parish. The citizens have never had so many ambulances available to them like there are now. They have made a significant investment in vehicles and personnel. Mr. Mark Creswell added that they also added something in New Iberia. We had received no complaints prior to the public hearing. After the public hearing we tried to address those concerns and they have made significant investments here. Ms. Debbie Spinks stated that she lives on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. When her parents were sickly prior to their passing, she called Acadian Ambulance four or five times and every time the Fire Department was there taking care of her parents and we were waiting for Acadian every time. You would think that at least one out of the four or five times they would have made it on time but they never did. She does not understand how there was never any public reach as far as she knows. She reached out to her Police Juror and asked her if any notifications were sent out or if anyone was asked about if we should have more than one ambulance service. The Police Jury can't keep up with the trash but we will allow them to make life and death decisions for the citizens. Mayor White stated that there were no complaints because the general public did not know they had to file their complaints with the Police Jury. Acadian is working hard to fix some of the issues but she does have some concerns over the calls that she has heard over the radio. The Police Jury ordinance states that it is only over the unincorporated areas and municipalities in Vermilion Parish that don't have their own ordinance. Abbeville does have their own ordinance. It will be up to this Council to see what they want to do.

Kim Touchet, Engineer

- DOTD sent notice that they found a deficient pile on the bridge at South Hollingsworth so the bridge has been closed. Since the road was recently overlayed, they are getting prices for non-destructive repairs on the bridge. We should have quotes by the end of the week. Mayor White stated that DOTD inspected the bridge in 2019 and they notified the City of the deficiency in January of 2023.

Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works and Parks

- Some of the new vehicles from the Enterprise lease are starting to come in.
- They are working on an intersection in Councilman Hardy's district.
- They are working on the handicapped accessibility at Comeaux Park.
- Poured concrete on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street sidewalk.
- Ran a camera by the hospital for a sewer issue. We found a 4-inch pipe lodged into an 8-inch pipe. We pulled the pipe out and the water is flowing now.

Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

- He has updated the calendar that he distributed. OTC has backed out but two more organizations have requested those fields. He discussed the calendar.
- American Legion Baseball will host a tournament in July here.
- Bidy Basketball is a national franchise. Kaplan plays in a different franchise called Little Dribblers. There are different franchises. Everything is getting watered down. Kaplan and North Vermilion are branching off. There are other organizations using Vermilion Catholic this year. QSA did not use the gyms at Vermilion Catholic or at Mount Carmel.
- Bidy Basketball season is completed. There was a tournament last week. We will be hosting a tournament in March.
- Baseball registration is under way until March 12, 2023. Registration is all online.

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Met with Councilman Broussard and DOTD. The road transfer program agreements are moving along.*
- *She met with the new representative Jonathan Goudeau and made it clear that our priorities are our streets and water plant at this time. She also has met with Representative Bourriaque and Senator Hensgens. She still has to meet with Representative Miguez. She wants to make sure that they know what projects we are working on so they can go and fight for us during the session in April.*
- *The National Guard Armory lease has been signed and finalized. The budget for the design phase has been moved up to this year. That is a \$26 million investment by the airport. We hope it will get built out in 2024 or 2025.*
- *Thanked the City Council for the new vehicle.*
- *They have been issuing citations for littering for unbagged trash.*

Mike Hardy, Police Chief

- *He appreciates the offer for the raise.*
- *Thanked the Council for the new officers.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Discussed calls they responded to. There were 66 calls in the last two weeks.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *On October 18, 2022 he mentioned something about a gun buyback. He is not opposed to having a gun buyback in the City. He was surprised to see that there are some brochures stuck on a lot of business windows saying that the gun buyback will be held in Magdalen Square. He does not know who gave them permission to have that in Magdalen Square. Mayor White stated that they were refused that location so she would like to see that brochure. Chief Hardy stated that he has been in correspondence with them and they were told they could not use Magdalen Square. They talked about Pleasant Green Church but they turned them down also. They called about McKinley Scott too. Mayor White stated they are looking for a private landowner to host it. Mrs. Lynn is working on a lead.*
- *Some houses do not have house numbers so they are difficult to locate. Mayor White stated that our ordinance states that they have to have one. They are in violation so we can send them a letter.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *We have given some raises and public safety is important but she would like us to review our budget because we have some really good employees and hopefully in the future, we can look at moving them up in pay.*
- *There is an Amazon list for the Boys and Girls Club. Please go to Amazon and purchase a book or two for the Club. This is the Vermilion Reach Group that is doing this. She is asking everyone to support this.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *They will be cleaning the Boys and Girls Club this Saturday beginning at 8:00 AM. Please come and help us.*
- *Complimented Chief Mire and Stewart Head for their departments' superb representation for the citizens of Abbeville today at the Career on Wheels.*
- *Major supermarkets are having their shopping carts rolled away. That is theft. He asked Chief Hardy to ask his officers to be aware. Chief Hardy stated that we need to make sure that the supermarket will follow through with charges.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White  
Mayor