

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
March 21, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on March 21, 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
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA
Charles Dill, Abbeville Planning Commission
Elaine Dill, Municipal Employees Civil Service Board
Levar Greenhouse, AT&T
Brac Salyers, Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries
Victoria Bourque, VEDA
Talitha Boudreaux, Teen Court
Chris Groh, Kutchins & Groh

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. She then asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to amend the agenda to add a discussion of grass cutting contracts as new business item number 12. 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.

Chief Hardy stated that item number one under personnel to ratify the appointment of personnel to the Abbeville Police Department was not needed because the applicant had also applied somewhere else and was pursuing that position.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. that whenever an unclassified position is due an increase in pay which is to be approved by the City Council, that the City Council is furnished with an earnings report of other employees in the City and a report after contacting at least three similarly sized municipalities for a salary survey of that position, prior to action. Additionally, the duties of the unclassified employee will also be considered. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

- *Mr. Levar Greenhous with AT&T discussed the planned expansion of services in Abbeville. He also exchanged contact information with Chris Gautreaux for any problems that need to be taken care of within the City.*
- *Mr. Brac Salyers of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries discussed the recent addition of fish to the pond at LaFitte Drive-In Park. Mayor White asked him to contact her office to discuss the upcoming renovations to the park.*
- *Representative Jonathan Goudeau was on the agenda but was unable to make the meeting. He will reschedule for the next meeting.*
- *Ms. Victoria Bourque provided an update on VEDA.*
- *Ms. Talitha Boudeaux who is the director of Teen Court began the Abbeville program in December 2022. She is requesting funding from the City. Mayor White asked her to present a proposed budget proposal.*
- *Mr. Chris Groh, with Kutchins and Groh, provided an update on the recent airport analysis and planning. Some items will need to be updated. He also discussed the recent appraisal of the airport done by Mr. Derouen. He will be looking at the airport layout soon.*

-03 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve the budget to actual report for the month of February 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to enter into a public hearing to receive comments from the public pertaining to an ordinance to amend Section 2-21 to increase the annual salary of the Chief of Police from \$65,000.00 to \$85,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Councilwoman Broussard stated that she would feel better about the salary going from \$65,000.00 to \$75,000.00 instead. Would still put Chief Hardy above the highest paid lieutenant in his department. Councilman Touchet stated that he was planning for the future. Mayor White agreed the \$75,000.00 is adequate since Abbeville is not growing like Youngsville and Broussard.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to reconvene the regular meeting from public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/Campbell

Ordinance 23-05

An ordinance to amend Section 2-21 to increase the annual salary of the Chief of Police from \$65,000.00 to \$85,000.00.

The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

*YEAS: 3(Campbell, B. Broussard, Touchet)
NAYS: 1(T. Broussard)
ABSENT: 0*

ABSTAIN: 1(Hardy)

Therefore, the ordinance was approved.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to condemn the burnt house located at 810 South Young Street and to authorize demolition. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to grant the property owner of 1109 S. Shireview Circle 14 days to bring the property into compliance and then to order a reinspection of the property. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to approve a special event permit for the Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville to hold an Easter egg hunt at Magdalen Square on April 8, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM pending receipt of proof of \$2 million insurance coverage and payment of the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the special event permit for the Shuga Shack Trail ride to be held at 2901 Rodeo Road (Red Barn) on April 22, 2023 through April 23, 2023 pending receipt of proof of \$2 million insurance coverage and payment of the permit fee. The permit is only needed for Sunday, April 23, 2023 when the trail ride will be leaving the Red Barn and going on North Airport Road and then to return onto Rodeo Road. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on March 14, 2023 to approve the building permit for the shell only for Starbucks. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute a memorandum of understanding with Harvesttime Christian Academy to waive field usage fees for the baseball fields at A. A. Comeaux Park. The motion carried unanimously.

The City Attorney provided an overview of the blighted property ordinances as requested by Councilman Touchet. He discussed the steps involved to get a property deemed condemned and the authority the Council has at their discretion for dilapidated properties and those properties with repeat calls for gun violence, drugs and other crimes. Each can be done on a case-by-case basis.

-12 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote in the amount of \$11,225.00 from Capital Electric & Supply, LLC to replace the air compressor at the Water Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

Campbell/T. Broussard
Resolution R23-07

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents to lease-purchase a used street sweeper.

The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Touchet discussed the current grass cutting contracts and requested the City Attorney

and the Mayor review those since they are expired.

Kim Touchet stated that the S. Hollingsworth bridge repair will begin in mid-April.

Chris Gautreaux provided an update of what his crews are working on.

Byron Dozier discussed the upcoming events at Comeaux Park.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. discussed the upcoming events in Downtown Abbeville.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor