

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
November 15, 2022

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 15, 2022 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: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Jr., Architect
Charles Dill, Abbeville Planning Commission
Nikki Vidos, Abbeville Planning Commission
David Ashley, Abbeville Planning Commission
Victoria Sagrera Bourque, VEDA
Byron Dozier, QSA Parks & Recreation Coordinator
Mr. Neu Darby
Mr. Michael Holmes
James Noel, Jr., developer of Dovetail Subdivision

Mayor White asked Mr. Neu Darby to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Mr. Michael Holmes to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to enter into a public hearing to discuss the following proposed ordinances: 1). An ordinance to amend Section 10-53 and Section 10-55 pertaining to mobile food trucks and to add Section 10-58 pertaining to food truck parks; 2). An ordinance to amend Section 10-64 pertaining to special event permits; 3). An ordinance to amend Section 2-93 pertaining to issuance of purchase orders and the public bid law. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

1). Mayor White stated that we have made some changes to our existing food truck ordinance recently and we did not have a permit in place for food truck lots. This allows us to add some language for that. There were no comments from the public.

2). Mayor White stated that we are amending the special event permit ordinance to shorten the amount of time required to come in and get the permit and to reduce the fee from \$200 to \$100. Those who are certified non-profits would only pay a \$30 fee. We also added the Veterans

Heritage Festival and the Cajun Christmas Celebration to the list of those recurring events that are exempt from requirements for special event permits. There were no comments from the public.

3). Mayor White explained that the ordinance had specific amounts relative to the public bid law so we have removed those and stated that we will follow the state statute in place. There were no comments from the public.

-02 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to reconvene the regular meeting from public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Hardy/Campbell

Ordinance 22-09

An ordinance to amend Section 10-53 and Section 10-55 pertaining to mobile food trucks and to add Section 10-58 pertaining to food truck parks.

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

YEAS: 5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy);
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Hardy/Campbell

Ordinance 22-10

An ordinance to amend Section 10-64 pertaining to special event permits

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

YEAS: 5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy);
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Hardy/Campbell

Ordinance 22-11

An ordinance to amend Section 2-93 pertaining to issuance of purchase orders and the public bid law.

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

YEAS: 5(Campbell, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, Hardy);
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

-03 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to ratify the Mayor's appointment of Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. and Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. to the Electrical Wholesale Power contract committee. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of the invoice from Delta Fire and Safety in the amount of \$5,522.69 to repair the firetruck on the Bypass. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Jude Mire discussed the proposed call types requiring Abbeville Fire Department Medical/Trauma First Response. They got with Acadian Ambulance to discuss the types of calls the Abbeville Fire Department will respond to. They got the list down to about 10 types of calls. A lot of times they get called out and there is nothing they can do. They just stand around until Acadian Ambulance gets there. It is wear and tear on the equipment and our personnel. We will still run serious calls like heart attacks and car accidents. We should reduce our calls from about 900 per year to about 500 per year. We will still provide a service when people need it and we can be useful. We will respond to calls that are on the borderline. 911 will call out Acadian Ambulance first and then call us second if needed. The 911 dispatcher will obtain more information from the caller. That way we will make sure the right people are going to the call. They have had some calls recently where they go into a call and they don't know that it may be a shooting or a stabbing and we don't know the situation. Acadian may be staging a few blocks away until the scene is clear and we don't have that information. That is very dangerous for our employees. We don't know that it is not safe for us to be there. Councilman Campbell asked if the Fire Department carries the special medication for those that overdose. Chief Mire stated he is working to get Narcan on each truck. Mayor White stated that the Sheriff's narcotics task force does carry that. Chief Mire stated that the reduction in calls will be a work in progress and they will make adjustments as needed. Mayor White asked Chief Jude to let her know how it is going. This will reduce a lot of stress on the department and reduce potential liability for the City.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation to reduce the types of calls they will respond to as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to table the request to authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury pertaining to improvements on Margaret Street since additional funding may be available to the Police Jury for the overlay of the entire street. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to award the contract for the demolition of the outside building at 500 Second Street to the low bidder, Brown's Demolition in the amount of \$1,750.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract to clear the property located at 607 Edwards Street of overgrown grass, weeds and brush to the low bidder, Ticket Services, in the amount of \$800.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to deem the property located at 311 W. Lafayette Street condemned so that the demolition process can move forward. The property was brought before the Council previously, the owner was given a time extension to sell the building and that time extension deadline has passed. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to obtain a new appraisal for the airport. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to authorize the Mayor to hire an airport consultant in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to begin preparing a master plan of the airport and to pay the expenditure from the Airway Industrial Park Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to authorize the City to install the underground electrical including the light poles for Dovetail Subdivision and to charge the developer \$5.00 per linear foot frontage and to pay the expense from the Utility System Fund Reserve account. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bart Broussard discussed Stone Bridge Apartments proposal for compliance with Abbeville Ordinance Number 19-08 pertaining to surveillance cameras and security officers. He received a letter from Andy Veazey who represents the apartment complex. The letter stated that the apartment complex would be in compliance by today with the portion of the statute dealing with cameras. They are supposed to have the required number of cameras and that they are tied into the police station monitoring. Chief Hardy stated that they are not tied into the Police Department. The credentials they were given are not working. All we see are 20 squares. They need to get with us. Bart stated that he would contact Mr. Veazey tomorrow. It is the apartment complexes obligation to comply with our ordinance. Mayor White stated that it is the Police Chief's obligation to go there and inspect it and issue citations as needed. Bart stated that the apartment complex is requesting a variance on the second part of the ordinance that requires one security guard during the day and two during the night. They would like to have one during the day and one during the night. Councilman Touchet was not in favor of granting a variance because all other apartment complexes are in compliance and doing what they need to do.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *Mayor White asked him to look at the cracks on the new overlay on Hollingsworth.*

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *The major sewer repair by the Main Fire Station has been completed.*
- *They cleaned up after the Harvest Time Homecoming parade.*
- *The Omelette Festival went well for his crew.*
- *Discussed the handicapped accessibility plan at Comeaux Park. He asked Mr. Gene Sellers, Jr. to discuss the topic. Mr. Sellers stated that he was directed to prepare a master plan for the entire park. He contacted a surveying company to do a drone survey of the park. This would include the main buildings and all the softball, baseball and football fields, the playground and pavilions and restrooms and the tennis court areas. We will do an ADA accessibility study once we have the survey to show where improvements need to be made for accessibility. We will also give you some options for phasing and budgeting. To complete the accessibility study will cost between \$20,000 and \$22,000. Half of that is the cost of the drone survey. The survey can also be used for other purposes. Mayor White stated that we only received the drone flyover price yesterday. We can move forward in the process but she wanted to inform the Council where we are in the process. Councilman Touchet stated that there is a sense of urgency because things will get kicked off in February. We need to handle the hot spots first. Mayor White stated that Chris has been communicating with Gene Jr. We need to complete the first three fields and start the study simultaneously for the rest of the property. Gene stated that it would be advantageous to draw a quick sketch for those three fields timewise. Chris stated that he can get a contractor to come do the work. Gene stated that when we do it, we want to make sure we don't affect drainage and other things. Mayor White agreed that we don't want to have to spend the money twice. We don't want to create additional*

problems.

- *Discussed the asphalt parking project at Comeaux Park. We were going to have the Police Jury do the overlay and we would pay for the materials. However, they recommended that we hire a contractor to do the work to meet the standard that it needed to be. There is some money in the budget for this project. Mayor White stated that Gene and Chris will work together to get this completed.*

Byron Dozier, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, QSA

- *The splash pad is currently closed for the season but we have had kids trespassing there by jumping the fence. The water is shut off for the season. Mayor White asked Bryon to find out who the kid is and then we can go have a talk with him and his parents.*
- *Basketball registration ends online tonight. We have 105 registrants so far.*
- *Rye grass has been planted at the baseball fields.*
- *Flag football concludes this week.*
- *OTC has already committed to some weekend tournaments. They will also reach out to 2D and USSSA. There is a softball tournament scheduled in June/July. They will have software to show the schedules. Councilman Touchet asked for a schedule.*
- *The painting is done at the tennis courts and we are waiting for the nets to come.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Thanked Chris, Stewart and the entire team for the work done for the Veterans Military Museum festival and the Omelette Festival.*
- *We do have problems in Abbeville however she walked at 5:00 AM at A. A. Comeaux Park and she feels safe walking the streets of Abbeville. We are working on our problems. She and the Chief attended a meeting with all the judges today and they discussed some issues they have with sentencing. We have a violent crimes task force meeting here on Friday. We will be discussing with the Sheriff how to better utilize that task force. She and Chief are actively working on anything and everything they can do to curb violence on the street.*
- *She is working on the budget for 2023. She and Kathy have been having budget meetings with Lonnie. Councilman Touchet asked for a list of requested projects that might be in the budget.*
- *We will be utilizing CPEX to evaluate our codes and ordinances and to start a conversation about planning community events to build a master plan on where we want the City to go. We had our first meeting with them today. We gave them a lot of information to digest. We will have subsequent meetings in the future. As part of our planning process, our goal is a master plan for all of our parks and the entire City. There will be opportunities for public input as the process moves along. Those public meetings won't happen until 2023.*
- *We did not get the water sector grant. At the recommendation of Representative Ryan Bourriaque, we applied for a Capital Outlay grant with the State for the water plant project. That project has to happen this year. They also discussed capital outlay and that our priority will be streets for 2023. We are asking for street overlay money also from LGAP and LCDBG.*
- *We have a meeting on Monday with DOTD about their road transfer program where the City would take over State highways in the downtown area.*
- *She asked Chris to see about the catch basin at TLC.*

Councilman Tony Hardy

- *Asked Chris about the street lights on the 500-600 of North Bailey Street. Chris stated they are on Stewart's list.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Asked Chris and Byron to look over the park and make sure it is ready for tournament season.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *This Thursday is the Taste of Vermilion, the Christmas Stroll will be held on December 1, 2022 and the Christmas Parade Extravaganza will be held on December 10, 2022.*
- *He thanked all the people who made the Veterans Heritage Festival and If Headstones Could Talk Cemetery Tour a success.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *Would like us to look into maternity and paternity leave policies.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
White