

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on June 2, 2020 at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members, Francis Plaisance, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Bill Spearman, Police Chief  
Clay Menard, Public Works Director  
Stewart Head, Electrical Department Superintendent  
Sarah Alpough, Director of Permits & Taxation  
Theresa Trahan, Tax Specialist  
Tracette Hillman, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Richard Minvielle, Grant Consultant  
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber of Commerce & American Legion

*Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in prayer and he also asked for a moment of silence for the unrest throughout the country and to ask for peace and harmony throughout the country. Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Francis Plaisance to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to deviate from the agenda to take up an item of personnel for the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the appointment of Brittany Hebert to the position of Police Officer in the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meeting held on May 5, 2020 and May 19, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza asked if there were any public comments on any of the agenda items prior to action. There were none.*

**Touchet/White**  
**Resolution R20-10**

*A resolution granting the authority to the Mayor to sign and submit all necessary documents along with adopting certain policies, plans and procedures in connection with the FY 2019 LCDBG program for the slums and blight program.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the annual contracts with Acadiana Shell, Vermilion Shell and Glenn Lege Construction for emergency debris removal related to natural disasters. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the annual professional engineering services contract with Primeaux, Touchet & Associates, Inc. in connection with extraordinary recovery events. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the annual electrical consultant contract with Control Devices, Inc. in connection with extraordinary recovery events. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza also asked Stewart to reach out to Greg Labbe in the morning to see if he is still the coordinator of the contract crews and what the availability is in case we need them for the tropical activity currently in the Gulf.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve payment of estimate for partial payment #4 in the amount of \$106,872.75 payable to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC for the Abbeville Downtown Streetscaping Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 4(final) in the amount of \$33,450.00 payable to TyBe Company for the addition of the new headworks mechanical screen at the Wastewater Treatment Facility Project pending receipt of a clear lien certificate. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of application payment number 5 in the amount of \$25,925.40 payable to L. Michaud Construction subject to receipt of an original clear lien certificate for the Rehabilitation of the Main Hangar Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the purchase of transformers for stock from Techline Utility Supply in the amount of \$5,196.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote from Versalift Southwest in the amount of \$6,805.17 to repair Unit 528 in the Electrical Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the purchase of iWorQ software for permitting and code enforcement for the tax department at a cost of \$8,050.00, including the web portal, and to also approve the annual fee, that will begin in 2021, for the software and web portal in the amount of \$6,700.00, pending review and approval of the contract by Ike Funderburk. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilwoman White stated we have had meetings with our employees regarding social distancing and what was expected of them but now we are moving into that stage where there is*

*more testing available and with the government pushing for trace testing. We, as a City, need a more formal policy for our employees regarding what is expected of them if they start experiencing symptoms or if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive. We need a formal chain of command with a turn around time for that notification. She took it upon herself and reached out to Ike and LMA to see if they had any standardized policies they had written for municipalities. They did not but we were directed to a Fisher Philips, a national labor law lawyer, and we pulled a few templates from there. That is included in the paper packet that was distributed. Also, there is an additional one in the packet, that she wrote based on private industry policies that she has reviewed. Ike stated Tracette has also done some research and there is a document in the packet from her. Mayor Piazza stated the rapid COVID-19 test is available in Abbeville and we receive the results immediately.*

-13 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to request the Council and the Mayor to review the COVID-19 notification and testing policy documents distributed tonight and to authorize Ike to move forward to draft the appropriate documents to formulate a policy to be presented at the next City Council meeting for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *He sent an email last week to the Mayor and Council and he asked them to please review the email and get back with him so he can have a direction to go so he can draft something we can have an ordinance committee meeting. This pertains to the dogs and the cats.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *We will be entering Phase 2, so starting Monday we will be changing the grass cutting crews. We will go back to the two districts twice a week. Tuesday and Thursday, it will be District B and District D and Monday and Wednesday it will be District A and District C. Mayor Piazza added that we will start having two people per vehicle since we are in Phase 2. It will be the same two people in that truck every day.*
- *We will start bagging sand on Friday. We picked up 4,000 sandbags today. We will monitor the system and go out and check the problem areas in the City that always flood. We will make sure those catch basins and culverts are clean. He spoke with Marlon to inform him that we may need some workers over the weekend to assist with bagging sand and flooding. Mayor Piazza stated it looked like it would be in the middle of the gulf on Saturday. Councilman Broussard stated he saw a 65 MPH storm at 1:00 PM, Sunday, south of Grand Isle.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *We will be opening the parks starting Friday. All parks will be opened and all services in the parks will be re-established.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *Thanked Mayor and Council for rehiring Brittany. We are two positions away from being fully staffed.*
- *Discussed the upcoming Peace Walk scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2020. It will be a peaceful march with positive signage for the youth. Mayor Piazza stated a special event permit would be needed.*
- *Invited the Mayor and Council to ride with his officers. He will equip them with a bullet proof vest and put them in the front seat so they can come see what they do. This may help answer some of your questions.*

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve a special event permit for the Peace Walk on June 13, 2020, pending approval by the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Discussed the three murders that happened in two months. He asked Chief Spearman if they are getting help from the task force. Chief Spearman said yes. Councilman Plaisance stated the public needs to speak up. Chief, please let us know if you need any additional resources. Councilman Touchet asked if the State Police could be called in. Chief Spearman stated they do not have the resources to send to Abbeville. Councilwoman White suggested that a formal request could be made to Clay Higgins' office for assistance.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Spoke about the murder last night and how heartbreaking this is. Mothers and Grandmothers are crying and having to bury their loved ones.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *He pleaded with the public to please lock up your firearms. They are stolen every night and used in these crimes. Take care of your firearms and lock them up.*
- *Use the anonymous tip line for information. It is made for anonymous information.*
- *If people would turn to God instead of Satan then we could get out of this sooner than later.*
- *Thanked Chief Spearman and his department and all law enforcement agencies that are in our City and in this parish and are helping Chief Spearman with this issue.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *In the wake of the George Floyd tragedy, Marcelle Davis with Christian Service Center called her this afternoon. They are planning on the morning of June 13, 2020, the same day as the Peace Walk, something at the Christian Service Center. He is organizing with St. Mary Magdalen Church at the request of Father Louis. They will have a meeting Thursday to help plan the event so she will know more details after that meeting. He called it Vermilion Unites on June 13<sup>th</sup> in the Morning. Once she has additional information, she will pass that on to everyone.*
- *QSA is having a recreational baseball tournament this weekend, June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, at A. A. Comeaux Park.*
- *Be alert and aware of tropical activity. We have a system in the gulf and it will probably make landfall between Sunday and Tuesday. Pick up any litter in your yard. Cut any tree branches that need to be cut and try to secure your property.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor