

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in special session on April 6, 2021 at 5:00 P.M., at the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center located at 300 A. A. Comeaux Drive, Suite 200, Abbeville, Louisiana with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

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

Members Absent: Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Betty Lou Landry
Johnette Ardoin

Mayor Piazza stated we are here tonight for a special City Council meeting for a public hearing to address three separate properties. The properties are 1003 Prairie Street, 824 Kibbe Street and 900 Graceland Avenue.

PUBLIC HEARING

1003 Prairie Street – Ms. Betty Lou Landry was present to represent the property. Ms. Landry stated she is still living in the house. Mayor Piazza stated there is a tarp on the roof and it is in disrepair. The shed has collapsed and the back end of the house has a lot of boards missing. It must be difficult to get in and out of the house because the steps are not there. What are your intentions to do those repairs? Ms. Landry stated that the shed has been jacked up and 5 posts were put under it to secure it. Originally, it was her intention to fix the house but she will not. She has asked Betty LeBlanc to find her a new place. She needs some time to find a new place. She would like 60 to 90 days. She wants to move away. Mayor Piazza stated the property has been in disrepair for quite some time but you did suffer some additional damage for the hurricane. Did you seek any FEMA assistance to help get some of the repairs completed? Ms. Landry stated she did and they helped a little. She does not want to repair it. Mayor Piazza stated it cannot stay in disrepair and he does understand her dilemma. Councilwoman White asked Ms. Landry if she had applied for assistance since the recent hurricanes. Ms. Landry stated no, it was a long time ago. Mayor Piazza offered to give her the telephone numbers for her to contact FEMA for the most recent hurricanes. They may pay for the roof if it was damaged during the hurricane. They won't help with demolition they can only help with repairs. Councilman Touchet stated this property is in his district and Ms. Landry will either have to repair it or tear it down. Mayor Piazza stated to Councilman Touchet that she can not afford to both repair the structure and find a new place to live. Mayor Piazza stated to Ms. Landry that the house cannot stay in disrepair. The Council will order the home to be repaired and hire someone and then we will send a bill to Ms. Landry. The bill will end up on her property taxes. She will not be able to afford to pay the property taxes so she will lose the home. She needs to figure out a way to do the necessary repairs so this doesn't happen. Ms. Landry asked if she could have the home torn down. Mayor Piazza stated that would be her decision but it can't stay like it is. Councilman Touchet stated that Ms. Landry would still have to pay for the demolition. Ms. Landry requested 90 days to get costs to tear it down. Councilman Touchet stated that people living around you are dissatisfied with how

you are keeping up your property. We receive those complaints. Councilwoman White stated her biggest concern is that Ms. Landry is living in a house that is not safe for her to be living in. Mayor Piazza asked Ms. Landry if we could at least trim the bush that is on our right-of-way. Ms. Landry agreed to allow the City to trim that bush on our right-of-way but not to trim too much for safety reasons.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to grant the owner of 1003 Prairie Street 90 days to either repair or demolish the structure. If the homeowner does not do this, the City will authorize demolition of the structure on day 91. The motion carried unanimously.

824 Kibbe Street – *No one was present to represent the property. The property is in Councilwoman Broussard’s district. Clay Menard stated the property has some issues but is can be repaired. The structure needs to be secured properly.*

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to grant the owner of 824 Kibbe 15 days to secure the property. The motion carried unanimously.

900 Graceland – *Ms. Johnette Ardoin appeared to represent the property. The property is in Councilwoman White’s district. Councilwoman White stated this was a club at one time. Ms. Ardoin stated the tree that fell down is not on her property but some of the branches are on her property. The vacant lot is not hers. She will remove the branches that are on her property. The storage area is what is damaged. Mayor Piazza stated the main roof does have some damage too. Ms. Ardoin stated she wants to repair it and reopen it. It hasn’t been open since 2018. It was Jade’s Lounge. She has applied for a loan through SBA. Mayor Piazza asked Ike to get with Sarah to research the property owner where the tree is down.*

-03 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to grant the property owner of 900 Graceland Avenue 30 days to secure the roof. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor