

The Mayor Pro-Tem and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 19, 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 Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem, presiding.

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

Members Absent: Mayor Mark Piazza

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Bill Spearman, Police Chief  
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet  
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Gene Sellers, Engineer  
Bridget Levy, Parks & Recreation Board  
Mike Hardy

*Councilman Touchet asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in prayer. Councilman Touchet asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Councilman Touchet asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item. There were none.*

*Councilwoman White announced a Community Planning Event for the purpose of visioning the reuse of City Hall to be held on May 5, 2022. One step in our three-year strategic plan is to do a Brownfield Assessment of our community to identify sites that may qualify for the Brownfield program. She invited the Brownfield team in March. We had a good meeting with them and the Acadiana Planning Commission and as a result of that visit, we have identified City Hall and the Franks Theatre as a potential site for redevelopment. These properties were chosen because the property owners are on board to allow us access to do assessment and visioning plans. Brownfield sites are vacant and the underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. Addressing potential environmental issues, especially financial and regulatory hurdles, is often intimidating, creating a barrier to the redevelopment or expanded use of these sites. LDEQ's Brownfields Program helps convert these properties from community liabilities into community assets by assisting local governments and communities to navigate the environmental process from investigation to cleanup and redevelopment. The State DEQ Brownfields Team, the Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields Team and the Acadiana Planning Commission will visit Abbeville the first week of May and visit with different groups to do a market analysis study and site visits. They will generate ideas for reuse from this process and present it to the public on May 5, 2022 for community feedback. We will host a community Town Hall planning event on the evening of Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Abbeville Library. We will brand it as "Imagine Abbeville". She is in the process of setting up an email address for people to submit ideas online. We will also build a page on our website and*

*promote online. She is asking the Council to spread the word in their districts. At the end of this process, we will have ideas on viable projects to go after funding to put these properties into use. We will then use these as a catalyst to spur redevelopment throughout the City and have a blueprint on how to use incentives and Brownfields funding to put other vacant properties back into use. This is at no cost to the City for the plan. She thanked Nikki Vidos for her help with this.*

**White/Plaisance**  
**Resolution R22-10**

*A resolution to create a Communications Advisory Committee to assist the Mayor for the purpose of finding Abbeville's bright spots and narrating the story of our community.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

*Councilwoman White stated with redevelopment of the City's website and the creation of the City's Facebook page as well as Instagram, we see how valuable the public's input can be. We are struggling with content, especially with Allie being out, and to keep developing new content. She would like to put in place people who are in our community and in each of the districts, at each Council person's suggestion, someone who with have some digital media experience or expertise and who is involved in the community who can give some input into what is going on in each district. This committee will be helping to create content and setting a schedule of content for the Mayor to review so that it doesn't all fall on the back on one person. It would be a community outreach. We need to be taking over the narrative every time there is a bad story about Abbeville, we need to be returning three good stories to counter it.*

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 4(final) in the amount of \$18,264.18 payable to Patriot Construction & Industrial, LLC for the LaFitte Drive-In Park Walking Trail Project contingent upon receipt of a clear lien certificate. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the purchase of transformers for stock from Techline Utility Supply in the amount of \$27,383.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the purchase of a multi-tool rescue tool from Delta Fire in the amount of \$12,217.00 for the Abbeville Fire Department, to be used at the Maude Fire Station. The Abbeville Rotary Club will pay \$10,000.00 of the price of the tool. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Urged everyone to contact their senators to tell them to oppose Senate Bill #322. This bill is to have municipalities stop using their local newspapers at their official journals. This would cause many local newspapers to go out of business.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *As a Council we decided to move to LWCC for our coverage. Each year we receive a dividend back. We recently received a dividend in the amount of \$171,799.00. We are up to nearly \$400,000.00 in dividends over the past years. It is working out very well for the City.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *We want the public's input for the next administration. We want to be able to help improve Abbeville. Your voice will be heard and we will listen. This is the future for our kids.*
- *This is an election runoff coming up. We have a Police Chief race. Elections have consequences. You need to go vote.*
- *He politics in his district everyday like it is the day of the election in order to meet their needs. He learned that from elderly Councilmen that were here.*

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Touchet declared this meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Francis Touchet, Jr.  
Mayor Pro-Tem