

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 5, 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 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
Calvin "Woody" Woodruff, Civil Service Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet
Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director
Marie Buteau, Water Plant Operator
Ann Hardy, Personnel Director
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber of Commerce & American Legion
Tommy Picard, Park Director, QSA
Bridget Levy, Parks & Recreation Board
Roger and Darlene Fontenot, retired City employees
Tony Hardy, Councilman-elect
Mike Hardy
Claire Broussard, Abbeville RV Park Manager
Dar'Nyri Charles

Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Ms. Dar'Nyri Charles to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the probational appointment of Marie Buteau to the position of Water Production Superintendent at the Water Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ann Hardy reported on the election held on March 29, 2022 to fill the vacant seat on the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board. Mr. Carlton Campbell had to resign from the Board to run as a City Council member. Due to his resignation we had to replace him. Employees were able to vote from candidates that were nominated from civic organizations. We had three nominees. We had Ms. Katie Bourgeois from the Abbeville Rotary Club, Ms. Cicely Brailey from the Nehemiah Project and Ms. Neva Hardy from the Lions Club. Mr. Gautreaux aided her in an operation whereby she could go to each location to obtain votes. We had 82% of employees that voted. The rest that did not vote were absent from work that day. Ms. Cicely Brailey won the election and she will be sworn in tomorrow night to the Board during the meeting which begins at 5:00 PM at City Hall.

Ms. Ann Hardy reported on the procedures of the Municipal Civil Service election to be held on November 2, 2022 for the election of the employee representative whose term expires on December 5, 2022. We have 5 members on the Civil Service Board. The City Council appoints 3. One is done by nomination by civil organizations and then we have an employee election from the nominations. The final one is an employee. In October we will request nominations from the employees. We will get a list of employees nominated and we will hold an election. She will go to each of the locations in order to obtain everyone's vote. Only classified employees are able to vote. Once the election is complete the elected member will be sworn in in January 2023. The seat is currently being held by Mr. John Joseph who works at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He is completing the term of another individual who resigned. The term is 6 years so whoever we elect will serve 6 years.

Mayor Piazza recognized Mr. Roger Fontenot who recently retired from the City of Abbeville. He has served 34 years and 24 of those were as the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent. Mayor Piazza stated that the City has never been written up and never failed a test while Roger was the Superintendent. He presented Mr. Fontenot with a certificate of appreciation for his service, hard work and his efforts.

Mayor Piazza congratulated the candidates that had recently won their elections. He congratulated Ms. Roslyn White who is the Mayor-Elect, Mr. Tony Hardy as Councilman-Elect of District A, Mr. Carlton Campbell as Councilman-at-Large-elect and the re-election of Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. and Councilwoman Terry Broussard who had opposition for the recent election. Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. was re-elected too but was unopposed.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the special City Council meeting, the Personnel Interview meeting, the Committee meeting and the regular City Council meeting all held on March 15, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify bills paid in the month of March 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

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

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to enter into a public hearing to consider and discuss an ordinance to revise the 2022 City Sales Tax budget to allow funding for resurfacing of the remaining tennis courts at A. A. Comeaux Park. The budget revision would increase the expenditures by \$180,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed ordinance. There were none.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Touchet Ordinance 22-01

An ordinance to revise the 2022 City Sales Tax budget to allow funding for resurfacing of the remaining tennis courts at A. A. Comeaux Park. The budget revision would increase the expenditures by \$180,000.00.

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

YEAS: 5(Plaisance, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, White)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance as adopted unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment number 5 in the amount of \$235,125.00 payable to GeoSurfaces, Inc. for the A. A. Comeaux Park Renovation Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute the certificate of substantial completion, pending completion of the punch list, relative to the A. A. Comeaux Park Renovation Turf and Lighting Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote from Damian Trahan Painting in the amount of \$5,300.00 for painting the outside of the Recreation Center building. The quote is for labor only. The motion carried unanimously.

**White/Touchet
Resolution R22-09**

A resolution requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the re-subdivision of the property located at 1503 Maude Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the contract for the Abbeville FY 2021 LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation Project to Shaw Construction Services, LLC in the amount of \$1,516,403.10. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of pay estimate number 1 in the amount of \$150,000.00 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC for the Lime Sludge Thickener Unit Rehabilitation at the Water Treatment Plant Facility Project. The motion carried unanimously.

**Touchet/White
Resolution R22-08**

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to apply for a grant from the Trail Fund as administered by American Trails for the Rehabilitation of the Walking Trail at the Abbeville RV Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated that the grant amount is \$15,000.00.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of the invoice from Delta Fire & Safety in the amount of \$8,522.29 for the firetruck repair at the Fire Station on the Bypass. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize request for quotes for the automatic blowout valve on the final clarifier. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to amend the servitude with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to increase the width from 5 feet to 10 feet at the County Agent Building for the sewer force main project. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *The water crew fixed 20 water leaks last month.*
- *The sewer crew had a new sewer tap on Coulee Kinney. They ran their camera on Pine Street. They repaired a sewer line on North Shireview. They found and cleared 15 sewer blockages. They installed a new lift station pump on Sucre Circle.*
- *The street crew is getting ready for the Cleanest City contest. They have been picking up trash for two weeks. We will win the contest tomorrow because there is not a piece of trash left anywhere as of right now.*
- *The fountain at Magdalen Square is being repaired but it will not be repaired in time for the Cleanest City contest. The part did not come in.*
- *The grass cutting crew is going back on schedule as we wind down the Comeaux Park project.*
- *The electrical crew has the parking lot lights left at Comeaux Park. They are almost finished with that. We also have scoreboards to be installed when they come in. The crew will begin working on street light repairs that were sent to them.*

Tommy Picard, Park and Recreation Director, QSA

- *He is meeting tomorrow morning with USSSA. I guess we were late getting our stuff set up. He met with 2D last week. Councilman Touchet stated that we are getting tournaments but from the beginning we didn't know if the fields would be ready in time. The commitments from the organizations could not have been done because we didn't have a definite at that time. Tommy is picking and choosing and then next year we will be in a better position. Tommy stated that the Council needs to realize the amount of money that Lafayette Tourism is putting into this. That is something we need to visit. We need to entice them to come here. It is all about money. We may have to go down on the prices to get them here. The City will make money from the tax money. We do have a 25-30 team tournament coming this weekend. You have to realize that they have turf in New Iberia and in Crowley so it will be very competitive so we will have to entice them to get them here.*
- *Saturday at 9:00 AM in Erath, QSA will have their opening ceremonies.*

Councilman Roslyn White

- *She thanked Mayor Piazza for his service, support, knowledge and leadership. Those will not be easy to fill. However, she vows to work hard to honor his legacy and to continue*

his hard work while incorporating new ideas. She thanked the residents of Abbeville for trusting her to be the next Mayor. She vows to be a strong and fair leader and work hard to make them proud every day. She is here to listen and learn from them. As she works to guide our City forward, she wants to thank all who ran clean and honest campaigns and led with positive messages of unity. She believes the people supported the message of unity overwhelmingly. She believes it should give us all hope for the positive direction our City will be moving. She called up Ms. Dar’Nyri Charles to come up and receive a gift from her. Dar’Nyri has even more passion than she does. Dar’Nyri’s passion for politics and positivity in our community is so special and it is children like her who inspired her to run for Mayor.

- *They are planning an Easter Egg Hunt in Graceland Park for next Sunday, 4 PM to 8 PM. She will get with Chief Spearman about additional patrols out there. She would like to block off a section around the park on Graceland.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Asked Ike to meet with Woody and the Mayor-Elect regarding appointment of employees to positions. He would like the new Council members to have a voice when there has been an election for this. Mayor Piazza stated that it does not just apply to hiring. We have to be able to fill vacancies so that City services continue. It can’t stop. More importantly, we need to watch our spending between now and July 1st. We can get in trouble if we overspend. The administration and the Chief of Police can get in trouble if overspending is done intentionally to utilize funds that are for the next administration. You still have six months left to your budget. Spending is about to come to a screeching halt. That is State budget law.*
- *We have been receiving complaints that some of our elderly are having problems negotiating the curbing in the Downtown area. Is there anything we can do? Is that liability for the City? The bulbouts are far out. Mr. Gene stated that is a State highway and the State approved the plans and granted a permit for us to do the project. The striping is faded and we could get DOTD to come back and redo the striping. He also asked DOTD if we could put those barriers on the curbs. The people who are dragging a trailer are hitting the curbing. Councilman Broussard stated that the project was built to ADA standards and specifications for handicapped accessibility. That is a 12 to 1 grade. Mayor Piazza suggested that Mayor-Elect White and Councilman Broussard meet with Mr. Gene to review the plans for Phase II because a lot of those proposed sidewalks have the same types of bulbout features.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Abbeville Iris is in full bloom at Palmetto Park. This is very unique and that is the only place it is growing.*
- *Thanked the City employees, the Police Jury, KAB and the Garden Club who have helped us with the Cleanest City contest. The judges will be in town tomorrow.*
- *We just finished an election except for the runoff for Chief of Police. When 7 out of 10 voters stay home and don’t vote, we all have to do a better job. If your neighbor is not voting, find out why. Help your neighbor vote. When the majority of our voters are not represented in the biggest election in our City, we all have a job to do for that. Everybody is important in our City even the littlest of our people.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked the citizens of District D for re-electing her. It is a great honor.*

- *She has been in contact with Mr. Joseph Pillette regarding the Juneteenth Celebration. On June 17, 2022 and June 19, 2022, they will have an event at the Red Barn. On June 18, 2022 they will have an event at McKinley Scott Park.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Congratulated all the winners in the recent election.*
- *They received a memo that there is now a negative balance on the \$3,000,000 that was borrowed to renovate Comeaux Park. Echoing what the Mayor stated, we need to be careful and hold back on some of that spending. Mayor Piazza stated that is why he distributed the memo.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor