

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on June 18, 2019 at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, 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: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Denise Mire, Parks Director
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Corey LeBlanc, Architect
Debbie Garrot, Vermilion Films & Visitors Commission
Cindy Revill, PetSense Manager
Megan Plowden

Mayor Pro-Tem Francis Touchet, Jr. asked Councilman Francis Plaisance to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Roslyn White to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Touchet stated the Mayor is not here tonight because he is on City business.

Mrs. Debbie Garrot gave a report on the recent Sicilian Festival. It was the first time to have this celebration. We raised \$4,817.00 and our expenses were \$3,886.89. This left a profit of \$930.11. In-kind contributions were \$6,459.92. Since we didn't have a bank account, we ran all the money through the City. She would like to do that again next year. She would also like the profit earmarked to be used for next year's festival. The festival is going to be held next year on March 23, 2020.

Ms. Cindy Revill with PetSense discussed their participation in LaFitte Drive-In Park. Ms. Revill stated they wanted to donate a waste station for the dog park at Lafitte Park but she found out that there are already two ordered for the park. So, she will get with her boss to see what else she could arrange to donate for the dogs at the park. They want to partner with the City and have a presence out there at least once a month. They would like to pass our ditty bags. They would also like to post the things that will be happening at the dog park on their Facebook page. They would like to be a part of the grand opening too. They want to be a presence and are very excited that we have a dog park in Abbeville. They want to be a part of that in any way that they can. Councilman Plaisance stated next week the fence crew is scheduled to put the fence to divide the smaller dogs from the larger dogs. There are a lot of people who are bringing their dogs.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of May 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Touchet asked if there were any public comments on any agenda item. There were none.

Municipal Board Reports

Main Street Board report given by Charlene Beckett. She distributed a book that the Lieutenant Governor had put together showcasing several communities in Louisiana. Abbeville was not one of them. She always attends the National Main Street Conference. She receives scholarships to go to that. This year the scholarship paid for the conference registration and the flight. Next year's conference is in Dallas, TX. We held the 15th Daylily Festival on June 1, 2019. It was the best one ever. A lot of money was made by the vendors. We had 49 vendors filling 74 vendor spots. We use the money for advertising. It is not a money-making event for the City. It is an event to promote our community. The local vendors also reap the benefits when the event is well attended. We are planning for the fall Sounds on the Square. We have a tour group from France coming on October 3, 2019. That night we will have Geno Delafosse performing for Sounds on the Square. She is still planning the other nights. If Headstones Could Talk will be on November 8, 2019 in the Masonic Cemetery. We now have 12 benches as part of our downtown bench program. We will have two new houses ready for the Christmas Stroll. One will be a bank and the other will be a church.

Keep Abbeville report given by Charlene Beckett. The Abbeville Garden Club, Keep Abbeville Beautiful and a lot of other entities partnered on Saturday morning to do a native planting. It was done at Riverfront. This month's Civic Pride award goes to the Courthouse and the residential Civic Pride award goes to Mr. and Mrs. Tim Boudreaux who reside on North Louisiana. We also won the Cleanest City Contest.

Abbeville Planning Commission report. Mrs. Charlene Beckett stated that one of the requirements for the Planning Commission is that they attend yearly training. Last Friday, Charles Dill, David Ashley and her went to New Iberia for the day long yearly training requirement. They covered a lot of things that were very informative.

Parks and Recreation Board report given by Denise Mire. The Rotary Club is remodeling pavilion 1 at Comeaux Park. They are finished with the bathrooms. They are painting the outside and have begun the framework for the cement. They are also doing a walkway from parking lot to the skateboard park. We did install two ten-spins at Mouton Park and at McKinley Scott Park. These were paid using grant funds. We are trying to have a skateboard competition in July. It would be free of charge to enter. We will be installing a shuffleboard at Comeaux Park. We are putting up disk golf baskets at Comeaux Park too. As soon as we have everything organized and ready, we will put an article in the newspaper to let the public know those services are available. Councilman Touchet asked Denise to get with Tommy Picard (QSA) to evaluate this past season to make sure we know well in advance of the needs of our facilities. Councilman Broussard asked that we also invite Vermilion Basketball to that meeting too. Councilman Touchet added that we could also invite key community people to the meeting. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she would like to include Bronk in that meeting. Councilman Plaisance stated we need to be able to justify the money being spent there through the QSA program.

Ms. Megan Plowden wants to hold a march in memory of her son, Dylan, on July 30, 2019. They will walk where Dylan was murdered on Vernon. We will pass at McKinley Scott and make a turn

at the graveyard. It will end right there. We will begin it at 1:00 PM. Councilman Plaisance asked Ms. Plowden if she has met with the Police Chief. She stated that she had not. Mr. Funderburk stated that in order to get the ball rolling, Ms. Plowden will have to go the tax and permit department and put in an application for a special event permit. She has not yet done that. Councilman Touchet stated, to Ms. Plowden, that she needs to get in touch with the Police Chief and also to complete the permit process. Councilwoman Broussard asked that we waive the fees. Councilman Plaisance asked if the vote tonight will grant the permit. Councilman Touchet stated the vote tonight is to waive the fees pending that Ms. Plowden gets with the Chief of Police for his approval and completes the application for the permit.

-02 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to waive the permit fee for Ms. Megan Plowden to hold a march in memory of her son on July 30, 2019 beginning at 1:00 PM, pending that she meets with the Chief of Police for his approval and that she completes the application for permit. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve payment #10 in the amount of \$47,500.00 payable to Minvielle Lumber and payment of the invoice to The Sellers Group in the amount of \$1,411.41. Both of these are for the Airport Terminal Building Renovation project. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Touchet discussed the curfew for underage persons as a focus for the Chief of Police. There has been an uptick, over the last 17 years, of things that happen when kids get out of school. He asked the Chief to explain the curfew for the summer so that the public understands. Police Chief Spearman stated the curfew for those under 17, for the summer, is 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM, Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 AM to 5:00 AM, Friday and Saturday. We do not have a daytime curfew in the summer. We only have a daytime curfew during school. Mr. Funderburk stated that the parents have to understand that if they allow their children to violate the curfew law, then the parents can be prosecuted. The public needs to be aware of that. The parents have a responsibility to keep their kids off the street and if they are unable to and allow them to run at night, then the parents/guardian will be charged. Councilman Touchet stated it is about safety of our kids. The safety of their loved ones has to be of the utmost importance. It will take parents to be a part of this.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Tonight, he and Kathy are using the new I-pads. This is a trial run tonight. The Councilmembers and the Mayor will have this for the next meeting. Be cautious if you make notes on the I-pad because everyone else will be able to see your notes. He commended Nicole for her hard work to make all this work.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *We stopped two 18-wheelers.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *The Cake and Ice Cream Festival will be held on July 27, 2019 at Comeaux Park.*
- *We will have the Lieutenant Governor guest speaking for the Louisiana Cattle Festival banquet this year.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked everyone who attended the meeting tonight.*
- *She thanked Debbie Garrot, Charlene Beckett and the employees for their hard work.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Tomorrow all the hardworking and wonderful employees of the City will be fed by the Rotary Club of Abbeville. The Rotary Club does so many good things for our entire City. When you see a Rotarian, please thank them.*
- *Mayor Piazza is running for 2nd Vice President of Louisiana Municipal Association. That is big for the City of Abbeville. He is now at a meeting in Pineville and he will attend the meetings all over the State leading up to this election. He is running against a lady for that. We have not had a City official in our history that has reached this level in the Louisiana Municipal Association. Good luck to our Mayor and his pursuit of that office.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *Thanked Chief Jude Mire for handling the controlled burn at Mount Carmel. It is complete. They did it safely and in the most effective way to help out the drainage board and the school.*

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Touchet declared this meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Francis Touchet, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem