

City of Abbeville
Regular Meeting
November 7, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 7, 2023 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 Roslyn R. White, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members, Carlton Campbell, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Tony Hardy

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Bart Broussard, City Attorney
Mike Hardy, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux, Director of Public Works & Parks
Cristian LeJeune, Digital Media Assistant
Ann Hardy, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director
Bryan Fisher, Code Enforcement Officer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Elaine Dill, Municipal Employees Civil Service Board
Dr. Elista Istre, Louisiana Military Museum
Roderick Darby, Vermilion Reach Group
Danielle Alleman & members of AHS DECA Club

Mayor White called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Mayor White asked Councilman Carlton Campbell to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor White asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White stated that the DECA group is running a little late so they asked to move their item from presentation to item number one under new business.

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to amend the agenda to move the DECA program presentation to item number one under new business. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chief Hardy provided an update on personnel. He stated that two officers have left the force. William Braly abandoned his job and Dwayne Schexnaider resigned.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2023 and October 17, 2023 regular City Council meetings and the October 17, 2023 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of October 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to recommend the hiring of Kevin Williams and Noah Skinner to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department, pending successful completion of all post-offer assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Danielle Alleman, AHS teacher and DECA Club Sponsor, introduced the members of the AHS DECA club. They each took turns discussing their role in the club and the club events that they will be attending.

Mr. Roderick Darby, with Vermilion Reach Group, discussed the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. They are moving it downtown. They will hold a gala on January 6, 2024 at Magdalen Place. On January 15, 2024, they will still hold the Stump Service then they will begin the march after that Stump Service.

Dr. Elista Istre discussed the upcoming Veterans' Heritage Festival to be held on November 10, 2023 and November 11, 2023 at the Louisiana Military Museum at the Chris Crusta Memorial Airport.

1112 Martin Luther King Drive, dilapidated structure, junk, garbage, rubbish and long grass – No one was present to represent the property. Bryan Fisher stated that the structure is recoverable in the state it is presently in. The owner is sick and elderly and lives in Texas. They want to donate it to the City. Mayor White stated that we should take it under advisement for the attorney to research the aspect of the City receiving the donation.

-05 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to condemn the structure at 1112 Martin Luther King Drive and to take the donation issue under advisement. The motion carried unanimously.

1110 Martin Luther King Drive, dilapidated structure – no one was present to represent the property. Bryan Fisher stated that the structure is in bad shape.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to condemn the structure at 1110 Martin Luther King Drive and to authorize demolition of the structure and abatement of all nuisances. The motion carried unanimously.

404 North Bailey Street, dilapidated structure, overgrowth, trash and other rubbish – no one was present to represent the property.

-07 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to condemn the structure at 404 North Bailey Street and to authorize demolition of the structure and abatement of all nuisances. The motion carried unanimously.

814 Solomon, burnt dilapidated structure, junk and rubbish on property. No one was present to represent the property.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to condemn the structure at 814 Solomon and to authorize demolition of the structure and abatement of all nuisances. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to accept the recommendation of the Abbeville Planning Commission to grant a variance for Walmart's

existing free-standing sign's 30- foot height. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to table the award of contracts for demolition at 803 S. Guegnon, 821 Alphonse and 608 Hawthorne and to rebid the work as there was a discrepancy in the asbestos report. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell to adopt the City of Abbeville vehicle use policy. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to request that the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board consider an amendment to Municipal Service Rule VII: annual leave and other leave of absences, Section 2: Sick leave and Section 4: Leave of absence without pay. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/B. Broussard
Resolution R23-33

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an assignment of lease transferring a lease from Valour, LLC to Gulf Coast Operators, LLC.

The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/T. Broussard
Resolution R23-34

A resolution requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2023-2024 Local Government Assistance Program and Community Water Enrichment Fund Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Tony Hardy to approve payment of partial payment estimate #8 in the amount of \$72,855.50 payable to Shaw Construction for the FY 2021 LCDBG Sewer Rehab Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Carlton Campbell and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of partial payment estimate #1 in the amount of \$31,201.20 payable to Southern Constructors, LLC relative to the new fishing pier and wharf project at LaFitte Drive-In Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Tony Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify expenses of approximately \$30,000.00 for the repairs to the UV Treatment System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

-16 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify the payment of the invoice from Bihmco in the amount of \$15,000.00 for sewer repairs on Loraine Street, Washington Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mike Hardy had requested to be on the agenda to discuss the need for patrol cars and an outside storage unit. He would like for the city to purchase 10 new cars but he needs 5 as soon as possible. Councilman Touchet stated that we have a budget process. That is a big ask so it

should be in the budget process whereby you visit with the Mayor about your need and then she can bring that to the Finance Committee. Chief Hardy stated that he is not asking permission right now but will come back later with his recommendations. Councilman Touchet asked Mayor White what is the total budget for the police department. She stated that it is around \$4.9 million for 2023. Councilman Touchet stated that is a lot of money. Chief Hardy stated that he will need a slab to put under a building in the back of the police station. He will need for the City employees to help him lay the slab. Councilman Touchet asked Chief Hardy if he had discussed this with Chris to see what we need to do. Mayor White stated that she met with Chief Hardy and he showed her what he wanted to do. He has a cost for a building. He will need to get with Chris, bring in the estimated cost and if it is available in your budget this year there is no issue. If it is not available then it will have to wait until the next budget. Please get with Chris and he will come up with a plan.

Chris Gautreaux, Public Works Director

- *Started the Go Mow program. We are starting at \$70 per acre and then the bidders bid against each other at that or lower.*
- *The North Airport Road at Amazon is falling apart. That is where the 18-wheelers will be turning and traveling so we need to overlay about 600 feet. While the construction company is already mobilized, it is a lot cheaper to fix it. We think it will be about \$42,000.00 and is already available in the budget. We will see if the Police Jury will partner with us. Mayor White stated she has already moved for the work to be done and we will ratify it at the next meeting.*
- *Discussed progress of ADA access at Comeaux Park.*

Mayor Roslyn White

- *Had mobility audit today. We will turn information collected today into CPEX.*
- *There is a community town hall meeting scheduled for November 15, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the LSU Ag Center. They will put some boards up with the proposed projects that we want to put up for the safety demonstrations and get feedback from the community before we do the demonstration. What works best will be incorporated into the final design of the road overlay.*
- *DOTD started overlaying Main through 167 and the turning radius. They do have some money appropriated to fix Highway 335.*
- *We took over the downtown streets and we are awaiting the transfer of cash.*
- *City Hall is closed Friday for Veterans' Day.*
- *Don't forget to visit the Louisiana Military Museum for the 3rd Annual Veterans' Heritage Festival.*
- *The Aviation Academy of Acadiana purchased the flight school at the Chris Crusta Memorial Airport. They will be building and growing the flight school. We will have a ribbon cutting on November 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the airport.*
- *Everyone did a great job for the Omelette Festival.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *They are continuing the fire hydrant painting.*

Councilman Tony Hardy

- *The City employees did a great job for the Omelette Festival.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Asked Chief Hardy to follow up with the apartment complexes to make sure they are in compliance with video cameras and security. Asked specifically about Stonebridge since*

they were not in compliance. We need to make sure we have some teeth to enforce this. If we cut their electricity, they will definitely get into compliance. They have to come into compliance. Chief Jude Mire stated that Stonebridge is under fire watch right now because building 13's sprinkler system is not working and the rest of the building has to be updated. Mayor White asked Chief Mire to turn the report to Louisiana Housing Corporation because they are supposed to report it but she wants to make sure they are aware of it in case they did not report it.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Mentioned the story on KLFY today pertaining to Live Oak Manor.*
- *The Cemetery Tour is this Friday.*
- *We are having the Rotary Poboy sale and the Garden Club pansy sale at the same time in Magdalen Square on November 17, 2023.*
- *The Halloween event was well attended. The Rotary Club gave out 950 books.*

Councilman Carlton Campbell

- *The taco place on Charity Street want to open but they cannot find workers. They want to serve daiquiris but they are having a difficult time getting a license. Mayor White stated that they have not pulled permits with the City yet.*
- *Congratulated Councilman Touchet for being selected as the next Superintendent of the Lafayette School System.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Roslyn R. White
Mayor