

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 19, 2019 at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, 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: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Sarah Alpough, Director of Revenue, codes & permits
Tracette Hillman, Municipal Civil Service Director
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Debbie Garrot, Abbeville Film & Visitors' Commission
Joseph Vallee', Municipal Civil Service Board member

Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Roslyn White to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Debbie Garrot was at the meeting tonight to discuss the planned events occurring in Magdalen Square on December 7, 2019. That day is the last Farmers' Market for 2019. It is from 8 AM to 1 PM. Abbeville Animal Aid will be selling delicious sausage poboys to benefit their cause. Please advertise the market. It is hard to compete with the shrimp folks at the Delcambre Farmers' Market. As part of the market the Abbeville Meridional, the LSU AG center, and the Caldwell House have teamed up together to provide cookie decorating for the children in the Gazebo from 10 to 12. We have two art classes called Painting under of the Oaks. One scene is St. Mary Magdalen church and the other painting is the of the Bank of Abbeville. The cost for that is \$25 per person and it will be in the square, weather permitting. That evening we have the parade beginning at 6:00 PM and after the parade we will show the movie. Animal Aid will be selling refreshments and pizza during parade and the movie.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 Committee meeting, the Personnel Interview from November 5, 2019 and the regular City Council meetings held on October 15, 2019 and November 5, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Piazza stated that item one is a condemnation hearing for 608 E. Oak Street with the property owner or his designee. Mr. Henry Dixon is here as the designee. Sarah is here too if you have any questions. Sarah has confirmed that all the proper notices have been sent out to the

property owner. These were sent out by certified mail and regular mail. Mr. Dixon is here tonight to request a certain amount of time to tear the building down. He is here representing Mr. Peter Reaux, Jr. Mr. Dixon stated that Mr. Reaux will pay him to tear the building down. Mayor Piazza stated the permit would have to be paid for within five days. Mr. Dixon said that Mr. Reaux could do that. Councilwoman White stated that by the next Council meeting if demolition has not begun then the City would begin tearing that property down. Mr. Dixon stated it would take two weeks for him to tear down the building. Councilwoman White only wanted to give Mr. Dixon 30 days, no more. If after 30 days it is not complete then we will bring someone in to tear it down. Mayor Piazza stated if the City does the demolition then Sarah has to go out for bids, we have to wait for bids and then we have to make sure the utilities are secured and then we would have to award the bid at a meeting. It would take a long time. Clay Menard stated the utilities have already been secured. Councilwoman White wanted to do the bare minimum as far as days that we could do in order to get this property torn down quickly. Mayor Piazza said we already went through this process before and we have the utilities disconnected but the property owner did not ever come in to purchase a demolition permit. We are short on patience because he has already been through this hearing process before and promised to tear the building down but nothing was done. We need someone to come in and pay the permit fee within five days and then you can start the demolition immediately. Councilwoman White reiterated that she wanted this done and completed within 30 days. Clay stated that once Mr. Dixon gets his demolition permit then he has to furnish the City with the Louisiana One call ticket number. He also stated that he could call in to get the Louisiana One call ticket number prior to getting the demolition permit and provide that at the time of purchase. Mayor Piazza told Mr. Dixon to call tomorrow for the Louisiana One call ticket number so that when he purchases the permit within five days, he would be ready to begin the demolition.

-02 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to declare the structure located at 608 E. Oak Street not suitable to be renovated and to be condemned, the demolition permit must be purchased within five days and the entire demolition and clean up must be completed within 30 days. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Plaisance presented a quotation from Bayou Fencing & Supply, Inc. for the Lafitte Park "Dog Park". This would complete the project and would separate the large dogs from the small dogs. The other part of the fence is to go around the pump. A lot of people go on the weekends to run their dogs. The cost of the estimate is \$10,778.55. Councilman Broussard asked if this expenditure was in the budget. Mayor Piazza stated that would be question for Denise Mire since this is the Parks budget. Councilwoman White stated that she is not in favor of moving forward with this work at this time. She would like to see a completed plan for the dog park to understand where these fences are going to go and why they are necessary. We are still waiting on grant funds to be awarded by the State to develop the park. She wants to make sure this will fit in with that plan to make sure we are not spending money twice. Councilman Plaisance stated that he has been working on this for six years. People are utilizing the dog park and want to continue to use it. Petsense is ready to donate items to our park too. This is a big thing that everybody wants. You are welcome to come out there and look at it. The Mayor marked it off the way it needed to be done. We just need to get this done while the weather is nice. Councilwoman Broussard stated that we need to move forward with the park. Six years is a long time. Councilman Plaisance stated this part of the park is not in our grant proposal. This is something we need to do to complete the dog park to allow people to utilize it better. Every week someone asks him about the fencing. They are afraid the big dogs will injure the small dogs. People have a problem with that because that is not the way a dog park is supposed to be designed. We need to finish it and let people use it. Councilman Touchet asked if the park has been opened. Councilman Plaisance answered it has been opened only on weekends since the

summer. Councilwoman White asked if people are running their dogs have to keep the dogs on leashes. Councilman Plaisance answered that is correct. People who have little dogs are not getting their dogs out of the car if there is a big dog there.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quotation from Bayou Fencing & Supply for fencing for the Lafitte Park dog park.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to table any action on the fencing for the Lafitte Park dog park until further study can be done on the master plan. The substitute motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS:	3(White, Touchet, B. Broussard)
NAYS:	2(T. Broussard, Plaisance)
ABSENT:	0
ABSTAIN:	0

Therefore, since the substitute motion carried, no vote was necessary on the original motion.

Item number three on the agenda was to appoint one member to the Municipal Civil Service Board for the expired term of Victoria Nunez. Ms. Tracette Hillman explained that this was submitted in error as this member is to be selected by the Municipal employees not the City Council. Civic organizations have submitted names and the Municipal employees will elect the new member by ballot. Councilwoman Broussard asked that in the future when the Council is to elect someone to this board, that an African American member is considered.

Councilman Broussard discussed the contract for urgent care with Abbeville General Hospital. The City is now engaged with Abbeville General Hospital with an urgent care contract. The urgent care facility is on Alonzo Street directly across from the emergency room of Abbeville General Hospital. The City is now able to send all of our insured. This is a win for the City and the employees. Our employees can walk into that place with \$0 out of their pocket. This examination will include the office visit, a point of service lab testing, medication administration, x-rays and interpretation. This is something that our covered insured persons can get for a flat fee to the City of \$50. We average \$787 against our City with a visit to the emergency room at Abbeville General. We have about 300 visits per year. That is a brand-new facility and it the only certified urgent care facility in Vermilion Parish. It is open 7 days a week. The hours are 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Monday through Friday and from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. This saves our insurance money as it will not be filed with UMR because it is a flat fee of \$50 per person. This will begin January 1, 2020. He will discuss this at the next safety meeting to be held on November 22, 2019. Every employee will also receive a letter regarding this program. This will lengthen funds in our health insurance plan. Once a month Abbeville General Hospital will send an invoice to us detailing the number of individuals times the \$50. This is an incentive to keep people out of the emergency room. If it is deemed an emergency, the staff at the urgent care facility will walk you to the emergency room.

The resolution adopting salary increases and new pay plans as part of the 2019 sales tax proposition was read aloud by Mayor Piazza. Councilman Broussard stated that he would have liked to do more to retain certain employees but Civil Service does not allow us to do this.

Plaisance/White
Resolution 19-29

A resolution adopting salary increases and new pay plans as part of the 2019 sales tax.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Met with Lonnie today and will meet with him tomorrow to work on the budget. It is a struggle to make the dollars work. Lonnie will meet individually with the Council in a week. We will introduce the budget at a committee meeting on December 3, 2019.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *Thank you for adopting the resolution.*
- *Randall Nugier graduated academy today and will be on the road starting tomorrow.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Happy Thanksgiving.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Christmas Stroll is on 12/5/19 and on 12/7/19 we will have the Farmers' Market, parade and movie. Spend your shopping dollars in Abbeville.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *The election is over, please make sure the election signs are picked up.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor