



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 02, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Council Meeting Room, 101 North State Street,
Abbeville, Louisiana 70510

AGENDA

NOTICE POSTED: November 1, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

- Call to Order by Mayor
- Roll Call by Kathy Faulk
- Prayer
- Pledge

PERSONNEL

PRESENTATIONS

1. To recognize the City of Abbeville retiree Michael Wiltz.

GUESTS

1. Mr. Carlton Campbell-candidate for Councilman at Large for the City of Abbeville.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. To approve the minutes from the special City Council meeting held on September 21, 2021, the Council personnel interviews held on October 19, 2021 and the regular City Council meetings held on September 21, 2021, October 5, 2021 and October 19, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(To allow comments on any of the following items prior to action.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. To approve a special event permit for the Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville to hold a "Here Comes Santa 5K Run" at Magdalen Square on December 11, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 11 AM.
2. To approve a special event permit for the Louisiana Military Museum to hold their 1st Annual Veteran Festival at the Chris Crusta Memorial Airport on November 12, 2021 through November 13, 2021.
3. To approve a special event permit for the Abbeville's Cajun Christmas Celebration to be held in downtown Abbeville on December 11, 2021 from 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM.
4. To approve Change Order No. 1 for Phase I of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program with Stallion Oilfield Services.
5. To approve Change Order No. 1 for Phase II of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program with Home Industry Disposal Company
6. To approve Change Order No. 1 for Phase III of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program with Vermilion Shell & Limestone.
7. To adopt a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion pertaining to Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the City's LCDBG Clearance Program.
8. To appoint Sellers and Associates, Inc. for Engineering Services at the Abbeville Chris Crusta Memorial Airport and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Sellers and Associates, Inc.
9. To surplus a Glock model 17, 9mm service weapon bearing serial number BMWY520 which belonged to Lieutenant Jason Hebert, who recently retired, so he can purchase the gun at the appraised value.
10. To adopt a resolution requesting LA DOTD to inspect the condition of Louisiana Highway 14 from its intersection with Louisiana Highway 82 to the Vermilion River and thereafter do and perform all the repair and/or maintenance work thereon in a timely fashion in accordance with the best practices of a duly diligent property owner under the circumstances.
11. To award the bid for the Baseball and Softball Field Improvements and Lighting Replacement Project to the low bidder, GeoSurfaces, Inc. in the amount of \$2,398,000.00.

12. To surplus unit 489 (2002 Honda Accord), unit 555 (2009 Ford Crown Victoria) and unit 533 (2009 Ford Crown Victoria for the Abbeville Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

1. Engineers
2. Main Street Manager
3. Digital Media Assistant

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Council Members

ADJOURN

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Mayor Mark Piazza's office at 337-893-8550, describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in special session on September 21, 2021 at 5:15 P.M., at the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center located at 300 A. A. Comeaux Drive, Suite 200, Abbeville, Louisiana with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members, Francis Plaisance, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr. and Roslyn White

Members Absent: Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Sarah Alpough, Director of Revenue, Regulatory Codes and Permits
Family representative for 904 Greene Street

Mayor Piazza stated we are here tonight for a special City Council meeting for a public hearing to address the property located at 904 Greene Street.

PUBLIC HEARING

A family member was present to represent the property. She stated it was heir property. Mayor Piazza stated the problem is the big tree that fell last year for the hurricane. Some of it was removed that was on the Vallot building so what is left is on the family property. She stated the person who lives in the house doesn't want anyone on the property. When they go on the property to try to address the issue, he chases them out. He calls the police. He has a mental problem. One of her brother's got arrested because of this. He was trying to take care of the issue with the tree. The person in the house is their brother. Mr. Funderburk stated they need to hire a lawyer and open a succession. Councilwoman Broussard stated she understands the problem and does not want anyone to get hurt. Mayor Piazza asked who would cut the tree if the problem with the brother wasn't there? The family representative stated they would cut the tree. Mayor Piazza stated maybe the police can go there to restrain the gentleman that is on the property because you have a right to be on the property. That is a discussion you need to have with the Police Chief. You have as much right to be on the property as your brother. If you don't cut the tree, eventually, the City will hire somebody to cut the tree and the family will get a bill for that. The property representative stated they will need more than two police officers to restrain him. She already talked to the Police Chief and they said that her brother has just as much right to be on the property as she does. Mayor Piazza asked how many heirs are there? She stated they have 8. Mr. Funderburk stated that means he only has a 1/8th interest in the property. He asked if the other 7 are in agreement with what needs to be done on the property? She stated yes. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Funderburk to draft a letter so the other 7 members of the family could sign it stating that they want to be able to go on the property to cut the tree because they are in violation of the City code? We could present the Police Chief with that letter. Mayor Piazza stated that Sarah could get the names of the heirs and give those to Ike.

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to table any action on 904 Greene Street so that Ike can work with the family. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on September 21, 2021 at 5:30 P.M., at the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center, located at 300 A. A. Comeaux Memorial Drive, Suite101 North State Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

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

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Kelly Mire, Assistant Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Felicia Williams, Park and Recreation Board member
Marilyn Mitchell

Mayor Piazza asked Former Lieutenant Joey Boneski to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Ronald Gaspard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item prior to action. Ms. Marilyn Mitchell wanted to know about item #3. The proposed ordinance states it is for construction of recreational facilities. Will it be all the recreational facilities? Councilman Touchet stated the projects are addressing Comeaux Park. Ms. Mitchell asked why not the football field and Herbert Williams? She is especially concerned with Herbert William Park and was wondering why that field is not being turfed. Councilwoman Broussard stated that Ike and Pastor August have been in contact because Pastor August would like to purchase that property and utilize that property. He would keep it as a park and would maintain the name. Ms. Mitchell stated she has a problem with that as well. Some of the constituents do not want that.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to enter into a public hearing to received public comments regarding an ordinance to amend and reenact Chapter 5-Buildings; Article IX-signs: Section 5-272-attached signs; (b)(4)(b)(2) to recalculate the size of a secondary sign on a gas station canopy. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

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

-02 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/White
Ordinance 21-06

An ordinance to amend and reenact Chapter 5-Buildings; Article IX-signs: Section 5-272-attached signs; (b)(4)(b)(2) to recalculate the size of a secondary sign on a gas station canopy.

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

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

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated that item number three was to introduce an ordinance for the incurring of debt and issuance of the three million dollars revenue bond, series 2021. If the proposed language is approved tonight, the ordinance is proposed to be adopted at the October 5, 2021 City Council meeting. Councilman Plaisance stated that he hopes this is the beginning of future development. He has a problem with the word "debt" all the time but he understands that is sometimes a necessary thing. He hopes this is the beginning of more to come and more development. Ms. Marilyn Mitchell asked if a basketball facility would be incorporated into the proposal that was introduced a few meetings ago? Mayor Piazza stated the original \$3 million dollars is basically to redo the infield on the seven baseball fields at Comeaux Park to try and attract baseball tournaments into our community as an economic development benefit. Also in the plan, are parking lots, bathrooms, portable bathrooms that can be used at other areas and tennis courts. Ms. Mitchell thought at the meeting they said they would put a basketball facility. Mayor Piazza stated what Councilwoman Broussard and Councilman Plaisance said is that a basketball facility would be looked at as a future development. It is not in the original proposal. Tommy Picard stated he met with Gene Sellers, Jr. to discuss a gym facility. He had a great idea and it is in discussion about a gym. Councilwoman White agreed that she would like to see a basketball facility here too. She understands that the original proposal is to generate revenue for future development. Councilman Plaisance stated that Tommy set an appointment for us to view the basketball gym at LeBlanc Elementary. We viewed that and Tommy has some designs too. That would, hopefully, be coming in the future. We all want to see a basketball facility here but this debt is designed to bring our baseball fields up to where they need to be for tournaments to be held in Abbeville to generate revenue for the City. We are looking at moving forward with a basketball gym as a future development. Ms. Marilyn Mitchell asked how would we pay the debt back? Councilman Touchet stated that would be paid back from excess revenues. Ms. Mitchell stated if we do not get a contract with USSSA, how will we have tournaments? Where will we generate funds to pay the debt back? Most of you won't be here on the City Council tens years from now so the next generation will have to figure that out themselves. Do we have a contract with USSSA for these tournaments? Mr. Picard stated if we don't do these improvements, we definitely won't have any tournaments. They were supposed to put one here back in July but because we did not have turf, they moved it. Councilman Broussard stated the City of Abbeville has received an economic impact study from the Louisiana Office of Tourism. They have told us that a tournament involving between 20 to 25 teams would have an economic impact of \$800,000 per tournament. These visitors will come to our hotels, our restaurants, our gas stations and other businesses in Abbeville will feel that economic impact. We have that data that can support this. Councilman Touchet that the kids in Abbeville who cannot afford to play travel ball, would

have an opportunity to play on these fields. These will be first class fields. It is not only economic but it is good that we incorporate and get more kids involved because they will be attracted to these fields. We will seek out all age groups that we need to seek out. Ms. Mitchell stated that the kids 13 years of age and up are the problem kids. Councilman Touchet stated that we need to seek out all ages. Councilman Plaisance stated that when we started talking about this, we discussed contracts in advance connected with the borrowing of the money. He thinks that is Ms. Mitchell's question. He asked Tommy where we are with that? Tommy stated that we have two letters of commitment. This is how USSSA works. You sign a contract and they will give you 9- and 10-year-old events. They don't go by USSA they go by registrations. If you commit to USSSA and they don't have enough players then you are stuck with them. You won't have anybody else. If you sign a contract then you are committed to one organization. Without a contract, then anybody can come anytime. You don't want to commit to only one or two organizations. If they don't have enough teams then you are stuck with the contract. We are good where we are. Councilwoman White wanted to clarify that we have a bond issue expiring in March 2022 so the net change in the budget would be nil. So, to answer Ms. Mitchell's question regarding budgeting and paying for the debt, we would continue to budget the debt service to cover this new debt issue. Mayor Piazza added that this will actually be an annual savings of \$100,000 per year. Tommy added that he believes we will also get teams from surrounding municipalities because the tournaments won't be rained out. They played 99% of their games at Comeaux Park because they couldn't use the fields in Erath because of rain. We have 165 kids registered for flag football now.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to put the ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of \$3,000,000 Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 on the next City Council meeting agenda scheduled for October 5, 2021 for possible adoption. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Sellers stated bids were received for the LaFitte Park walking trail. We had three bidders. The low bidder was Patriot Construction Company. The bid was for two different surfaces, concrete and asphalt. Their bid for the concrete surface was \$148,425.31. Their bid for the asphalt surface was \$181,745.18. The next two bidders were in excess of \$200,000.00. The low bid is over the budget. He spoke to the agency that has given the City the grant money and they told us that once we receive the bid they will see if we are short and they might be able to get more money to cover that. He recommends that we take the bids under advisement to see if we can get additional funds to cover the shortfall. We are short \$48,000.00. Councilman Plaisance asked if the money is budgeted. Mayor Piazza stated that it is but we are only required to put up a 25% match so there is a possibility that we can get more money so we should try that first. If we don't get it, it is still in the budget, and we can award it as is.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to take the bids for the LaFitte Park walking trail under advisement in order to see if more grant money is available to assist with paying the project. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the payment of the invoice to Ray Chevrolet in the amount of \$7,698.03 for the repair of a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the revised accounting of the 2020 tax roll. The original roll that was approved at the last meeting had a computational error that was discovered after approval. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the quote from Griner Drilling in the amount of \$5,835.00 for the repair of the Barn Lift Station. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sarah Alrough stated she sent out bids in May for the tree removal, demolition and removal of the structure located at 906 Greene Street. At that time, we only received one bid in the amount of \$49,720.00. It came before the Council and it was decided to table it because it was too much. She and the Mayor spoke to try to do the project separately. She requested bids just for the tree removal. Aross Brown was awarded the contract for that in the amount of \$1,975.00. She then requested a bid for the demolition of the building and she received no bids. At that point, she, Kim Trahan (Vermilion Shell), and the Mayor met. Mr. Trahan went and looked at the property and submitted a bid in the amount of \$26,950.00. The reason why the bid was so large the first time was because of asbestos. Mr. Trahan had someone look at it again and it was deemed that it was not as bad as first thought. That is why the new bid is a lot cheaper. Councilman Touchet asked where will the money come from to pay this? How will we get our money back? Mrs. Alrough stated that we will lien the property. Councilwoman White stated that the property is only worth \$3,000 and \$9,000 for the residential improvements. So, we will never get our money back but we have to clean up blighted property. Councilman Touchet asked why this wasn't included in the Clearance grant program. Councilwoman Broussard stated because this happened after all the properties had been chosen. Mayor Piazza stated that the problem is the asbestos. This was an old place of business. One of the problems that we are running into and the reason we were so appreciative of getting the \$250,000 grant from CDBG to demolish 20+ structures, is because the laws have changed as far as asbestos goes. We didn't used to worry about the asbestos. We used to go and bid it out and then they would tear it down. Now we have to do asbestos remediation. Councilman Broussard added that the house on Maude only was able to be demolished because of the grant program. That has been waiting for more than 10 years. Mrs. Alrough stated that if the City does the demolition, we have to have it tested and abated. If the homeowner does it themselves it is not required. Councilman Touchet stated he understands the asbestos abatement but that is only \$9,000 of the bid. The demolition is the other \$17,000. The property is only worth \$3,000. He cannot vote for something like this. Mrs. Alrough stated because we know it is asbestos the contractor has to have the proper equipment. Plus, this cannot go to the dump. Mayor Piazza stated that the other option that could be a possibility, to get this structure torn down, is to do the asbestos abatement then get with the Police Jury to see if we can get them to come in with an excavator and do a joint venture with them. We have to do the asbestos. The Police Jury is in the same shape as us. Their demolition costs have gone up quite a bit because they cannot accept the asbestos debris at the solid waste plant. Councilman Touchet asked if we can get Vermilion Shell to do the asbestos abatement? Mrs. Alrough stated he does not do that. He contracts that out. Councilman Touchet stated we could get the asbestos abated then look at other things for demolition. Councilwoman White asked if we could deal directly with the asbestos remediation contractor to avoid any markups? That would save us money. Then we could rebid it for demolition only. Mayor Piazza stated that we could discuss is with the Police Jury first. Councilwoman White stated that it definitely needs to be torn down.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to table any action to accept the quote from Vermilion Shell & Limestone Co., Inc. for the demolition and removal of the structure located at 906 Greene Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman White began a discussion and review of the City ordinances pertaining to election sign placement. Councilwoman White stated that we are going into an election season and she thought it would be a good practice to review those ordinances and to have it on public record to make sure that everyone is aware of what our ordinances are. She attached a copy of the

summary of ordinances for election time. You cannot put the signs on public property and they need to be outside of the right-of-way. If you put the sign on private property, you need to have authorization by the property owner. She has received a few complaints about the signs being on private property without the owner's permission. We need to make sure that candidates are getting permission from the owner before the sign is placed. Once the election is over, you have 14 days to remove any signs. All candidates should be aware of that. It becomes a lot of work for our workers to try and cut around signs on City rights-of-way.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to engage the services of Simpson Sports Engineering, in the amount of \$30,000.00, for engineering services for the turf and lighting project at A. A. Comeaux Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of the invoice to Delta Fire & Safety in the amount of \$9,553.80 for the repair of the aerial firetruck. The invoice is to be paid from the Maintenance and Operation Fire Department Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Sellers discussed the increase in the scope of work for the 2021 LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation project. The water plant produces about 2 million gallons of water every day. In dry weather the sewer plant treats about 2 million gallons of water a day. When you look at the gravity system and open manholes, in dry weather, it is running about one-quarter full. On wet weather days, the water plant is only producing 2 million gallons but the sewer plant is treating 6 to 7 million gallons a day. If you open the manhole on those days, the water is close to the top of the cover. We have miles of gravity system. When we tap into a system, we have to make sure there is enough capacity in there to be able to take the flow that we are adding to the system. The gravity system goes to one of the pump stations then it is pumped into the next pump station further down the line. We want to bring all that water as close to the sewer plant as possible because that is where we have the bigger line. That is the 18-inch water line on Franks Alley. Last year we made an application for LCDBG funding. When we made the application, we requested \$1,000,00, which is the maximum amount we can request. On this application we wanted to be able to smoke test an area to determine infiltration into the system. The next thing was to create another route to bring sewerage from the west part of the City to the east part of the City. We looked at the pump stations that we had and we have the pump station at Loraine Street. It does not cross the river. We wanted to take that pump station and use it to force the water to the east side of the City. We received the grant for \$1,000,000. We also received some additional funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. We went back and looked at the plans and looked at other better options to move the water. We decided to increase the capacity of the St. Paul lift station by 50%. We then looked at the force main route and made some changes there. The proposed changes are a long-term solution on the west side without overloading the east side. We would also add a generator for the sewer plant that would be large enough so it would not have to share it with the storm water pump. It could operate both at the same time. We could put the existing generator at one of the lift stations. The additional work will cost \$500,000. The entire project would cost \$1,500,000. \$1,000,000 is coming from LCDBG and we would utilize \$500,000 of the ARPA funds for the balance. Mr. Funderburk stated we have not yet received the final ruling from the treasury department on how we can spend the ARPA funds. We also have to have a public meeting for the public to come in and tell us their needs.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to authorize the increase scope of work for the 2021 LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation project and the associated amendment to the project budget subject to the final ruling from the Treasury

Department and the City complying with all requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to authorize the Mayor to execute the engineering agreement with Sellers and Associates, Inc. pertaining to the increase scope of work for the 2021 LCDBG Sewer System Rehabilitation project subject to the final ruling from the Treasury Department and the City complying with all requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment of partial payment number 1 to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$103,579.52, for the work completed to date on the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street street milling and overlay project. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of estimate for partial payment #1 in the amount of \$279,888.34 payable to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC for the Rehabilitation of the T-Hangar Taxilane and Apron Areas project. The motion carried unanimously.

Kim Touchet, Engineer

- *Discussed rotor #3 and #5 replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The request for proposals are due on October 18, 2021 and we hope to have it on the agenda for the October 19, 2021 City Council meeting.*
- *We had no deficiencies with the MS4 permit audit. We are still awaiting the permit. COVID has slowed them down.*
- *We are in the 45-day lien period for the Flood Reduction drainage project. The rail at 2nd Street is delayed due to COVID. The contractor's entire office had COVID so they had to shut down for two weeks. We are waiting to hear from them on the scheduling for the guard rail. The rail will be on south side.*

Tommy Picard, Park and Recreation Director, QSA

- *They will begin tearing down Badon Field when appropriate.*
- *Will start flag football on October 9th. We have 165 kids.*
- *We went look at the trees at the Square and will get somebody to lift the branches.*
- *We will move a trash bin by the splashpad. There are a lot of kids using it and they are enjoying it.*
- *Allie Horton stated she will get the flyer to Tommy soon.*

Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager

- *She attended a Destination Downtown conference in Starkville, Mississippi. Mississippi had been known for being last in everything. Well, that is not the case anymore. She was very impressed with the things going on there.*
- *Louisiana Main Street has received a federal grant for a second time. It is \$749,000. That is across the State. Historic property can apply and if they receive an award, it would be at least \$50,000. They have to put up \$5,000. The applications are not yet available.*
- *We are repairing the overhang on the Blacksmith Shop.*
- *The Cemetery tour is scheduled for November 12, 2021 at the St. Mary Magdalen Church Cemetery.*
- *The Christmas Stroll is scheduled for December 2, 2021.*

- *There will be a City-wide cleanup on Saturday. The Math Depot, the Christian Service Center, Keep Abbeville Beautiful and Reach have partnered for that. You can meet at the Math Depot at 8:00 AM if you are interested in doing that.*
- *Thanked the Mayor and Council for getting Harmony Park where it is today. We have had so much rain lately.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *There is a City cleanup beginning at 8:00 AM this Saturday. It begins at Math Depot and ends at the Christian Service Center. Soulful eats will be feeding everyone after.*
- *Thanked the Council for their support at the last meeting where they raised the necessity to increase fines and compliance for people who are not cleaning up our City. He asked why can we not order a contractor to clean and remove house debris that is moved to the City street that does not comply with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury of segregating debris in order to be picked up. Can we send contractors to do this like we do for tall grass and other things? He asked Ike to research this.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *The cleanup day begins at 8:00 AM at the Math Depot. They will do the pledge and safety orientation. We will assign teams to different areas. We have reached out to the schools, Abbeville High and Vermilion Catholic, about their participation for service hours. She will put together a flyer about the City ordinance so we can assist people in how to better maintain their property. The Mayor is allowing the Street crew to assist us on that day and she has made some arrangement with solid waste to assist in removing the debris after the cleanup. It will end at Christian Service Center between 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM. Soulful Eats will serve food. We encourage everyone to come out and assist us.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on October 5, 2021 at 5:30 P.M., at the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center, located at 300 A. A. Comeaux Memorial Drive, Abbeville, Louisiana, with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

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

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
T. J. Savoy, Airport Engineer
Jason Akers, Bond Attorney
Felicia Williams, Park and Recreation Board member
Bridget Levy, Park and Recreation Board member
Joseph Pillette, member of the NAACP
Marja Broussard, NAACP Lafayette Chapter
Roderick Darby, Soulful Eats
Nikia LeBlanc, Math Depot
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion & Chamber of Commerce
Joseph Hebert
Marvette Johnson
Linda Williams

Mayor Piazza asked Reverend Johnson to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Joseph Hebert to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman White recognized and thanked Nikia LeBlanc with the Math Depot and Roderick "Nu" Darby with Soulful Eats for hosting a very successful City-wide cleanup day. Councilwoman White stated that 539 tires were picked up on that day. She is very thankful for Nikia and Roderick. We were able to get cooperation from the Police Jury and we are able to bring tires in. We had over 100 volunteers. She thanked Charlene Beckett and Keep Abbeville Beautiful for their part in this as well as Vermilion Catholic and Abbeville High School who both came out early Saturday and picked up litter. It was a very beautiful event for our community. She presented Ms. LeBlanc and Mr. Darby a certificate of appreciation and a City coffee cup to show the City's appreciation. Mayor Piazza also thanked the Abbeville Garden Club and Charlene Beckett too.

-01 introduced Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2021 emergency special City Council meeting, the September 2,

2021 special City Council meeting, the September 7, 2021 Committee meeting and the September 7, 2021 regular City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to ratify bills paid in the month of September 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to move new business agenda item 3, 4 and 5 up to new business agenda item 1, 2 and 3 because Ms. T. J. Savoy has another meeting she needs to attend. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments from the public on any agenda item prior to action. He wanted to make sure the public understood what the comment period is used for. It is for comments from the public, not items for discussion and not questions. You will be able to ask questions and make comments during the discussion part of the agenda for an agenda item. This period here is just to make a comment, not ask a question. Ms. Marvette Johnson had questions but not comments at this time and stated she would ask those later during the public hearing. There were no other comments.

Ms. T. J. Savoy presented the 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan for the Airport. She discussed the various projects that are planned utilizing grant funds from FAA and DOTD aviation as well as City matches with these grant funds. Some of the projects discussed include the AWOS replacement, LED runway lighting, rehab pavement projects, tree obstruction projects and a concrete loading area. The total estimated cost is \$3,612,200.00 with the City only having to contribute a match of \$170,900.00.

Touchet/Plaisance
Resolution R21-35

A resolution for the Capital Improvement Plan at the Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve plan change order #2 for the Rehabilitation of the Runway and Partial Taxiway project which reflects an increase of \$44,827.72 to provide new solar powered LED markers and increases the contract time by 72 days. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to enter into a public hearing to receive public comments pertaining to an ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and the issuance of a three-million-dollar revenue bond, series 2021. The bond is to be used for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving recreational facilities and other works of public improvement. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Joseph Pillette stated that after speaking to the people in his community, we have seen that we are not informed and there is not much transparency concerning the three-million-dollar revenue bond and the allocation of the bond funds. We feel that we will be paying this bond back because the revenue to pay it back will be derived from tax money. Mayor Piazza stated it will be paid back from sales tax money. Mr. Pillette stated that he feels that, as in many cases, we are left in the dark about that. The whole application for the bond and the entities that helped to

have the bond approved, they had no information concerning them. A lot of people of his community have expressed dissatisfaction and being at a loss to know about this bond and how the funds will be allocated. He has been a citizen of Abbeville all of his life and he knows a lot of the history. We have, he believes, 11 parks in the City of Abbeville. There are 4 parks that he looks at extensively in Abbeville. Those are McKinley Scott Park, Herbert Williams Park, Parker Hebert Park and Mouton Park. He has talked to the people in the community and he asked them if they are aware of the three-million-dollar revenue bond. None of them expressed an idea of the bond and what it was for, let alone the allocations for the funds. We don't see that the funds distributed from this bond issue will benefit the parks in their neighborhood which is the underserved community and the community of color. The funds will not benefit their community whatsoever. When the bond was applied for it said for parks and recreation. Comeaux Park is a splendid facility. He understands that all of the funds of the revenue bond would be allocated to the improvement of this park. There will be no benefit to the parks of the underserved community. We desire to have transparency concerning how this bond was approved and the bond counsel that helped prepare the application. We want to know how this will benefit our community. We understand that the bond will be paid back over a period of ten years. The payment of this bond will come from tax revenue. He is a tax payer and he would like to know how this revenue bond will benefit his community. There are a lot of people who would like to know about it and who were not aware that such a bond was approved and the allocations of it have already been laid out. He would like to have exposure of this bond and the allocation of the bond fund and he would like the people in the community to understand how this is approved and what will be the benefit of it. Over the period of his life, he has seen, in his opinion, that certain parks are upgraded and certain parks are degraded. He would like to see fairness and proper government representation of this City governing body towards the community that we live in. He has expressed his concerns and he thanked the governing body for giving him time to express his concerns. Ms. Linda Williams stated she has lived in Abbeville all of her life except when she served in the United States Army. She remembers when the City said that they will have to tear down the recreation centers at McKinley Scott and Comeaux Park because they didn't have money. Then a few women got together and said once they tear down McKinley Scott, they will find the money for A. A. Comeaux. The black community did not stand up. But it happened just like they said it would happen. When they said, instead of putting Live Oak Manor all over town, we are going to put it in one central location; Herod. We said, once they do that, Herod would be closed. Just like we said it, it happened. We are fed up with what is going on in the City of Abbeville, just like Mr. Pillette said. She should be retired at 70 years old but she works every day. We are tax payers just like everybody else. Our community parks are a disgrace to them. It might not be a disgrace to you but it is a disgrace to them. When it comes to the three million dollars, she like Mr. Pillette and the other concerned citizens see it is not allocated to the parks. She would like to hear the answer. Councilwoman Broussard stated that everybody here knows how she feels. The parks in her district have been neglected from day one. You are absolutely correct about the neglect of certain parks. Ms. Marvette Johnson stated that Mr. Pillette incorporated her question. When we look at what is being presented and when we look at where the money will be allocated, we feel like the money is only being allocated at one specific park. In the paperwork it says the bond will be used for the purposes of constructing and improving recreational facilities and other works of public improvements. If the money is to be allocated to recreational facilities, then why is it only being allocated to one place. This one place will serve only, by the turfing of the fields, the kids who play travel ball. Her concern is that a lot of kids can't afford the travel ball. She is from Abbeville and all of her family lives in Abbeville. Three million dollars is a lot of money to have so that should be able to be spread to other recreational facilities. She does not know what it costs to turf a baseball field but when you are looking at that money why couldn't things be allocated that would help the community as a whole. When we say we want to improve our community and that we love Abbeville, don't we love Abbeville from one side to the other? Don't we love

Abbeville as a whole? Don't we love every part of Abbeville? In order to love every part of Abbeville, we want every part of Abbeville to be beautiful. So, with \$3,000,000 a little love could go in a lot of places. There is nothing wrong with fixing some things here but there should be enough money to fix some things in other places so that we have what we need to be able to do things that are positive with our kids. A lot of times, in order to get things done, it takes money. We can't understand how the kids who can't afford \$100 or a parent can't afford \$100 or \$200 or whatever it costs to do travel ball, why aren't some of those funds going in other places where all the kids will benefit. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she is grateful to the Mayor and Council that we have had some renovations at McKinley Scott Park. Those renovations are still going on. She knows that is not a gym. It had been 1990 since the pavilion was put there. That is a start to improve the park that she grew up going to and playing in. She understands what the concerns of the constituents are. We allocated \$175,000 for that park this year. Mr. Tommy Picard stated he has been here longer than anybody else. Who built Luquette Field? The City or the parents? The parents built that. Who built Delcambre Field? The City or the parents? Parents. Who built Theriot Field? The State because they gave us the money. Who built Badon softball field? Who built Sellers Field? His group in 1995 raised \$550,000. We did it ourselves. We didn't get a penny from the City. The only thing the City did was run some electrical lines from the third base dugout to the pole. Who renovated the building here where we are holding this meeting? A. A. Comeaux Youth borrowed \$65,000, under the name of Tommy Picard, to renovate this building. He asked Councilwoman Broussard how much they were spending in her park. She stated \$175,000. Mr. Picard asked the Mayor if the City ever gave them \$175,000? Mr. Picard asked who built Williams Park? He stated the City built Williams Park. His point is that they come here and they want something, which is fine, we all want it. But you have to take care of it. We pay somebody to take care of these fields. The City never took care of the fields. In his 47 years, we have spent \$2,000,000 here. We never asked for anything. We brought in 8 World Series. No telling how much money that brought into Abbeville. How many tournaments have they had at Williams Park? None. So, you will complain about putting money here. This is a cash cow. We have business people here and they will make money. Do you know where their money will go? To your gym. They will build your gym with that money. He asked Councilman Broussard how much the state estimated one tournament will bring. Councilman Broussard stated \$830,000 economic impact per tournament. Nobody is complaining about the \$175,000 being spent at McKinley Scott Park. The City has not spent one penny in this park. The work was always done by parents. Now, they are just paying us back for the money we put in and we will help you get tournaments here. We will help the restaurants and other businesses. Kelly Rogers had the gas station at the corner. He sold 2,500 gallons more gas in one day because of a tournament. This will generate funds and will help your kids. This is not just for travel ball. We have flag football. We are trying to do our job but we need your support. We can't have people criticizing us and going on Facebook and contacting the guy with USSSA requesting his personal emails and texts. This guy will bring tournaments here. If he gets mad, then he will not come. They will not be getting his personal phone, texts and emails. Do what you want. If you don't pass this tonight, then this place will be a ghost town. Y'all get together and have a fundraiser to pay for these kids to play. It costs money. For one night of Biddy Basketball, it cost \$285.00. He is 70 years old and this is getting old. Coming in here and having to hear the same thing, bringing his family through this and putting all this on Facebook that he is stealing. He doesn't have to steal. He had a job with Chevron and he made money there. His money went so these kids could play. He sponsored five kids to play. How many did y'all sponsor? Councilwoman Broussard stated that she understands the economic impact. She remembers every World Series that was held here, her Mother would go every night. Every time there was a tournament here, she was at the park. But, at the same time, she understands everyone's concerns. There are more parks than just McKinley. Ms. Marvette Johnson stated that they don't know what money is out there and what money is being allocated. When you see the amount of money, it brings about concern. We are not saying

that there is something wrong with turfing the baseball fields and we are not saying that we don't want economic development. We are saying that with the amount of money there is more than just one facility. There are more parks than just McKinley and this park. We have a lot of parks. We should always be able to spread the love. Ms. Linda Williams stated she did not know about the \$175,000 allocated to McKinley Scott Park. What about the other parks in Abbeville? What is happening with them? What about the bathrooms at Parker Hebert Park? This is stinky. Who does he mean by "they"? We are all in this together. We will not stop. We have awakened. Councilwoman White stated that it is important to recognize that there are inequalities in some areas of the community. That is just a fact. She and Councilwoman Broussard have spoke extensively about the conditions of the parks. This was not intentional. All of our parks need work. She has Parker Hebert Park in her district and Councilwoman Broussard has 7 in hers. We have way too many parks. We have said that many times. Since day one, she said that she wanted to do a master plan for all the parks. She has already pledged to do this. There was a discussion between she and Councilwoman Broussard to have money spread every other year in the different parks. She knew how important the pavilion project at McKinley Scott Park was to Councilwoman Broussard so she agreed not to ask for money for Parker Hebert Park so she could get the money for that project. Councilwoman Broussard agreed to support her in her request for next year. Sometimes you have to make concessions and work together to get things done. Will it be guaranteed that we will have that in 2022? No but discussions will go a long way in advocating for that. As for the bathrooms at Parker Hebert Park, there is another pot of money where we may be able to do something with that. She thinks everybody needs more transparency in government and we owe all citizens a plan of how the money will be spent. Look at this Airport Improvement Plan that was discussed tonight. It shows a 6-year plan of how the money will be spent and how it is being funded by federal dollars. That is something we are working on. It takes time to develop a plan. We are in the early stages of the plan and we need community support. She thinks the renovation of A. A. Comeaux Park is important because our schools use it and our community uses it. We can't build a park in everyone's back yard. Maybe we can help with security to get kids to this park, improve parks near them and then close down parks that are not being used. We all have to work together. Tearing each other down is getting us nowhere. We need community input. This is a way to stabilize our park and at the same time bring in revenue. It will give us more taxpayer dollars to put towards projects. If you want to see this on paper, then we owe you that. She is in favor of renovating this park and it is a good solid plan to get people in our restaurants and to get taxpayer dollars coming in to make improvements to our community. This will not be at the absence of improvements to other parks. That will come with the money that this renovation generates in the form of revenues. Mayor Mark Piazza stated that he is the Mayor of our community. He says it that way because some people said my community. This is our community. He was originally reluctant to support his because he knows that we have some issues at some of the other parks. This was not brought to the Mayor and Council by Councilman Touchet and Councilman Broussard as a park improvement plan. This was brought to the Mayor and Council as an economic development plan. This is to help stimulate the businesses of Abbeville by helping to bring in tournaments to the City that will eat at our restaurants, buy at our gas stations and patronize our businesses. That is why we are doing this project. This is not a project to improve the parks. It has been said that nobody knows what we are using the money on. It was in the newspaper. We have spent a lot of money on a lot of parks. We don't have 11, we have 13. He built that skateboard park. He built that splashpad. We have a lot of underprivileged children playing out there. This is not a white park or a black park or an Asian park. This is a park for everybody. You can go out there and see it for yourself. You don't think we have underprivileged children playing in this park? Walk next door. This was never meant to be a park improvement plan. This is about helping to boost the economy in Abbeville to create jobs and to offer a facility for all of our kids to participate in. The City of Crowley just spend \$6,000,000 doing this exact same thing. Some of you know Step Martin, a City Councilman in

Crowley, call him. They had full support in Crowley for that project where they spent \$6,000,000 at one park on baseball fields to bring in tournaments. We are spending half of that for the very same reason. Not one person in this room, that he can think of, expect one time, has ever come to him and said, "Mayor, we need this in our park". No one has asked for a new slide, a new swing set or a new merry-go-round. One time a lady came and asked for a volleyball court. We built it right away and it never got used. One Councilman, right here (pointing to Councilman Plaisance), comes into his office regularly for a park that he has been dreaming about for ten years to do dog parks and fishing ponds and things for our kids to do at our brand-new park. We are getting ready to spend \$150,000 on a walking trail for that park that is on Lafayette Street. That is not a white neighborhood. In that park, in that neighborhood, we have fishing and we are about to begin the walking trail. We have a dog park, benches, tables and chairs. Where did the money come from? He (Councilman Plaisance) went out and raised the money. He understands that there are concerns in our community but he is telling you, not one of you have come to him to say they needed something in the park. McKinley Scott Park has more playground equipment than any park in Abbeville. Go ride around and look for yourself. Every time we have received a grant for parks, he has intentionally made sure it got divided between Councilwoman Broussard and Councilwoman White. He didn't give any money to Councilman Broussard or Councilman Touchet. He made sure Councilwoman Broussard and Councilwoman White got the money to spend in their parks. Councilwoman Broussard stated she spent her grant money on playground equipment for McKinley Scott Park and for Mona Mouton Park. Councilman Touchet stated that the Mona Mouton Park used to be in his district and this Council built that park. All the equipment in there is because of this Council. Councilwoman White stated they put up basketball goals and repaired some equipment in Parker Hebert Park. Councilman Plaisance stated that Mr. Picard set up a meeting for at LeBlanc Elementary so they could go look at a gym. He thinks of this renovation, in his mind, as a Phase I because we are looking forward to, at some point, after this, a gymnasium that kids could use to play basketball. In 2006, when he first ran for office, his wish was a civic center. That too we hope to look forward to in the future following what he calls, Phase I. We need to dream a little bit too. This is for all the kids, not just for travel ball. It is for all the kids to have an opportunity to play on these nice fields. He has traveled with his grandson and it is nice to play on these fields that are upgraded. It draws people to that community and fills up motels, restaurants and gas stations. Go visit Zachary if you can. Zachary is a perfect example of what we are looking at. He is concerned about this because it is a lot of money but he is also encouraged with future development. Dream a little and let's look forward to not only upgrading our parks but also a future basketball gym and a future civic center. He has someone working right now helping him at LaFitte Park to get money for a concert stage. There is so much potential out there. That Park is in Councilwoman Broussard's district. It is a beautiful park. Mr. Joseph Pillette stated that Parker Hebert Park has port-o-lets. That is not a bathroom facility. Who is responsible for upgrading Parker Hebert Park? He sees it being degraded. The other parks that he looked at, there is no access for the kids to get in there and enjoy the park. It stays locked. Mayor Piazza asked which park is that? Councilwoman Broussard stated that McKinley Scott Park is opened every day. She checks that daily. Mayor Piazza stated that every park is open every day. Mr. Pillette stated that he never sees anybody in the park and that is why he thought they were locked. He has seen that we had a building dedicated to black recreation. That was McKinley Scott Park. We had a swimming pool that was dedicated to black recreation. We had a high school, James A. Herod, that was dedicated to black education. Now all this has been degraded. The McKinley Scott building was torn down. Now there is a pavilion there. What will happen in the winter when somebody wants to go there and play basketball? The other parks are depressing to look at. Some of these funds should be dedicated towards the upgrade instead of the degrade of these parks in the underserved community. We do have an instrument to begin to bring justice and change to our community. It is called the vote. We will turn out to vote and maybe we can affect change that will benefit our community then. Ms. Linda Williams stated

when McKinley Scott was torn down, she thinks Mayor Brady was there. Mayor Piazza asked what year was that? Ms. Williams stated it was after 1979. Ms. Williams stated she and some other people were on the board and our name is still on the plaque. What it was is that they were going to tear it down and then a group went to New Iberia. They had a pavilion but they had a building, not a full building like McKinley Scott was, but where they could play table tennis, shoot pool and do different things. That never came to pass. Never came to pass. Mayor Piazza stated that no one in this administration was around back then and this is the first he hears of this. Ms. Williams stated that this came about in the early 80's. Councilwoman Broussard stated according to the minutes, the bids were open on December 19, 1989 to construct the pavilion. The bid was awarded and the project began late January or early February 1990. The project was accepted as complete at the May 19, 1990 City Council meeting. The final payment for the project was approved at the July 3, 1990 City Council meeting. Ms. Williams asked if that was when Mayor Brady Broussard was Mayor. She asked if they talked about the pavilion or the other building they were supposed to build. Councilwoman Broussard stated this is about the pavilion. Ms. Williams stated that she knows what was said and it was never done. Chief Bill Spearman stated there was something that worked in the community in the past that might have gone by the wayside, it is where groups would adopt a park. That might be a solution. Mayor Piazza stated that would be a good idea. Ms. Marja Broussard stated she is not all that is familiar what is happening and Mr. Pillette has briefed her on it. What she sees here and what we see across the country is the African American community is being devalued and marginalized because there are no discussions with them to say what to do with the money. That is what we are hearing. She would suggest that this Council should have community meetings with the African American community. She does not know what the demographics are. She doesn't know in this plan if the demographics are 30% African American in this City and 70% Caucasian. 30% of the contract for the work needs to be done by African Americans. She doesn't know if all those things have been talked about or considered. She goes across the state urging different Councils to hear the voice of the people. You often say its our City but is it really? Would you be able to say I get my fair share? Would you be able to say it is our park? You go to other places and you don't know if the park is in the white or black community because the parks all look the same. Her advice is to engage. She said to Mayor Piazza that she cannot remember the last time she read a newspaper. It is important that you keep the community engaged. The NAACP is an organization with boots on the ground in the community. Mr. Pillette would agree with that and the members would agree with that. She is asking for the Council to keep them engaged. Keep the African American community engaged. If you are serious about this being our City then make it our City. If you are serious about this being our park, then prove it. Not only in what you say but show me that you are seriously considering the African American community. What actions show me that they thought about African American community? Ms. Allie Horton stated that she runs the City's Facebook, website, social media and she works very closely with the Abbeville Meridional and right after we had the original meeting, she posted the plan on our Facebook, shared it to Vermilion Parish updates and it is permanently on our home page of our City website. It is readily available for everyone to look at. Ms. Marja Broussard stated there is a huge digital divide across the country. You have to do more than social media. You have to do more. There is a huge digital divide where African Americans don't have WIFI or internet or digital access as much as their white counterparts. Those of you who are shaking your head, it doesn't change the facts. Facts are facts. She could tell you a whole lot of facts where African Americans are lacking from education to health care. If you say no, then how can you fix the problem if you don't admit it exists? There is a digital divide. We saw it with COVID. Many African American kids did not have access to WIFI to have virtual school. That is across the country. Abbeville is not foreign to this. You guys have an opportunity to make a difference. You have an opportunity to set the standards for the rest of the world to see that we do care about everybody in our community. We do want the voices of everyone in our community to be heard. We do want to work with everyone in our

community. Councilman Broussard thanked Ms. Marja and Mr. Joseph for being here. A City is at its best together with its citizens. We should not use social media to communicate when we can communicate and shake hands. It is important that we already have a Council and a Mayor that is committed to expand broadband because we realize that during the pandemic some kids were learning at their homes instead of at school. This is a City that does believe in inclusion and communication. This is economic development for all the businesses, all the citizens and all the children. We have neighbors, relatives and friends who work in our local restaurants and our motels. Additional jobs are something we should all celebrate. We are all doing this because we believe, like it has done in Zachary, Broussard, Youngsville and Crowley, it will bring additional jobs that were not there before. The oil and gas industry is not coming back to the degree that it was. We have to look at other ways to help all citizens with economic development and jobs for every person who wants to go to work. It may not be a perfect plan but it is a plan that has worked in north Louisiana, south Louisiana and near us. We are trying to do something that we think will work very well to help everybody. Ms. Marja Broussard stated there is an old saying that action speaks louder than words. Anyone can say anything they want but what will be the actions when put to the fire. The actions will determine what happens. Councilman Broussard stated that anyone who would like to have the City agenda emailed to them can have that. It is emailed to the media and the newspaper here is the official journal of the City. There is an email that goes out and you can get on that email list and see the agenda ahead of time. By law, we have to publish the agenda at least 24 hours before the meeting happens.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jason Akers stated the adoption of the ordinance is the final approval process of a \$3,000,000 revenue bond. The bond will be paid out of the excess revenue of the City after paying all other costs of operating and maintaining the City on an annual basis. Your lender is Gulf Coast Bank in Abbeville, a local lender, with a 1.75% fixed interest rate for the life of the bond. It is a ten-year term. The bank has also agreed that they will delay the first principal payment until 2023 so that you can finish paying off the 2012 revenue bond that will mature on March 1, 2022. That gives you some budgetary relief for the future fiscal year. By adopting this ordinance, you are committing yourself and other subsequent councils to budget money each year to pay that bond issue. Right now, you will have a bit of a bump in fiscal year 2022 but it will go down in fiscal year 2023. Each year when you create your budget you will need to budget this. You don't want to skip a debt service payment because that subjects you to a lot of state oversight that you don't want to be a part of. We are really happy with where you are from a borrowing standpoint. You have the State Bond Commission approval and the closing date is tentatively set for October 28, 2021. You would have funds available at that time. Councilwoman White asked because of the way the bond is worded, if we find some other money to be able to put toward the A. A. Comeaux Park project, would we be able to shift some of this bond revenue to other park projects? Mayor Piazza and Mr. Akers both agreed that it could be. Mr. Akers stated that any expenditure has to be for the acquisition or improvement of recreational facilities and other works of public improvement within the City. As long as it meets that purpose then it meets the criteria.

Touchet/B. Broussard
Ordinance 21-07

An ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of the Three Million dollars (\$3,000,000) revenue bond, series 2021, of the City of Abbeville, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The bond will be used for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving recreational facilities and other works of public improvement.

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

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

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Richard Primeaux stated the North Hollingsworth Bridge was inspected on 9/13/21 and they found there were some deficiencies enough to bring the rating down to a 6. That means there has to be a load limit on that bridge. One of the spans has a crack in it so they are asking the City to do a load rating on that bridge. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Primeaux if he is aware that there were some repairs made recently to the bridge. He said he was.

-07 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. authorize a bridge rating on the North Hollingsworth bridge. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the quotation in the amount of \$6,175.00 from Solomon Corporation for repairing/replacing transformers. The motion carried unanimously.

Sealed bids were received for a Glock 9 mm pistol that had been awarded to the Abbeville Police Department. Only one bid was received from Gulfway Sporting Goods, Inc. in the amount of \$155.00. They are a federally licensed dealer.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the Glock, model 19GEN4, 9mm caliber pistol that was seized and awarded to the Abbeville Police Department to the only bidder, Gulfway Sporting Goods, Inc. in the amount of \$155.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the purchase of a zero-turn lawn mower for Sub 1 Fire Station from Abbeville Snapper Sales & Service at a cost of \$9,889.90 to be paid from City Sales Tax Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Sellers stated he and the Mayor have been in contact with Michael Domingue regarding securing additional funds for the LaFitte Park walking trail project. We have not finalized those discussions so we hope to have that finalized by the next City Council meeting so we can award the contract at the next meeting.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- Had distributed a recent report given by Lloyd Campisi for UMR. Lately our Utility System account has run short of money where we have had to move some reserves over to pay some bills. For those of you who don't understand the budget, the Utility System budget and the City Sales Tax budget are two different budgets and the money cannot be used for the same things. The Utility System budget is what funds employee salaries, included Fire and Police, regular bills and health insurance. He noticed that our health insurance for the year was at 80% of budget. It is supposed to be at 65%. The printout from UMR shows that there are currently 438 participants in our health insurance plan. That includes employees, spouses and children. Claims from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20 claims were \$1,996,000. This year we are at \$2,186,000. This a difference of \$190,000. One of the pages shows a bar graph that is the COVID summary for this year. So far, we have had 95*

COVID cases with employees and their dependents. In 2020 we paid out \$66,000 for COVID related illnesses. In 2021 we have paid out so far \$196,000 in COVID related claims. 49% of that were actually City employees, not their dependents. The green bar graph on the next page shows the number of COVID vaccinations. The total number of COVID vaccinations is 90 out of 438. That number is alarming. When we have to make changes to our health insurance plan, that will cost every City employee more money, there is only one group of people that you can blame and the evidence is right here. Everybody will have to pay. Councilman Touchet asked the Mayor when an employee has to go home because of having to quarantine or having the virus is that coming out of their sick leave? Mayor Piazza said yes, it is coming out of their sick leave. The only time we every paid them was the 14 days that was allowed by the federal government in 2020. Of course, that doesn't affect the Fire and Police Department because they have 365 days sick leave. The Municipal employees are having to use sick leave. A few have run out of sick leave so we have asked them to apply their overtime to their compensatory time leave to make up for it. That way they would have some extra days. Councilman Broussard stated that some companies have a higher insurance premium for smokers versus non-smokers and higher premiums for those unvaccinated versus those who are vaccinated. The Council needs to start looking at solutions and not punishing the innocent people.

- Mayor Piazza stated the price of natural gas has doubled. We are so lucky that we have a fixed rate contract with our electrical supplier. All other cities have seen an increase in their electricity bills but not Abbeville. Abbeville has one of the cheapest electrical residential rates in south Louisiana. He does not know of any other City, except Ruston and Vidalia, that has a cheaper rate than us.

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- Has three on sick leave.
- We repaired the air conditioner at Sub 2. He will come back at the next meeting for the air conditioner at Sub 1. We will have to do a complete change out on that.
- Discussed calls for the last month. There were 112 calls.

Bill Spearman Police Chief

- Discussed calls for the last week. There were 349 calls.

Mayor Piazza left the meeting at this time because he had another meeting to attend so Councilman Touchet took over the meeting.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- The Christmas parade is scheduled for December 11, 2021.

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- We need to be careful when we say we haven't been transparent. Every single thing that has come before this Council has been brought to this table and has been put in front of everyone who could attend as far as these different things. We have been very transparent.
- It is very important that we understand that our community is dying. We have over 50 buildings that are vacant. The problem is that it will not get any better so we have to find a way to get people into this community. Mr. Pillette is here. He is a plumber. He comes to him several times looking for work. People will open up businesses and they will need plumbers and electricians and other things. He cares about this community enough to say that if we don't do something about these vacant buildings, this will be a dying community in the next 10 to 15 years.

- *Our kids will have opportunities. This is the right step in the right direction and we will see the benefits of this 10 to 15 years from now. This will really stimulate our economy.*

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to reconvene the regular meeting from the executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk explained the executive session was held to discuss pending litigation. He asked the Council to authorize him to inform the attorneys that we have no current interest in discussing the situation.

-13 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to authorize the City Attorney to inform the attorneys that the Council has no current interest in discussing the situation. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for personnel interviews on October 19, 2021 at 4:30 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
Ann Hardy, Municipal Employee Civil Service Director
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Chris Gautreaux
Kenneth Turner
Buddy Rumble
Hunter Lange
Clarence Daniels

Mayor Piazza stated we are here to interview two candidates for the vacant position of Public Works Director, two candidates for the position of Police Officer and one candidate for the position of Firefighter.

-01 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to enter into executive session to conduct interviews with all candidates. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to reconvene the meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated that during executive session they interviewed two candidates for Public Works Director: Chris Gautreaux and Kenneth Turner, two candidates for Police Officer: Buddy Rumble and Hunter Lange, and one candidate for Firefighter: Clarence Daniels.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on October 19, 2021 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, Brady Broussard, Jr., Terry Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet
Retired Lieutenant Jason Hebert
Ann Hardy, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director
Allie Horton, Digital Media Assistant
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Superintendent
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Tommy Picard, Park & Recreation Director, QSA
Megan Pearson Bertrand
Mike Hardy, former Chief of Police
Joey Boneski, former Police Lieutenant

Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Joey Boneski to lead those assembled in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Mike Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the probational appointment of Chris Gautreaux to the vacant position of Public Works Director pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments and to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the salary and start date with Mr. Gautreaux. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the appointment of Clarence Daniels to the position of Firefighter with the Abbeville Fire Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the appointments of Buddy Rumble and Hunter Lange to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated Ms. Megan Pearson Bertrand and her Dad and the Vermilion Art Council along with Charlene Becket and some other helpers, painted the splashpad that our kids have enjoyed at Comeaux Park. They volunteered to do it and they did a fantastic job. It took two years in the making to build this splashpad and we were in a dilemma about who was going to

paint the bottom because we had all kinds of different ideas about the design and how we were going to do it. Megan came up with a very creative design and went out there during the hot summer days along with her Dad and Charlene and painted the bottom of the splashpad. It really made the splashpad. It was a great addition and the kids have really enjoyed it. We can't thank Megan enough for her efforts. As a token of our appreciation, we will give Megan a key to our City and her Dad, Brad will receive a certificate of appreciation for his hard work and dedication.

Mayor Piazza recognized Lieutenant Jason Hebert who recently retired from the Abbeville Police Department. Mayor Piazza stated that Lieutenant Hebert is very special to the City and worked for the City for many years. He was a confidante to him when he needed questions answered and he didn't know who to turn to when we had issues out there. Our police department is overworked and underpaid. They work long hours through everything. They are out there with the bad guys with guns and their job is not any fun. It is a thankless job and everybody complains about the Police Department. He gets more phone calls because of police issues but everybody wants good police enforcement as long as it's not their kid. It is a tough job. When you are at the level where Jason was, a lieutenant in the detective department, he is dealing with the worst of the worst. They are out there with guns and doing all kinds of horrible things that we can't even imagine. Mayor Piazza says he is sitting at his house at the other end of town and he doesn't see any of this stuff. These guys are right in the middle of it. They do it day in and day out and they don't complain. Jason has never come into his office to complain. He always came in to help him out and give him information and to give encouraging words that they were out there doing their jobs and that they had it under control and we just needed to give them time to do their job. The job was going to get done. A lot of times their hands are tied because they have to deal with the courts, judges and district attorney's office. They go out there and arrest the guy and the next thing they know is the guy is loose and back on the streets doing the same thing. Mayor Piazza stated that he wished that there was something more he could give Jason than just a plaque and a hand shake. Mayor Piazza read the certificate aloud. The certificate is awarded to Lieutenant Jason Hebert in honor of his dedication and contribution over the past 26 years to the Abbeville Police Department and the City of Abbeville. Congratulations on your retirement.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to deviate from the agenda to add a construction project for street patching as new business item number 16. 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.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a special event permit for the Abbeville High School Band Boosters to hold a Glo Run on December 4, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a Class B liquor permit for Smoke N Go #402 located at 1202 Veterans Memorial Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a Class B liquor permit for Smoke N Go #405 located at 201 S. State Street. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Broussard/T. Broussard
Resolution R21-36**

A resolution requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2022-2023 Capital Outlay Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to submit the names of Wayne Touchet and Corey Lege to fill one vacancy on the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board created by the expiring term of Mr. Wayne LeBleu. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve change order #1 for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street Milling and overlay. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of partial payment #2 in the amount of \$9,661.50 payable to Glenn Lege Construction, LLC for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street milling and overlay project.

**Touchet/T. Broussard
Resolution R21-37**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the notice of acceptance for the North and South Hollingsworth Drive and Cypress Street milling and overlay project.

The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve payment of partial payment #5, in the amount of \$9,470.08, and partial payment #6(final) in the amount of \$25,452.98, both payable to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC for the Abbeville Flood Damage Reduction Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the payment of the invoice from Versalift Southwest in the amount of \$5,801.76 to repair the bucket truck in the electrical department. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn white to approve the quotation from Vulcan Industries in the amount of \$17,864.00 to repair stair screen #1 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve a quotation from F & R Air Conditioning in the amount of \$5,855.67 to replace the air conditioner at Fire Substation #1 on the Bypass. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the quote from Superior Service in the amount of \$159,750.00 to replace rotor #3 and #5 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated we are planning on using some of the American Rescue Plan Funds for this project. We will need a written scope of work in writing for our files and we also still need to receive the final ruling from the Treasury Department of how the money can be used. We are

reluctant to spend any of that money until then. Kim Touchet said we have 45 days to award the contract.

-16 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$14,617.50 payable to Southern Power Systems for repairs to Pete Noel Electrical Substation. The motion carried unanimously.

-17 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve payment of estimate for partial payment number 4 in the amount of \$61,288.30 payable to Elliott Construction, LLC for the Rehabilitation of the Runway and Partial Taxiway project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated he had received two bids for street patching. One was from T & T Asphalt in the amount of \$26,750.00 and one from Glenn Lege Construction in the amount of \$26,651.00. The bids are so close that he wanted to be able speak to the low bidder to see when they could begin the work. Glenn Lege Construction is very busy. The other contractor has stated they can move in within 14 days.

-18 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to authorize the Mayor to award the bid for the street patching project to the low bidder, Glenn Lege, unless they cannot get to us in a timely manner and if they cannot then to award the project to T & T Asphalt. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Sellers stated that we have been awarded the additional money from the State for the LaFitte Park walking trail. That brings our grant funds to \$110,000.00. The City funds budgeted are \$50,000.00 so we have a project budget of \$160,000.00. The low bidder is Patriot Construction for a concrete walking trail in the amount of \$148,000.00.

-19 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to award the contract for the LaFitte Walking Trail project to the low bidder Patriot Construction in the amount of \$148,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Forwarded documents to the Council regarding some ordinances as per the request of Councilman Broussard.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *Discussed call responded to in the last two weeks. 337 calls were responded to.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Have two out on sick leave.*
- *Discussed air conditioning problems at some stations.*
- *Discussed calls responded to in last two weeks.*

Comeaux Park Renovation Committee

- *Councilman Broussard stated the committee, the Mayor and the Park Director has started meeting with the entities in the City that will feel immediate effects from these tournaments. They will meet with hotels and restaurants and we will get everybody notified at to what these guests to our City will expect and what they are used to by traveling the State of Louisiana. We are working with Don Simpson, the sports engineer, preparing for selection of the companies who will do the work. We had a very good*

meeting this week with the VC baseball coach, Abbeville baseball coach and the Abbeville softball coach. We are starting to meet with the community and the people who will be directly affected by this industry. Councilman Touchet stated that we know Abbeville High plays at Theriot and Vermilion Catholic plays at Sellers and we know that softball plays at Luquette and Delcambre. We will prioritize those fields and will begin construction there first. We will have foul lines turfed too. There will be little to no maintenance as far as going from one game to another. The coaches that came were very excited. We will have discussions with them regarding field usage. We will update the Council later regarding usage fees. It will cost for usage. We have high schools using our fields. If they play at their own high school, the Vermilion Parish School Board, pays for that electricity. When they use Theriot Field, the citizens of Abbeville are paying for that. The same goes for Vermilion Catholic. They are in negotiations and we will need to talk about that and bring it to the table. We can't just give electricity. That is what we have been doing a lot of. We can't let the citizens pay for that. We will have to work on that. Councilwoman White asked them to not forget about Harvestime. They play there too. Councilman Broussard stated that the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, Steve Delino, is at the school and has committed to work with the City any way possible. Councilwoman White stated she had received a call about the people who live on Westview. Please consider them when we turn Badon field into parking. You have to take A. A. Comeaux to get to that street. Councilman Touchet stated we will be able to have economic development and our area teams will be able to play on those fields. If they have to go somewhere else, they have to pay to use those fields and when people start getting wind of us having these fields, the phone will be ringing. We will need to provide help to Tommy for this. Tommy stated he has a program that he would like the Mayor to look at for this. Every Council person could go online and see the schedule. He has a meeting scheduled with the company.

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- We received our goals back from the Louisiana Development Ready Community Program. There will be a town hall meeting on October 27th. It will be an all-day thing and the committee will move around to speak to different groups. The State team that does the town hall meeting will participate in it. The State puts it on and it is their personnel that runs it. She will be getting with Allie to put out some social media blasts and flyers at City Hall.
- December 11, 2021 there will be 2 separate celebrations in conjunction with each other in the City. The Boys and Girls Club will do a holiday light trail around A. A. Comeaux. They will decorate the circular drive and you can pull in to see Christmas lights. At the same time, Rotary will be hosting the Christmas parade. It will be an Abbeville Cajun Christmas celebration. They are looking at vendors and a band afterwards in the Square. She will bring more details as they become available.

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- In a recent conversation with Michael Domingue, with the State, in the Mayor's office over the phone, he said we had a great project at LaFitte Park and he will try to secure more grant funds for us in the future.
- We are waiting on the response for the grant application in the amount of \$400,000 for the fishing piers at LaFitte Park.
- We received a grant from AARP for the walking trail and exercise stations at LaFitte Park and the award was in their national magazine.
- The developments at Comeaux Park will be outstanding and will be great for our community and for economic development. He had a meeting with Tommy Picard and

Troy Hebert and they will meet again tomorrow on the possibility of bringing the whole soccer program from North Vermilion to LaFitte Park. That will generate a lot of interest there. There would be a tremendous amount of people that would come to that.

- *We have a 50-acre park and there is a lot of potential at that park. We have people who are looking at doing RC boat races in the pond and RC car races once the walking trail has been completed. Anybody who says we don't have a recreation program here is mistaken because there has been tremendous improvement with the recreation program. He complimented all those involved in the Comeaux Park renovation committee and hopefully they can get behind him as we continue to progress at LaFitte Park. Tommy stated that there are some fishing clubs at the schools and they might like to do a fishing rodeo at the pond. Councilman Touchet stated all we want is people coming in and spending money.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor

A motion was made by _____, and seconded by _____ that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE

A Resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute for and on behalf of the City of Abbeville, Louisiana, a Certificate of Substantial Completion (Notice of Acceptance), pertaining to Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the City of Abbeville’s FY 2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program Clearance Program.

WHEREAS, Stallion Oilfield Services, LTD, Contractor, has substantially completed Phase I of the City’s FY 2019 LCDBG Clearance Program, specifically the demolition of six (6) structures as per their contract with the City dated May 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Home Industry Disposal Company, Contractor, has substantially completed Phase II of the City’s FY 2019 LCDBG Clearance Program, specifically the demolition of two (2) structures as per their contract with the City dated July 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Vermilion Shell & Limestone, Inc., Contractor, has substantially completed Phase III of the City’s FY 2019 LCDBG Clearance Program specifically the asbestos abatement and the demolition of seven (7) structures as per their contract with the City dated July 13, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, that Mayor Mark Piazza be and he is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to execute a Certificate of Substantial Completion for and on behalf of the City of Abbeville accepting the work on the Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the City of Abbeville’s FY 2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Clearance Program as substantially complete.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was duly adopted.

CERTIFICATE

I, Kathleen S. Faulk, Secretary/Treasurer of the City of Abbeville, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the City Council, on November 2, 2021, at which meeting a quorum was present.

KATHLEEN S. FAULK
SECRETARY/TREASURER
CITY OF ABBEVILLE

RESOLUTION NO.: R-21-___

BE IT KNOWN AND REMEMBERED, that pursuant to a public notice, a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council of the City of Abbeville was held on the 2nd day of November, 2021, commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at City Hall, 101 North State Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, where the following resolution was moved, duly seconded, passed and adopted, to-wit:

WHERE AS, Louisiana Highway 14 is a major thorough fare which runs from the City of Abbeville's eastern boundary through the historic downtown area to the western boundary of said City; and

WHERE AS, the most recent overlay by the State of Louisiana through its Department of Transportation and Development (hereinafter DOTD) has created a trip hazard to pedestrians seeking to gain ingress or egress to Magdalen Square, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, or any of the professional offices, and commercial businesses located adjacent thereto; and

WHERE AS, it has been reported to the City of Abbeville one or more persons have fallen on the State's highway due to this condition; and

WHERE AS, the City of Abbeville does hereby place the State of Louisiana through the DOTD, on notice of the existence of this condition and its potential for injuring Abbeville's citizens and visitors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, as governing authority of the City of Abbeville, does hereby formally request that the DOTD inspect the condition of Louisiana Highway 14 from its intersection with Louisiana Highway 82 to the Vermilion River, and, thereafter do and perform all the repair and/or maintenance work thereon to resolve the conditions described herein, in a timely fashion in accordance with the best practices of a duly diligent property owner under the circumstances.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 2nd day of November, 2021.

Hon. Mark F. Piazza, Mayor

Mr. Francis J. Plaisance
Councilman at Large

Ms. Roslyn R. White
Councilwoman District A

Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem/Councilman District B

Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr.
Councilman District C

Ms. Terry Y. Broussard
Councilwoman District D

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kathleen S. Faulk, the duly qualified and appointed Clerk of the City of Abbeville, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution was duly approved at the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Abbeville held on November 2, 2021.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in Abbeville, Louisiana on this ____ day of November, 2021.

Kathleen S. Faulk, City Secretary/Treasurer

00300-LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM

TO: City of Abbeville, LA
101 North State Street
Abbeville, LA 70510
(Owner to provide name and address)

BID FOR: Comeaux Park, Abbeville, LA Baseball &
Softball Field Improvement & Lighting
Replacement Project
(Owner to provide name of project)

The undersigned bidder hereby declares and represents that she/he: a) has carefully examined and understands the Bidding Documents, b) has not received, relied on, or based his bid on any verbal instructions contrary to the Bidding Documents or any addenda, c) has personally inspected and is familiar with the project site, and hereby proposes to provide all labor, materials, tools, appliances and facilities as required to perform, in a workmanlike manner, all work and services for the construction and completion of the referenced project, all in strict accordance with the Bidding Documents prepared by: Simpson Sports Engineering, LLC and dated: September 2021.

Bidders must acknowledge all addenda. The Bidder acknowledges receipt of the following **ADDENDA**: (Enter the number the Designer has assigned to each of the addenda that the Bidder is acknowledging) 1, 2, 3, & 4.

TOTAL BASE BID: For all work required by the Bidding Documents (including any and all unit prices designated "Base Bid" * but not alternates) the sum of:
two million three hundred ninety eight thousand----- Dollars (\$ 2,398,000.00)

ALTERNATES: For any and all work required by the Bidding Documents for Alternates including any and all unit prices designated as alternates in the unit price description.

Alternate No. 1 *(Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct)* for the lump sum of:
N/A Dollars (\$ N/A)

Alternate No. 2 *(Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct)* for the lump sum of:
N/A Dollars (\$ N/A)

Alternate No. 3 *(Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct)* for the lump sum of:
N/A Dollars (\$ N/A)

NAME OF BIDDER: GeoSurfaces, Inc.

ADDRESS OF BIDDER: 7080 St. Gabriel Avenue - Ste. A, St. Gabriel, LA 70776

LOUISIANA CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NUMBER: 67614

NAME OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: Charles C. Dawson

TITLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: CEO

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER **: 

DATE: 10/25/21

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THIS LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM:

* The Unit Price Form shall be used if the contract includes unit prices. Otherwise it is not required and need not be included with the form. The number of unit prices that may be included is not limited and additional sheets may be included if needed.

** A CORPORATE RESOLUTION OR WRITTEN EVIDENCE of the authority of the person signing the bid for the public work as prescribed by LA R.S. 38:2212(B)(5).

BID SECURITY in the form of a bid bond, certified check or cashier's check as prescribed by LA RS 38:2218.A is attached to and made a part of this bid.

00300-LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM

TO: City of Abbeville, LA
101 North State Street
Abbeville, LA 70510
(Owner to provide name and address)

BID FOR: Comeaux Park, Abbeville, LA Baseball &
Softball Field Improvement & Lighting
Replacement Project
(Owner to provide name of project)

The undersigned bidder hereby declares and represents that she/he: a) has carefully examined and understands the Bidding Documents, b) has not received, relied on, or based his bid on any verbal instructions contrary to the Bidding Documents or any addenda, c) has personally inspected and is familiar with the project site, and hereby proposes to provide all labor, materials, tools, appliances and facilities as required to perform, in a workmanlike manner, all work and services for the construction and completion of the referenced project, all in strict accordance with the Bidding Documents prepared by: Simpson Sports Engineering, LLC and dated: September 2021.

Bidders must acknowledge all addenda. The Bidder acknowledges receipt of the following ADDENDA: (Enter the number the Designer has assigned to each of the addenda that the Bidder is acknowledging) 1, 2, 3 and 4.

TOTAL BASE BID: For all work required by the Bidding Documents (including any and all unit prices designated "Base Bid" * but not alternates) the sum of:
Two Million, Six Hundred Ninety-eight Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars (\$ 2,698,200.00)

ALTERNATES: For any and all work required by the Bidding Documents for Alternates including any and all unit prices designated as alternates in the unit price description.

Alternate No. 1 *(Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct)* for the lump sum of:
N/A _____ Dollars (\$ _____)

Alternate No. 2 *(Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct)* for the lump sum of:
N/A _____ Dollars (\$ _____)

Alternate No. 3 *(Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct)* for the lump sum of:
N/A _____ Dollars (\$ _____)

NAME OF BIDDER: C J's Electrical Service, Inc.

ADDRESS OF BIDDER: 253 Trinity Lane, Gray LA 70359

LOUISIANA CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NUMBER: 24161

NAME OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: Greg Marie

TITLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: Vice President

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER **: *Greg Marie*

DATE: 10/25/21

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THIS LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM:

* The Unit Price Form shall be used if the contract includes unit prices. Otherwise it is not required and need not be included with the form. The number of unit prices that may be included is not limited and additional sheets may be included if needed.

** A CORPORATE RESOLUTION OR WRITTEN EVIDENCE of the authority of the person signing the bid for the public work as prescribed by LA R.S. 38:2212(B)(5).

BID SECURITY in the form of a bid bond, certified check or cashier's check as prescribed by LA RS 38:2218.A is attached to and made a part of this bid.

Units to be Surplus @ City Council Meeting

November 2, 2021

Unit 489 2002 Honda Accord

VIN# 1HGTG32502A006804

Unit 555 2009 Ford Crown Victoria

VIN# 2FAHP71V19X119648

Unit 533 2009 Ford Crown Victoria

VIN# 2FAHP71V19X117866