

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 17, 2018 at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room located at 101 North State Street, with the Honorable Mark Piazza, Mayor, presiding.

Members Present: Council Members, Francis Plaisance, Mayor Pro-Tem, Brady Broussard, Jr., Wayne Landry, and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: Councilman Joe Hardy

Also Present: Lieutenant David Hardy
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Tom Carroll, Engineer
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber & the American Legion
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board
Mr. Gary Theall and Mrs. Sandra Theall
Megan Plowden

Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Wayne Landry to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to ratify bills paid in the month of March 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated he has been allowed to hire two additional Maintenance Worker 1 positions for the Street Maintenance Department for 90 days. Hopefully by Friday we will have 10 people in that department. His intention is to divide that into two groups of five and put each group in each district twice a week instead of once a week. We will have a group of five in District A and one in District C on Monday and Wednesday and a group of five in District B and one group in District D Tuesday and Thursday. Friday will be the day for the Councilman at Large. We also have additional help in the payroll department from a program that is similar to JTPA. It is for six months. We hope to received additional workers. We do not have to pay for this type of help. They are paid by the State. The Cleanest City Contest is April 24, 2018 so the crews will be cleaning for that. We can start this new crew assignment after that. Clay Menard stated we should have enough equipment to accommodate the new assignment.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to deviate from the agenda to add item #10 which is a resolution to request DOTD to paint the two bridges. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any public comments on any agenda item. Mr. Joseph Vallee asked if the City had a rule about swimming in the river. He had witnessed some people jumping from the bridge and swimming in the river. Mr. Funderburk stated the City has no jurisdiction over the river. They could contact DOTD if they are jumping off the bridge since it is their bridge. Mayor Piazza said he does not think there is a crime against swimming in the river.

Councilman Broussard stated we have an opportunity to recognize and show appreciation to someone who has brought the Vermilion Historical Society to much better recognition and participation. It is a wonderful place to go on the web for an outstanding collection of our history. That would not be possible if it were not for Mr. Gary Theall. The fact that he brought the Vermilion Historical Society into the electronic era means that people all over the world are watching this and buying things on their website. He is so happy to have Mrs. Sandra and Mr. Gary here and the Mayor has a presentation for Mr. Gary's contribution to our City and our Parish. Mayor Piazza presented a proclamation to Mr. Gary Theall for his work. He declared Tuesday, April 17, 2018 as Gary Theall Day in the City of Abbeville. Mr. Theall told Councilman Broussard that this honor is not necessary but because of the respect for him and his father, he agreed. He has spent thousands of hours working on this project but it was not work, it was fun. There was no sacrifice. The Mayor and Council will be part of Abbeville's history so please make Abbeville proud.

Ms. Megan Plowden stated she lost her 14-year old son, Dylan, on December 19, 2017. She has formed a non-profit organization since then. She has been working with a group of teens. She has a trip planned for May 26th to show them there are different things other than violence. They had a po-boy sale last month and raised \$600.00. We need to come together as a community to end the violence. She needs the community to support the kids. She would like the gym on MLK opened to help them after school. She has a carwash coming up this Saturday. The teens she has chosen to include are those at risk. They really want change. We want to help them turn around. In honor of her son, she wants everyone to stop the violence. These kids need love to show them somebody cares. She wants everyone to help her support the foundation. Councilman Landry told Ms. Plowden that he would take the kids for a week in either June or July to Pastor August's camp in Houston, Texas. It is a summer camp. We have been doing this for the last five years. We take the kids for a week in the woods. There are no electronics allowed. Mayor Piazza asked Ms. Plowden to drop off a flyer about the organization at his office tomorrow. Councilman Touchet asked if the gym at Herod Village is the responsibility of Pastor Stevens. Councilman Landry answered yes. Councilman Touchet asked Ms. Plowden if she had visited with Pastor Stevens. She said she has not but she is trying to reach out to him. Mayor Piazza stated he understands they plan on removing the basketball floor and just going down to the cement slab and trying to utilize that as a gym floor. He thinks the roof leaked and buckled the floor so they can't use it for basketball the way it is. Pastor Stevens is supposed to be fixing it. Councilman Landry stated he will follow up with other church leaders and they will invite Ms. Plowden to speak.

A representative with Thompson Brothers Construction was at the meeting tonight to inform the Council they will be pouring concrete for the Abbeville Community Health Center on Thursday, April 19, 2018. They will move in the equipment at 4:00 AM and the pour will begin at 5:00 AM. The neighbors have been notified. The pour should be complete by about 10:00 AM. Councilman Broussard asked that the company make sure the Police Department was aware of the pour. (The variance from the noise ordinance was already granted at the March 6, 2018 City Council meeting. The Council had requested the representative to come to another meeting to give the exact date of the pour).

***Touchet/Broussard
Ordinance 18-02***

An ordinance amending the mobile home park ordinance. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(Broussard, Landry, Touchet)

NAYS: 1(Plaisance)
ABSENT: 1(Hardy)
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted.

Mayor Piazza stated he would like to attend the American Public Power Association annual convention. It is in New Orleans this year. There are several seminars during the convention. If you are in the electrical power business, you should attend this convention. He has been asked to be on the host committee so he will be going. He encourages all Council Members who can attend do so. The convention is in June. He will get the exact dates of the convention. Unfortunately, when he did the budget back in October, he didn't know about this convention so he was not able to include it into our convention budget.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to amend the convention budget, if necessary, to allow the Mayor and any Council Members that want to attend the American Public Power Association Convention in New Orleans in June. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the Class B liquor permit for Super 1 Foods located at 2210 Veterans Memorial Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk stated Super 1 Foods is moving to the Winn Dixie location. Councilman Broussard stated the pharmacy will change over on April 24, 2018 and the grocery will change over on May 3, 2018.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve partial payment estimate #2 (final) in the amount of \$2,757.62 for the Airport Road/Rodeo Road drainage improvement project. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the quote from Capital Electric and Supply, LLC in the amount of \$9,449.00 to replace a pump at the Stonebridge lift station. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plaisance/Landry
Resolution R18-11**

A resolution petitioning the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to paint and maintain the bridges located over the Vermilion River on both Louisiana Highway 14 Business and Louisiana Highway 14 By-Pass within the corporate limits of Abbeville.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gerald Gaspard stated the American Legion will be 100 years old next year and they will rededicate the bridges. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Gaspard to write a letter to our congressional delegates asking them to have the repainting expedited for this celebration. They have to appropriate the funds to DOTD for this project.

Tom Carroll, Engineer

- *We will receive bids for the UV replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on May 15, 2018.*

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *We will accept bids for the new fire station on April 30, 2018 and will award the contract at the May 1, 2018 City Council meeting. We have three local contractors who are interested and we do have some outside interest as well. We will complete the fire station by the end of the year.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked him to provide an update of the old tourist building renovations. Mr. Primeaux stated they have examined the layout and they know they can fit 40 comfortably in there. We are putting together some estimates together for the work inside. The fire marshal needs to rate it once they receive the plans. We cannot move forward without the fire marshal rating. Councilman Touchet stated he would like it completed before July 1, 2018. Mayor Piazza stated Richard had sent a drawing and estimate today to him but he did not have a chance to look at it. At the next meeting he hopes to fund the project then we can get quotes and award the contract at the May 15, 2018 City Council meeting.*
- *Mayor Piazza asked about the asphalt failures on the John Hardy Bridge. Mr. Primeaux stated the contractor has been made aware of the problem. We have held retainage and will not pay this amount until this problem is resolved.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *There was an article in the newspaper regarding catch basin grills in the parish. The City is experiencing theft too of catch basin grills. Briggs Welding fabricates all of our grills and we have discussed several options to secure the grills. The new catch basins are easier to modify than the old ones. But we will manipulate all of them to have them locked down. It will be a lot more work for our City crews to remove the catch basin grill. The thieves are taking the grills to salvage yards so we have started putting COA on our grills. Unfortunately, the salvage yard weighs the vehicle, removes the metal with a large magnet and then reweighs the vehicle. No one may notice our marker on our grills. They are not inspecting the iron. This is causing additional expense and exposes the City to liability. Councilman Touchet asked Clay to instruct the crews to notify the Police Department when a grill has been stolen. The Police Department can then conduct an investigation.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked Clay to remind the Street guys to pick up all signs on the City rights-of-ways.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked Clay to remind the grass cutting contractors at LaFitte Drive-In Park to lock the gates when they leave.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *State Cleanest City Contest is Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at noon.*
- *Welcomed and recognized Council Members elect Roslyn White and Terry Broussard to the meeting tonight. Encouraged their input at the meetings.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *We approved the roof repair work at City Court last year but the contractor cannot complete the work until the south wall is repaired. He asked Clay to contact Wayne Touchet about this. We also need to find out who will pay for the repair since the Police Jury is part of that. Mayor Piazza stated at that time we received two quotes. One was for the roof repair only for about \$14,000.00 and the other was for the wall repair and the roof repair for about \$70,000.00. We will research this in the minutes.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The Spring 2018 Sounds on the Square was a big success. He thanked Charlene Beckett for organizing that. We had great attendance for the events.*
- *He recognized Mr. Jim Ruiz and Mr. Gerald Gaspard who were in the audience.*
- *The Farmers Market and the Roots Squared Festival is scheduled for Saturday in Magdalen Square.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Asked Mayor Piazza for an update on the Airport Terminal Building. Mayor Piazza stated there was a pre-bid conference today. Two contractors were there. Bids are scheduled for this month and hopefully we will award the contract at a meeting in May.*
- *Asked Kathy to let Donna and Sarah in the Tax and Permit Office know how much he appreciates the complaint log that they put together. It is very helpful to him.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor