

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 18, 2017 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, Wayne Landry, Joe Hardy and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Denise Mire, Park Director
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board Member
Wayne Touchet, Vermilion Parish Police Juror
Pastor B. K. Stevens

Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Wayne Landry to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Police Juror Wayne Touchet to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to deviate from the agenda to add change order #4 for the 2014-2015 LCDBG Sewer System Improvement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to ratify bills paid in the month of March 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if there are any comments from the public on any agenda item. Mr. Joseph Vallee asked about the Vermilion Parish Police Jury street overlay project. He wanted to know if that was the whole City. Mayor Piazza stated it is only a couple of streets. Mr. Vallee stated there are a lot of streets that need to be overlaid. Mayor Piazza stated this is the Police Jury's overlay program. The City of Abbeville does not have a street overlay program. A couple of Police Jurors have asked the City to participate with them by adding a little money into their fund, because they do not have enough money to do all the streets they want to do. The Police Jury picks the streets and they ask the City to participate. Mr. Vallee asked Councilman Plaisance what were the plans for the retention pond area. Councilman Plaisance stated we hope for it to be a recreational area in the future. It will take some time to develop it. It is a work in progress. Mr. Vallee asked if the City makes any money off the crawfish pond. Councilman Plaisance stated it is not a crawfish pond. Mr. Vallee stated there are crawfish traps in it. Councilman Plaisance stated that Mr. Vallee was in the wrong area. It is further down. It is a retention pond that was part of a drainage project. There are no crawfish traps in the retention pond.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to nominate Mr. Patrick Duhon to the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Board since Mr. Cobb LeBouef has withdrawn his name from the nomination. The second nominee remains Dwayne Davidson. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Touchet stated that it was brought to his attention about the condition of the road within the Azalea Drive Subdivision. He and Clay met with Eddie Hulin about the road. Clay then spoke to Gene Sellers about the road eroding. Patching would not be sufficient. Councilman Touchet contacted the Police Juror, Kevin Segura, who oversees that area. They worked out an agreement the repave the entire road way. The Police Jury would pay ½ and the City would pay the other ½ utilizing the contract that the Police Jury already has. Mr. Gene Sellers stated that Azalea Road is actually a boulevard so that is like two roads. The cost estimate to reconstruct the road is \$32,582.00. The City's portion would be \$16,291.00. He was also asked to put a cost estimate together to overlay John Hardy from Lafayette Street to the bridge. That cost estimate is \$31,111.00. The cost share for that road is 1/3 to be paid by the City and the other 2/3 to be paid by the Police Jury. The City's portion would be \$10,370.00. We already have an intergovernmental agreement with the Police Jury for a couple of other streets so we could amend that intergovernmental agreement to add Azalea and that portion of John Hardy Drive discussed.

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to amend the intergovernmental agreement for participation with the street overlay projects with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to add Azalea Boulevard so that the City would pay ½ of the cost and the Police Jury would pay the other ½ of the cost and to add John Hardy Drive from Lafayette Street to the bridge whereby the City would be responsible for 1/3 of the cost and the Police Jury would be responsible for 2/3 of the cost. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor B. K. Stevens with Visions of Hope requested permission to utilize William Park field and to provide routine maintenance of the field for children to play ball there. Pastor Stevens was concerned that some of the children would not be able to go to Erath to play ball. He wanted to set up something for those children who are not signed up with QSA. Councilman Touchet stated that the children will play in Abbeville. Councilman Landry stated the kids will play in Comeaux Park who signed up. QSA is stepping in to bring our parks to life. It will be here for everybody to play. Pastor Stevens thought he understood that the children had to register in Erath. Councilman Touchet stated registration is already complete. Ms. Denise did registration at Comeaux Park. Mayor Piazza asked if Pastor Stevens was referring to the kids he was already working with at the old Herod Gymnasium. Pastor Stevens stated that those are the kids he is talking about. He will not take anyone who already signed up with QSA we just want to utilize the field. We want the field for the kids who fall through the cracks. Councilman Plaisance commended Pastor Stevens for wanting to give everyone an opportunity to play. Councilman Touchet stated we are trying to get Comeaux Park alive every night. Mayor Piazza stated we cannot give exclusive use of the field to only one organization because it has to be available to the public. Please get with Ms. Denise to see when the park is available. Bronk already has a third party field usage agreement for that field too.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to grant permission for the third party usage agreement to Visions of Hope to maintain and use the field at Williams Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to authorize the Mayor to execute an easement agreement with JMRP, LLC (James Noel, Sr.) for a 40 foot

easement of the sidewalk on the north side of the Midway as designated on the plat. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Plaisance asked for a variance for a controlled burn on the City property next to retention pond. Mr. Eddie Lege has cleaned the property. They have stacked seven piles of trees and vegetation that will not be able to be hauled away. It would be easier to burn it. He has already spoken with Chief Mire about the Fire Department's assistance with this. We will make sure the wind is blowing to the south and that it is not too windy. Councilman Touchet asked Chief Mire if he is in ok with this. Chief Mire stated it will have to be really dry for his trucks to get back there. If the wind is not blowing, the smoke will not be a problem. Councilman Touchet asked that the neighbors be notified of the burning. Chief Mire stated we will also notify 911. Councilman Plaisance stated they will not be able to do all the piles at once. Mr. Josh Boudreaux has agreed to bring in some equipment too to help with the burning.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to grant a variance for a controlled burn, with the assistance of the Abbeville Fire Department, on the property located next to the retention pond. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the estimate for partial payment #1 in the amount of \$35,234.10 for the Solar Powered LED Taxiway Reflectors. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve plan change order #1 for the Solar Powered LED Taxiway Reflector project to adjust quantities to as built and to remove the old markers. This resulted in an increase in the contract in the amount of \$1,909.10. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plaisance/Touchet
Resolution R17-12**

To authorize the Mayor to execute a notice of acceptance relative to the completion of the Solar Powered LED Taxiway Reflector project at the Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the estimate for partial payment #7 (final) in the amount of \$52,946.14 for the Taxiway Realignment project at the airport. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize advertisement for bids for the Construct Asphalt Taxilane Project at the airport contingent upon FAA and DOTD approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearings were held on April 12, 2017 for various code violations on properties. Councilman Broussard stated that at 307 North Main Street they had barrels on the right of way and they were issued a certificate of compliance. However the barrels are still on the property. Clay Menard stated on the day of the hearing, the barrels had been removed but the day after the hearing the residents put the barrels back. Councilman Broussard would like the compliance certificate revoked and the residents be given 72 hours to comply.

-12 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the recommendations of the hearing officer from the hearings held on April 12, 2016 for the following properties: 310 S. St. Charles/tall grass, fallen trees/given 7 days, 801 E. St. Victor/tall grass abandoned pool, growth in pool, repair fence, secure structure/given 10 days, 620 & 624 Breaux Ave/tall grass, fallen tree, demolition of structures/given 21 days, 1527 Graceland Lots 10 & 11/demolition of mobile home without permit, demolition debris/given 30 days, 411 E. Vermilion/tall grass, demolition/given 30 days, 300 Cherry St/items under carport/issued compliance certificate, 506 S. Guegnon/vehicles, boat, utility trailers, junk items/given 5 days and 307 N. Main/barrels on right of way/they were originally issued a certificate of compliance but since they have put the barrels back on the right of way the compliance certificate is revoked and they are given 72 hours to comply. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to approve change order #4 for the 2014-2015 LCDBG Sewer System Improvement Project on Coulee Kinney Road. The change order adjusts quantities to as built quantities and increases the contract by \$60,135.52. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *The contractor with the 2014-2015 LCDBG Sewer System Improvement Project should be finished today with all the service connections. Monday they will bore Assay Road. Then we will let it clean up and settle before we put the culverts back in the ditch. We have a 10 foot excavation that needs to settle. Most of the change order is because when we removed the culverts, they all broke and need to be replaced. As soon as the culverts are complete then we should be in a position to do the final dress up. We have some limestone to place and some shoulder work to do. In about 4 weeks, it should be finished. The contractor with the Police Jury overlay is running behind with that project. Coulee Kinney needs to be reconstructed. In about two months the road should be finished.*
- *The emergency repair on Loraine is complete. Limestone has been placed and that needs to settle before it is overlaid. The street is open.*

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *Rotor #8 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been replaced and is working well.*
- *Mayor Piazza asked for an update on the Fire Station across the Bayou and the meeting we had with GOHSEP a couple of days ago. Mr. Primeaux stated we had requested additional funds from FEMA to rebuild the station. Unfortunately it doesn't qualify because the replacement cost versus the repair cost doesn't meet their criteria. It is only 33% and it needs to be 50%. The only funds we will receive from FEMA is the \$1,000 deductible from the insurance. The insurance proceeds are about \$45,000.00. The request to FEMA for funds to replace the Fire Station has been denied. The estimate to repair the building is about \$60,000. The replacement cost for that station is about \$180,000. Chief Mire stated Mr. Wayne Touchet is working on a bid to repair the station with the needed changes. Mayor Piazza stated that we need to keep in mind that when Richard says the repair cost is \$60,000 to fix the existing building that is to put it back the way it was. The existing building that is there now can't be put in service the way it was because the truck room is too small for the new truck. We are going have to spend a lot more than \$60,000 anyway because when the new truck comes in, it won't fit in that truck room. When we look at that cost, now we are getting close to \$100,000. The \$60,000 number is not a good number to use because we can't occupy that building with that. Chief Mire stated that Mr. Wayne Touchet will include in his estimate the cost to build a new truck room on the South side of the existing station. Mr. Primeaux stated*

the cost to repair and add a new truck room will probably be about \$150,000. Chief Mire stated he and the Mayor also discussed a brand new building. We are working on a location. He will have about \$300,000 available in his budget for that. He has some money in the M & O account and has some other available money. Mayor Piazza stated we had put \$100,000 in his budget for this year in the Sales Tax Fund. We knew we had to repair that building because the flood was in August. If he does not use that money then he will have it for next year if the Council decides to invest in a new station or you can put it on the new truck room. We have \$144,000 right now with the Sales Tax money and the insurance money. On top of that Chief Mire will have about \$160,000 in the M & O Account that we can add to the \$144,000. Councilman Plaisance stated we really need to look at building a new building. We will spend all this money to repair the old building but we will still have an old building. Councilman Broussard stated we are also looking at a new location that will be a better location that is not likely to go underwater again. Mr. Primeaux stated they are working up an estimate for the new building. Building a new building at a new location would solve three problems. There are some utility problems at the old building, there are some structure problems at the old building and the old building is sitting about a foot and one-half below the BFE. On top of that, the truck room is too small to accommodate the new truck. Mayor Piazza stated by the time this is all said and done, we will be in next year's budget. Let's make sure we are dealing with accurate numbers. When you know exactly how much we are talking about to repair with the new truck room added and also a firm estimate on the new building at a different location, then you can come back to the Council and they can make an informed decision. Councilman Broussard stated that we may know something on the property by then also.

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *We have started repairing the City sewer lines that need to be fixed on Loraine that were found as a result of the smoke testing in that area. The letters to the residents will be sent out this week. The letter will notify them of the sewer leaks on their private property. There were 43 sewer leaks on private property.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Sounds on the Square is this Thursday. Right Lane Bandits will be performing.*
- *Yielded the floor to Councilman Touchet regarding the QSA season opener. Councilman Touchet attended it as well as Councilman Plaisance and Councilman Landry. Councilman Touchet requested numbers from QSA regarding the number of kids that are enrolled that attend Abbeville schools. There are 179 kids in recreation and 50 kids in select ball. That is 229 Abbeville kids registered. He is very encouraged by these numbers. Mayor Piazza stated Denise is doing a good job getting the park in shape and working with QSA to meet their needs.*

Councilman Joe Hardy

- *Asked how many hangars we have at the airport. Mayor Piazza stated there are 43 hangars.*

Councilman Wayne Landry

- *This past weekend was Resurrection weekend. On Friday we had a Cross Walk. It was very nice. We had food, fun and church. It was very rewarding and we felt the presence of the Lord. We also had an Easter egg hunt at the park in Graceland. About 75 kids showed up for that. He thanked the Abbeville Police Department for the patrols.*

- *Recognized two very good friends, Ms. Liz Landry and Ms. Rhonda Campbell, who were in the audience. He thanked them for being here.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Free movie for the first 150 children this Friday in the Square. It is only \$1.00 after the first 150. There is a Farmers' Market this weekend in Magdalen Square and also the little festival known as Roots Squared.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor