

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on April 3, 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, Joe Hardy and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Lieutenant David Hardy  
Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Hutchinson  
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Clay Menard, Public Works Director  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Tom Carroll, Engineer  
Gerald Gaspard, Commander Thomas Thompson & Glenn Suire,  
all representing the American Legion  
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board  
Coach Shannon Cormier and the Vermilion Biddy Basketball players

*Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Wayne Landry to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Commander Thompson to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the minutes from the Committee meeting held on March 6, 2018 and the regular City Council meetings held on March 6, 2018 and March 20, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to accept the resignation of Samuel Head. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to deviate from the agenda to discuss the Tourist Center on the By-pass. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments from the public for any agenda item. Mr. Joseph Vallee asked how many payments will be made on the John Hardy Drive bridge. Mr. Richard Primeaux stated there will be two payments. The bridge was reopened today.*

*Item number two on the agenda was to recognize Retired Brigadier General Robert LeBlanc for being the recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal. General LeBlanc could come to the meeting tonight. The Police Jury will hold an event next Friday. The Mayor and Council will be invited. We will be able to issue him his proclamation at that time.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to table item number two on the agenda, recognition of Retired Brigadier General LeBlanc. The motion carried unanimously.

*Commander Thompson, Mr. Gerald Gaspard and Mr. Glenn Suire honored the Mayor and the City Council with a certificate of appreciation for the work and support of the American Legion. Mayor Piazza stated the City is very fortunate to have a very active American Legion Post.*

*Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. introduced Coach Shannon Cormier and the members of the 11/12- year old Vermilion Biddy Basketball team. They recently placed third in the National Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri.*

*Councilman Plaisance stated we have tabled the grass cutting contract for LaFitte Drive-in Park a couple of times. We have four bids. The grass needs to be maintained in this City Park. The crews cannot maintain it because they are short-handed. The lowest price is from Myra's Lawn Service. It is \$400.00 per cutting for the North side and \$100.00 per cutting for the South side. They will cut the park in the grass growing months twice and the offseason they will cut it once a month. The total price of the one-year contract is \$10,000.00. Councilman Broussard asked Mayor Piazza if this is included in the 2018 budget. Mayor Piazza stated he had not. Councilman Touchet wanted to wait to award the contract until the new administration would come in. They will have to deal with this. It should have been included in the budget. He wants our City crews to maintain this park until the new administration comes in. Councilman Broussard asked Clay about the City crews cutting the park. Clay stated they did do it one Friday. It took five hours to cut it utilizing four 60" mowers. We had eight people out there cutting and weed eating. The grass was not that bad then. Councilman Touchet stated he had a discussion with the Mayor and we need to look at what we are doing. Contract grass cutting is costing us \$150,000 per year. Do we need more manpower for the City? We only get \$13,000 for grass cutting on State right of ways. He doesn't want to make a decision right now about this contract. Councilman Plaisance called for question. Mayor Piazza stated question has been called so a roll call vote will take place.*

*-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to approve a one-year contract with Myra's Lawn Service for grass cutting at LaFitte Drive-in Park in the amount of \$10,000. A vote was taken and the vote thereon was as follows:*

*YEAS: 4(Plaisance, Broussard, Landry, Hardy)  
NAYS: 1(Touchet)  
ABSENT: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0*

*Therefore, the motion carried.*

*Councilman Plaisance stated they have done a lot of research on a button at the private schools that would reduce response time. The price we have is \$29.00 per month per school. He also wanted Ike to research the agreement and the legalities of the agreement they would pursue for Vermilion Catholic, Mount Carmel and Harvest Time. Councilman Touchet added we are not getting involved in the practices of school safety in schools. We are only interested in reducing the response time that it would take for the police officers to get to the location. Once the person pushes that button, it will notify 64 different individuals including officers and dispatchers. This would bypass the 911 system. It would go directly to the officers, etc. This is what Kaptel has put together. Councilman Plaisance commended the Abbeville Police Department and the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office for conducting active shooter drills. The button will only shorten the response time. Lieutenant Hardy stated the officers are very well trained and they are prepared to use it. Mr. Funderburk stated we will need to have a cooperative endeavor agreement and we have to be able to show that there is a quid pro quo. There has to be a benefit being received by the City for the money we are expending for this purpose. Mayor Piazza stated he wants to make sure what we do is legal. We may need to get an Attorney General's opinion because it is a monetary issue. Ike will research this.*

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize the City Attorney to research a cooperative endeavor agreement between the City of Abbeville and Vermilion Catholic High School, Mount Carmel Elementary and Harvest Time Christian Academy for school security. The motion carried unanimously.

**Landry/Broussard  
Resolution R18-07**

*A resolution to petition the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to clean and maintain the culverts on Highway 14 By-Pass between its intersection with John Hardy Drive and the By-Pass Bridge.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Broussard/Landry  
Resolution R18-08**

*A resolution to petition the Louisiana Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study and if appropriate, create pedestrian crosswalks and signage in four different areas.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment estimate #1 payable to L & R Construction, Co., Inc. of Kaplan in the amount of \$64,766.03 for the South John Hardy Drive Bridge Replacement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to declare the South John Hardy Drive Bridge Replacement Project substantially complete. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the quotation from Coburn's in the amount of \$16,857.28 for valves to put on the fire hydrants and to utilize CWEF grant funds to pay for the project. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plaisance/Landry  
Resolution R18-09**

*A resolution adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for audit engagements for the audit of the fiscal year ended 12/31/17.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Landry/Plaisance  
Resolution R18-10**

*A resolution designating April 2, 2018 through April 6, 2018 as National Community Development Week.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

Mayor Piazza announced that he had received a call today from the Governor's office. The City of Abbeville has been awarded a \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant to be utilized for sewer improvements and improvements to our sewer lift stations. This will really help us. Therefore, the resolution we just adopted is very important. We want to make sure that the federal government knows how important this money is to us. We will send a letter to each of our congressional delegates encouraging them to continue funding the CDBG.

Councilman Touchet stated many civic organizations were using the facilities at the golf course for their meetings. The golf course is now closed. In conversation with Councilman Plaisance and the Mayor, we feel that this is an avenue we can explore and we can use sales tax dollars to renovate the old tourist building on the By-pass so that these organizations can have a place to hold their meetings. We could knock down walls and really spruce up the interior. He has had conversations with the Chamber, Rotary and the Kiwanis about this. We will have a meeting room in the City that will be open to organizations. Councilman Plaisance stated this is a great idea and it is a perfect location. The organizations give to us so this is a win-win for us to be able to give them a place for them to do what they need to.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to allow the Mayor to pursue very preliminary specs to renovate the old tourist building for civic organizations to meet. The motion carried unanimously.

Tom Carroll, Engineer

- Gave an update on the UV disinfection system plans. Everything is on schedule and we hope to have everything bid within 90 days.
- With LCDBG funds we will be able to eliminate two sewer lift stations. This will reduce maintenance costs.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- Today was the regional Cleanest City Contest. All of the volunteers and City workers worked very hard. The City looked very nice today and he is very optimistic that we will be victorious.

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- He would like Clay to give, by district, the streets that are being cut by the contractor. There may be some things that he may want to cut back. We need to be focused on putting people in our community to work.

Councilman Joe Hardy

- Asked Clay to contact DOTD to ask them to fix the hole in front of Courtesy on Highway 167.

Councilman Wayne Landry

- Informed Clay that they will be moving one of the portable showers to McKinley Scott Park to renovate it for an office. We want to have a monitor again for the park.
- We will try to get another birdhouse library for the new LaFitte Drive-In Park. This one would be in memory of Dylan Plowden. His mother, Megan, is here tonight. She has been diligently working with the youth in the community to try to keep them on a positive note and keeping them busy in order not to do negative things. He wants to commend her and her family for what they are doing with the youth. Ms. Plowden stated the community needs to help her with the kids. She is setting up a non-profit in memory of her son. Councilman Landry stated he will work with Ms. Plowden to help her in her cause.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Sounds on the Square is this Thursday at 5:30 PM. The entertainment will be Crowdaddy.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *We are looking forward to working with the new Police Chief and the new City Council Members that will be coming in.*
- *He had a request for speed bumps by Abbeville General but he does not think we can do that. Mr. Funderburk stated we have gone down that path more than once. We cannot. Richard painted the crosswalk but the paint didn't last. We need to repaint it. Mayor Piazza stated the Council can allow the hospital to put speed bumps if the hospital is willing to pay for them and take responsibility and liability for them.*
- *Requested Ike to draft a resolution to request DOTD to repaint both bridges and bring it to the next meeting.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor