

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on August 2, 2016 at 5:15 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 Joe Hardy

Members Absent: Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

Also Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Tony Hardy, Police Chief
Shirley Bertrand, Utility Billing Manager

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for an Ordinance committee meeting chaired by Councilman Wayne Landry. He asked if there were any public comments on the agenda item. Since there were none he turned the floor over to Councilman Landry. Councilman Landry read the agenda item and then asked Mr. Funderburk to explain the item.

Mr. Funderburk stated over the last year or so, we have received some property from the Police Jury that is located within our corporate limits that we have been maintaining. We also have some property that has been adjudicated directly to us because people failed to pay their property taxes and no one bid on it. Some of them were City taxes and some were parish taxes. We have gone through monition suits and have title to all the tracts that were adjudicated more than three years ago. We have 11 properties now. Last week, another tract finished its three year redemption period. So we have another tract that we filed suit on today. We will go through the same process so the City will get title to it. We have a draft of an ordinance before us that may be slightly premature since that last suit was just filed. This identifies various tracts of land by address and property description that we will sell at a public sale to be held at some point in time in the future. It will run in the Meridional a couple of times to give people notification so they can come and bid on properties. The important thing is the way we will handle the property that is to be sold. There are three ways by law that we can do that. One is to add all the amounts of our liens and that would be a minimum bid. On some of these tracts there were dilapidated buildings that we had to take down and they have had weed liens for many years. Our invested money exceeds the value. No one would bid on that. Mayor Piazza asked if we have to have an appraisal. Mr. Funderburk stated there is a way we can do it with an appraisal but we don't have to. The second method is to have an appraisal and you have to get 2/3 of the appraised value. The third method is you have no minimum and you advertise it for sale and it is sold to the highest bidder. The Council does not have the option to reject a bid with this method. The Council needs to think about this. When he gets the final judgement this will finish us for this year. We have five more lined up for next year. We may need to bring it back to a committee meeting. Councilman Broussard stated if we go that route with an appraisal, it means the City is keeping possession of that property longer and an appraisal is expensive. That means we have to maintain it at tax payers expense. The quickest option is #3 where we get it off our books and it goes back into commerce.

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance to announce the public sale of City Property received as a result of adjudication using method number 3 as discussed above. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk stated he would hold off bringing it to the City Council in order to amend the ordinance for the one he just filed. This will delay us about one month. Once we advertise we will hold an auction here prior to a Council meeting.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor