

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on August 7, 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, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Denise Mire, Park Director
Stewart Head, Electrical Superintendent
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Ali Miller, Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board
Gene Fontenot, Jr. Retired Assistance Fire Chief
Bob Hensgens, Representative District 47

Before calling the meeting to order, Mayor Piazza stated that we had a special guest with us tonight. He called up Mr. Gene Fontenot, Jr. and his family to accept a certificate of appreciation for his retirement. Chief Fontenot had 34 years of service with the Abbeville Fire Department. He stood side by side with his team to save lives. His team will miss their leader, brother and friend but are excited for the next chapter of his life. He retired on July 12, 2018 and we would like to wish him the best.

Mayor Piazza then called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. 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 Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of July 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the minutes from the Committee meetings held on July 3, 2018 and July 17, 2018, the City Council personnel interview held on July 17, 2018 and the regular meetings held on July 3, 2018 and July 17, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the probational appointment of Tony Landry to the position of Firefighter with the Abbeville Fire Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if anyone had any comments about any of the agenda items prior to action. Mr. Joseph Vallee' asked where the Motty property is located that will be annexed. Mayor Piazza stated it is located between the Dollar General and The Riverfront parking lot on Park Avenue. The developer wants to build a strip mall. Mr. Jim Ruiz asked if the proposed ordinance could be sent out as an attachment with the agenda. Mayor Piazza stated that would be done.

Representative Bob Hensgens stated he will qualify tomorrow for the vacant Senator seat. He will be the same kind of senator as you had as a representative. He has built personal relationships with the community. He returns phone calls quickly. He thanked everyone for their personal support and asks for their support in this endeavor. As a former Mayor he understands local government. At the end of the session the capital outlay project was vetoed. We negotiated to get the capital outlay project as a priority 2. The Sunday before the vote, the Governor vetoed it. He did not know about it until the Tuesday. That is in the past. He wants to keep working to get that project done. It was a drainage project for the City of Abbeville in four different spots. The reason the Governor vetoed it is because there are some federal dollars coming down for drainage projects and he thought it may qualify for that. That is not what is was, but we will work to get it back in there and to make sure the relationship is there and it stays in there next year. It has been vetoed twice. It was vetoed as a message. It will be back on his desk again next year. We were stuck on our side for a very long time and we need people who are there and are willing to legislate. Sometimes you don't get 100% of what you want but the people back home deserve it. We needed a budget and sometimes you have to do things that you are not exactly in love with to get there. You have to give half to get everything you want sometimes. That is what he did in the last session.

Ms. Ali Miller thanked the Mayor and Council for moving the tourism center downtown and making the necessary improvements. We believe this was the correct move. We have received much more visitor traffic downtown than we did when we were located on the By-pass. In all of 2017 actual visitors stopping in was 840. So far, in 2018, we have received 968 actual visitors. From March to July we are 60% above where we were at the same time period in 2017. More people are accidently finding us. They come to eat lunch and then they walk in. They come to view exhibits and for tourist information. We have had visitors from our Parish, Louisiana, all over the United States, France, Canada and Germany. We are 27% above from people stopping into the Cultural Center from 2017. More people are visiting downtown. Thank you for sending Katti to work every afternoon. We are averaging about 6 visits a day where on the By-Pass we were averaging 5 visitors a week. The occupancy tax revenue is up. That means more people are staying in our hotels and other lodging facilities. We are hosting an agritourism workshop. We hope to spark some interest with some of our local farmers to give crawfish tours, sugar cane tours and other things like that. We are changing the exhibits around. We are open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

-04 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to waive the removal/demolition fees for the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to demolish a dilapidated mobile home located at 811 S. Lamar. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify the tree trimming for hurricane preparation contract with Global Energy Services. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/B. Broussard

Ordinance 18-05

An ordinance to amend Section 13-22 – Open Containers.

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.

Touchet/White

Ordinance 18-06

An ordinance to amend section 5-241 – use of wood/plywood in signs.

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.

White/Touchet

Ordinance 18-07

An ordinance to adopt Article V – Naming Streets; Section 16-50 – New Subdivisions and Section 16-51 – Changing the name of an existing street.

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.

Plaisance/B. Broussard

Resolution R18-19

A resolution authorizing the creation of a judicial building fund for Abbeville City Court.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk stated the legislature allows municipal courts to put a \$10.00 building fee to each fine. Judge Putnam has agreed that this will go into a building fund for maintenance and repairs of the City Court building. Since this is a 3rd ward court, the Police Jury will have to adopt the same resolution.

Plaisance/T. Broussard
Resolution R18-20

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to overlay Alan Lane, Louis Drive and South East Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to accept the petition for the Motty Property annexation. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the payment estimate number 3 in the amount of \$49,697.10 payable to Minvielle Lumber for the Hebert Fire Substation No. 2 project. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to table the payment of the invoice from Quality Sports Authority in the amount of \$2,800.00 to research more information to see if it is legal for the City to pay this invoice. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Touchet asked the Mayor to explain the invoice. Mayor Piazza asked Denise Mire to explain it. Denise stated that Mr. Tommy Picard told her that he had spoken to the Mayor about kids that had registered through the coach and not her. Denise never received any registration forms at the office. The coach went around town getting kids to register and gave the information to Tommy. The kids thought they were playing for free. Tommy says he asked the Mayor to pay for the kids this year. They do have an application to fill out for reduced registration fee. Councilman Plaisance asked if we pay this \$2,800.00, will it come off the \$75,000.00 we are currently paying QSA? Mayor Piazza says the invoice says delinquent fees and it is every kid that played in the summer basketball league. Denise stated she did not see the bill. She was not aware of the basketball only the baseball. Everybody that came in and registered with her, she collected the money. Bronc had a league but everybody paid to play. Councilman Touchet asked why are the coaches and directors not collecting the registration? Why is that our responsibility? Councilman Plaisance stated he thought the contract agreement was that for the \$75,000.00, QSA would accommodate the underprivileged. Councilman Touchet stated the fee should be collected before the kids get their shirts. He wants to see kids playing on our fields. Please tell them that.

Mr. Gene Sellers stated the City has a major sewer pump station located at the end of Franks Alley and right across from there is the stormwater pump. The stormwater pump pumps stormwater and the sewer pump station pumps sewerage. Neither one of them has an automatic switch and they share a generator because we did not have enough money for two. Both of the stations can operate automatically as long as you have City power. The only time that cannot happen is when we lose City power. The generator cannot operate both. It has to be manually transferred from one to the other. You can put an automatic transfer switch. It would cost about \$50,000.00. You would put the switches on both units and then you will have to decide which piece you want to be automatic when the power goes off. If it is raining the stormwater pump might be more important. If it is not raining, then the sewer pump should be most important. Like any other mechanical equipment, it could fail. You could put an alarm to notify if there is a failure. Stewart usually calls the Wastewater Treatment Plant operator when there is an outage. The personnel usually goes there because the sewer plant is very critical. If the generator doesn't come on, then you can have a backflow.

-09 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the automatic transfer switch for the stormwater pump/sewer station pump generator. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereupon was as follows:

YEAS: 4(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, White)
NAYS: 1(Plaisance)
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the motion carried.

-10 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to authorize Sellers and Associates, Inc. to perform a drainage study for Ulmer Street, the Hayes and Alphonse Street area and Abadie Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman White stated they have received repetitive flooding in District A. The water does not recede quickly. The City has done some work on the drainage but at this point we need a study to see what else can be done.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve change order #3 for the Construct Asphalt Taxilane Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the estimate for partial payment number 3 in the amount of \$99,890.11 for the Construct Asphalt Taxilane Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the purchase of transformers from Solomon at a cost of \$6,930.00 and poles from Techline at a cost of \$9,231.75 for stock. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Spoke to T. J. with Sellers & Associates and she is putting together a presentation for the Airport Committee in the next couple of months. She will discuss the 5-year plan that we are required to present to FAA this coming October.*
- *He spoke with Stewart Head about possibly converting our street lights slowly to an L E D light. They are more expensive but are more durable and last a lot longer. This may cut down on the number of street lights that need to be changed. They consume less electricity to light. He will get prices and bring it to the utility committee.*
- *Appreciated the opportunity to spend time with the Council in Lake Charles at the LMA conference. It is good to meet with other Mayors and Council members to see how they do things. It was a great conference.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *Commended Chief Spearman and Lieutenant Jason Hebert. They have done a great job so far. The citizens of District A have been concerned about problematic areas and Chief Spearman has been open eared and open doored with them. He has made some progress in that area. We appreciate your work.*
- *The Christian Service Street on Chevis Street has a soup kitchen and a food pantry. They are in the process of making a women's outreach center. It is good in our community and is a needed resource. Please support them and stop by and visit them.*
- *Thanked Chief Mire for all the work he does in the community.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Chief Spearman has taken a very pro-active approach when dealing with crime. He commended him on that.*
- *Economic development is the key for us to survive. We have 38 abandoned buildings. What can we do to get the owners together to keep these building up? What can we do to help them? Ike stated we have to start with the culture. You have some corporate and some non-residents who have inherited a piece of the property and really don't have any contact with Abbeville. You will have to tailor your approach to the different individuals that you are dealing with. We will have to know who pays the bills. He would be happy to try to put together a plan. Ms. Arlene Collee asked if the City could begin an incentive program for empty buildings. Councilwoman White stated she attended her first Economic Development meeting. She will be working with them on a targeted plan for the vacant buildings. They already have some interested parties for some of the buildings. She would like to see what other cities around us have on their books regarding rental properties. On the residential side, it is mostly the rental properties that are the real problematic blighted properties. Councilman Touchet asked Ike to get with Councilwoman White to discuss what the Economic Development Board is doing. We have to have a systematic approach.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Thanks and appreciation to Chief Spearman and his professionals. With the recent success they have had, his citizens are very excited. They know the hard work they are doing. They appreciate the success. Shaun having that in the newspaper spreads that good news. It is a win win. This is many agencies, all working together. We don't have to repeat the process independently when we can work together.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Congratulate Bryan and Bridget on bringing back a championship to Abbeville all the way from Mexico.*
- *Her first school drive was very successful. She worked with NAUW at Math Depot.*
- *Thanks to the constituents for supporting her. She is working very hard.*
- *Thank you Bill (Spearman). She gets calls and everyone is worried and scared. Thank you for answering my calls.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Thanked Bill (Spearman) for all the work they have done.*
- *If you drive by Technical Industries you will be impressed. They have cut the grass and there are a group of people working there.*
- *Henderson Implement thought about relocating to the Stine Lumber building but the building is too large. They are very interested in moving into the City limits.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor