

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on December 19, 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, Jr., Wayne Landry, Joe Hardy and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Tony Hardy, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Roger Fontenot, Water Plant Superintendent
Ronald Darby, Vermilion Parish Police Juror
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board Member
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion & Chamber of Commerce
Reverend Crystal Randall
Pastor Lane Payne

Mayor Piazza asked Police Juror Ronald Darby to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Pastor Lane Payne to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the probational appointment of Dwayne Schexnider to the position of Police Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any public comments on any agenda item. There were none.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to recess the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing for public comments on the amended 2017 budget and the proposed 2018 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Piazza stated the budget was published as required and was available for public viewing. The budget was discussed in detail at the last Finance Committee meeting. It is a balanced budget. It includes raises for our employees and two big capital projects. One is the construction of a fire station and the construction of a new airport terminal building at the airport. There are no big surprises in the budget. Sales tax seems to be holding steady. He asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the budget. There were none.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Landry
Ordinance 17-06

An ordinance amending the 2017 budget and adopting the 2018 budget.

The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 5(Plaisance, Broussard, Landry, Hardy, Touchet)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Reverend Crystal Randall was present to discuss the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade. They would like to change the parade route for this year due to the construction on Schlessinger. They would like to use the same route as the Abbeville High School Homecoming parade did this past year. They would begin at Comeaux Park and end at Comeaux Park. They would also like to use the Comeaux Park Recreation Center instead of the Pavilion. The parade is on January 15, 2018.

-04 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the change in the parade route for this year only and to allow them to utilize the A. A. Comeaux Recreation Center for their activities for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to approve a special event permit for New Life Church to hold Christmas in the Square on December 20, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM and to waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/Landry
Ordinance 17-07

An ordinance amending the provisions governing billboards in the City.

The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 5(Plaisance, Broussard, Landry, Hardy, Touchet)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Touchet/Landry
Ordinance 17-08

An ordinance amending the provisions pertaining to the demolition of buildings.

The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follow:

YEAS: 5(Plaisance, Broussard, Landry, Hardy, Touchet)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Plaisance/Hardy
Resolution R17-25

A resolution amending the lease with the Tee Hangars Association.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Landry
Resolution R17-26

A resolution to extend the contract with Don Gaspard dba Don's Lawn Service to December 31, 2020.

The motion carried unanimously.

Broussard/Landry
Resolution R17-27

A resolution to request the Louisiana Congressional delegation and the U. S. Congress seek trade regulations that would help domestic suppliers, like our Vermilion Parish shrimpers, compete fairly against imported shrimp.

The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Broussard discussed the new Park Bench Sponsorship program. We have adopted an official bench in an official color from an official company that it will come from to service our City and make our Downtown more functional. This is a program where individuals and organizations can acquire these benches to be put in places in the City where they can be used. The Mayor and the Main Street Manager have fully investigated this and we have already ordered two benches. You can have a plaque on the benches that honor a group or an individual. You can memorialize an individual. He wants the Mayor and the Main Street Manager to pick the location of each bench and the wording on the plaque. Mayor Piazza stated the benches cost about \$2,000.00. Councilman Broussard stated the benches that will be located in the Downtown area are a prerequisite to the upcoming Sidewalk Streetscape project.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the Park Bench Sponsorship program and to authorize the Mayor and the Main Street Manager to pick the location of each bench and to approve the wording on each bench if the bench is located on public property. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve a variance from the mobile home ordinance to move a 1985 mobile home to 1007 Kibbe Street. The motion died for lack of a second.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the cost estimate in the amount of \$23,544.00 from Griner Drilling to repair the #5 water well at the Water Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated they had received three quotes however Griner was still the lowest.

Chief Jude Mire stated during the 2016 flood the fire station across the river had 8 inches of water in it. All during 2017 they tried to find a new location to construct a new fire station but they were not successful. He would like permission to demolish the fire station and construct a new fire station at the same location. The new fire station would be built up higher. Mr. Richard Primeaux stated the City needs to make sure the contractor who will complete the demolition is licensed and bonded with a payment and performance bond. The contractor will have to haul it off too. Chief Mire stated we need to have the new station in 2018 because of the upcoming fire rating.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to proceed with all actions necessary to demolish the fire station as discussed by Chief Mire. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *Gave an update on the John Hardy Drive bridge. They are ½ through with plans. They will have quotes the first meeting in February and will replace the bridge in March.*

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *Fire hydrant at the Midway has been repaired. Councilman Broussard asked that the area be resurfaced as soon as possible.*
- *He commended the workers in the water crew. They had to replace a hydrant in the very cold weather at night.*
- *Councilman Plaisance asked about house directly across from Popeye's.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked about the house on Solomon without a roof.*
- *Councilman Touchet asked Todd Vincent about the project on Rodeo Road. Mr. Vincent stated they are preparing a bid package that will be sent out and hopefully they will be able to award it at the 1/16/18 meeting.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*
- *Reminded everyone that January 2, 2018 is an official holiday so there will not be a City Council meeting that night.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *The roof on the fire station in Councilman's Touchet has been changed. It took only one day.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Thanked everyone on behalf of his family for their prayers, thoughts and presence over the last couple of weeks. They lost a close member of his family, his brother. It was due to a very tragic accident. It was something that occurred while he was on the job. The people who have responded to him and his family, has been tremendous. There is a God that is taking care my brother. He was challenged and we had to help him a lot in a lot of different things. God is taking care of him now and he has no more worries. He was not as fortunate as him and his other siblings but he is in a better place than we are right now.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He wants everyone to always cherish their families and always think about the people that you have around you. They are important everyday and we really don't know what will happen. He looks forward to working with everyone in the years to come.*

Councilman Joe Hardy

- *Wanted to commend the contractor who did the black top work on Coulee Kinney Road. They did a great job.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Councilman Wayne Landry

- *His church family has been praying for Councilman Touchet and his family. Prayer will get you through. Death on this side is not easy to bear. We will continue lifting you up.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and always cherish your family.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Wished everyone a safe, happy and a healthy holiday season.*
- *If you don't have anything to do, please join Pastor Lane in prayer tomorrow. Prayer is a solution to a lot of problems.*
- *Thanked the president of the Police Jury, the Chamber, the American Legion and the Chairman of the Civil Service Board for being here with us tonight.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *We are a family here. He misses Councilman Touchet's brother's smile. He was always smiling. We don't know what tomorrow holds. We will pray for Councilman Touchet and for each other.*
- *Thanked the Police Chief, Police Department and the Fire Department for the support during the Christmas Parade. We appreciated it so much.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to enter into executive session to discuss pending or threatened litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk stated the executive session was held to discuss one pending and one threatened lawsuit. He will move forward to give the advice and the negotiations that are needed as discussed in executive session.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor