

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on December 20, 2016 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, Joe Hardy, and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: Councilman Wayne Landry

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Tony Hardy, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Todd Vincent, Engineer
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Tracette Hillman, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director
Laura Shelvin, Retiree
Jon Bajan, Darryl Walker and Manny Broussard, FEMA
Joe Cormier

Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Francis Plaisance 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. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meeting and the Committee meeting held on December 6, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the probational appointment of Jacob Hardy to the position of dispatcher with the Abbeville Police Department pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated the item under personnel is to discuss the proposed restructuring of the Parks and Recreation Director job description. Tracette has prepared a new job description. Tracette stated when the Civil Service Board met on October 19, 2016, it was decided that they could not change the job from classified to unclassified because of the Act that was adopted at the time the Civil Service System was put in place here. Only the legislature can change the Act. The Civil Service board did state that the City Council could change the job description to change the requirements or any other changes they want. Mr. Funderburk stated this is Mr. Woodruff's position. Ike does not concur with Mr. Woodruff. Councilman Touchet stated he is not in favor of hiring a Parks and Recreation Director since we have no decision about the program direction. Mayor Piazza stated Denise Mire has been appointed interim Parks and Recreation Director as a provisional appointment. He did not realize the Civil Service Board had ruled on this. Provisional appointments are only meant for a short time. She cannot remain a provisional appointment forever. The reason Woody ruled this way is because, if you read the

Act, all employees should be Civil Service employees except for the one clerical position each Councilman and the Mayor has. The Parks and Recreation Director does not fit the description of a clerical position. They are a department head. Councilman Touchet stated he does not want to adopt anything because he is in favor of outsourcing the programs. Mayor Piazza stated we had two meetings and nobody showed up except for the Boys and Girls Club. Nobody was interested in taking over the program. Councilman Plaisance stated we have to do something to keep Denise there. Mr. Joe Cormier stated he has a meeting scheduled with North Vermilion and Kaplan. They both play Pony but we would like to make a proposal that they do dual participation with Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball. North Vermilion has 450 kids in the baseball program. Also he will make the same proposal to American Legion Baseball and the Senior Babe Ruth League about dual participation. Both meetings will happen after the first of the year. He wants to keep Babe Ruth Baseball in the City of Abbeville because of Ralph Sellers and Irby Luquette. He is not in favor of outsourcing. He will keep the Mayor and Council posted about what is decided in the meetings.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to table any action on the proposed job description for the Parks and Recreation Director and for the Civil Service Director to report to the Mayor, this week, about the status of the Interim Director's provisional status. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza presented a certification of appreciation to Laura Shelvin. She has retired from the City after serving 28 years in public service. She worked in the Police Department. He congratulated her on her retirement. Chief Hardy thanked Laura for the time she put in. She has done everything. A lot of time she came in for free. We feel her absence.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to enter into a public hearing for comments pertaining to the adoption of an ordinance to approve the 2017 budget and amend the 2016 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments about the budget. Chief Mire stated when he sat down with Lonnie to discuss the two new fire trucks, the City is paying of one and the Police Jury is paying for ¾ of one of the truck. The Police Jury will give us \$256,603.00. We put that in the budget but the trucks will not be finished until after the first of the year. The Police Jury likes to pay everything at one time. The Police Jury has given us \$183,549.55 this year so we can pay for the cab and chassis. When the bed and everything else is finished in 2017, the Police Jury will give us the other \$73,053.45. Mayor Piazza stated this needs to be amended in the budget since we had put the full amount in the 2016 budget (\$256,603.00). The Police Jury originally said they would fund it all this year but then they changed their mind. Mayor Piazza stated the Police Chief also wants to move up his rotation of vehicles. The dollar amount will not change as far as the budget.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Touchet/Plaisance

Ordinance 16-12

An ordinance amending the 2016 budget and adopting the 2017 budget with modifications as discussed for the \$73,053.45 revenue from the Police Jury for the fire truck.

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

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

Therefore the ordinance was adopted.

Mayor Piazza asked if there are any comments for any other agenda item. There were none.

**Plaisance/Hardy
Resolution R16-40**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury for the Improvements on Schlessinger and Dutel Streets, North Drive, Cedar Street and Coulee Kinney Road project.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor has received a notification from Cox Communications Louisiana, LLC regarding the franchise renewal notice. No motion was needed.

Mr. John Bajan, Darryl Walker and Manny Broussard from FEMA had requested for a waiver from elevation certificate, site inspection and permit requirements for temporary housing units that have been placed at 134 S. Cedar Street and 1112 Bruno Street. Councilman Plaisance asked if the units were placed in the City without their permission and now you need a waiver after the fact. Mr. Bajan was not sure if they are already there. Councilman Plaisance asked that in the future the City be consulted before the housing units are placed. We did not know anything about them being there. He will approve it because it is for the citizens. Mr. Richard Primeaux stated we do not have the correct addresses. Mr. Bajan stated he is not aware that they were placed there already. Mr. Primeaux stated it is only temporary for only 18 months so you have some flexibility. Mayor Piazza stated the Council is ok with waiving the permit fees and the elevation certificate because it helps the people. But Richard Primeaux is our City engineer and out building inspector. For the safety of our citizens, we want to make sure that these things are installed properly. He has an issue with waiving the site inspection. It is not a cost issue. We can waive the cost but our building inspector needs to make sure it is installed properly. Mr. Bajan stated he will make sure senior management is aware of the requirements. Generally a permit needs to be received prior to the delivery of the unit. Mayor Piazza stated in the future he would like Mr. Primeaux to be contacted to be notified in advance. We also have some zoning issues as some districts are not zoned for mobile homes.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the request for waiver from elevation certificate and permit requirements only for temporary housing units that have been placed at 134 S. Cedar Street and 1112 Bruno Street for 6 months. The motion carried unanimously.

**Broussard/Touchet
Resolution R16-41**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury for 2017 routine maintenance.

The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to approve a Class A liquor license for The Blenders located at 310 W. Summers Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

**Hardy/Plaisance
Resolution R16-42**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a utility easement with K.A.S. Properties, LLC.

The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the estimate for partial payment #5 in the amount of \$149,343.28 payable to Elliott Construction for the Airport relocation of taxiway project. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve change order #2 for the Airport relocation of taxiway project, contingent upon FAA and DOTD approval. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to table the request from Alisha Trahan for a special event permit to hold a Heartbreak to Healing candlelight vigil in Magdalen Square on December 29, 2016 from 6 PM to 8 PM because Ms. Trahan was not at the meeting and had not completed any required paperwork. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Christmas concert tonight at St. Mary Magdalen Church.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *There are two issues that are coming up in the near future that he is requesting the Councils' assistance with. The first one is to research and come back with some advice on the issue with Mike Mouton issuing some of the FAA requirements at the airport. Mike is also employed by the FBO and there could be some issues there that we need to address. He would like the Council to look into that and come back with a recommendation. The second this is the T-Hangar Association 25 year lease expires in June. They want to change the lease and possibly renew it. It could turn out to be a big deal because there are some clauses in there where the maintenance and ownership of the hangars falls on the City if we don't have a contract in place. We need to thoroughly research this. He will appoint Councilman Touchet and Councilman Broussard to get together with Ike Funderburk as a committee to research these issues and come back with a recommendation.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Look forward to 2017 and working with each Councilman, Ike and all the City employees.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Thanked all City employees for the fantastic job they have done in 2016 to work for the citizens of our City in such a professional way.*

Councilman Joe Hardy

- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor