

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on December 5, 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., and Joe Hardy

Members Absent: Councilman Wayne Landry  
Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Kim Touchet, Engineer  
Todd Vincent, Engineer  
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board Member  
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion & Chamber of Commerce

*Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Francis Plaisance to lead the assembly in prayer. Councilman Plaisance asked for a moment of silence for Councilman Touchet's brother, Steven, who had passed away, then he led the assembly in the Lord's Prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Mayor Piazza stated that Councilman Touchet did suffer a tragic loss in his family with the death of his brother, Steven. His brother died suddenly. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. The funeral is at 10:00 AM on Thursday at St. Theresa Catholic Church.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of November 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meetings held on November 7, 2017 and November 21, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

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

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize Mr. Gene Sellers and Mr. Richard Minvielle to pursue possible grants for the Lafitte Drive-In Park. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize Mr. Gene Sellers to pursue the installation of an aerator for the Lafitte Drive-In Park retention pond. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Francis Plaisance stated the aerator is needed to have proper oxygen levels in the pond. We have 5,000 blue gills in there as provided by Wildlife and Fisheries. Last week they also*

*put in 1,000 Chinquapin fish. At the end of March, they will put the bass and catfish in the pond. There were hundreds of ducks in the pond today.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to adopt the recommendation of the hearing officer from the hearing held on November 29, 2017 for 2014 Wabash/dilapidated structure, junk items, overgrown brush/given 10 days. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Kim Touchet discussed the bridge closure on John Hardy Drive. He discussed the options as follows to repair the bridge:*

- 1. Re-rating the bridge to see if we could open it to a 5-ton limit. After talking to the inspector, we do not feel you would meet that criteria.*
- 2. We could only repair the deficient elements on the bridge. It is not a very economical option because we would have to pull the deck off anyway and replace some of the structural elements underneath it. It will be a guess as to how long the other structural elements that are not repaired will last.*
- 3. This option would be to pull the entire deck and replace the whole underneath with treated timber. This would be a 25-year life span.*
- 4. This option is the change the entire bridge to concrete. This is the best scenario but the time frame to completion is much longer. It would take 4 to 6 weeks just to get the material delivered. The life span would be 50+ years.*

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to pursue option 3 to repair the bridge on John Hardy Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Kim Touchet stated they have been utilizing option 3 for the Parish. This is a viable solution. We are awaiting the final inspection report. We want to make sure there are no other deficiencies. Center Point will clamp off the gas line on each side of the bridge temporarily. They feel they will have enough pressure. He wasn't sure of their lead time to complete this. The project estimated cost is about \$70,000. We can get three proposals. We will have to await the final inspection and then put the proposal package together. We like to give the contractor at least two weeks to get those proposals together. Once the project is awarded, we hope they can be mobilized within one to two weeks on the job. The best scenario is three weeks to be on site. The six to eight weeks is the construction time. Once the bridge is complete, we have to submit a rating on the bridge. Once it is approved, we can open the bridge. It will be the same payload as it is now.*

*Mayor Piazza asked Kim to explain the bridge program. Kim stated the program is the DOTD Off System Program. It is funded 80% by the Federal Government and 20% by the State. When you join this program, you have to follow their rules and regulations on maintaining the bridges. There are anywhere from six months to two-year inspections depending on the condition of the bridge. What happened on this bridge is that it was listed for the State as a parish road number. That was before the address changes due to 911. We assumed it was still a parish bridge. The City currently has four bridges in the program. All of them are for the Devalcourt Coulee on Hollingsworth and Fairview and then there is the bridge on John Hardy Drive. An inspector in the Baton Rouge office was spot checking the District inspector on the John Hardy Drive bridge. It was closed immediately. All paperwork goes to the Parish governing bodies regarding inspections. Kim will make sure Clay gets a copy of any inspections in the future. Police Juror Ronald Darby and Paul Bourgeois have committed some funds to help with the repair.*

-07 introduced by Mr. Joe Hardy and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve partial payment estimate No. 1 to Elliott Construction in the amount of \$41,975.46 for the Tee Dud Road Sewer Extension Project. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to table the request for a variance from the mobile home ordinance to move a 1985 mobile home to 1007 Kibbe Street because Councilman Landry and the family members were not at the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *If you need something before the end of the year, please see him soon.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *The Christmas Stoll is Thursday night. It is supposed to be 40 degrees.*

Councilman Joe Hardy

- *Thanked Ms. Sandra Marant for all the wonderful work she does for the City and for the beautiful Christmas card.*
- *Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The sidewalk repair in the Downtown area is going very well.*
- *Thursday is the Christmas Stroll. Our City is beautiful lit with the white Christmas lights.*
- *This Saturday we will have the Farmers Market, the Christmas parade and Movies in the Square.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *The Christmas parade begins at 6:00 PM, Saturday. The parade begins at Jim's Tire to Vermilion then left down Washington. There will be a lot of Christmas music and Santa will be in the Gazebo. It is not a political parade. It is a parade for families. There is no fee to enter the parade.*
- *Welcomed and thanked Mr. Gerald Gaspard and Ms. Sandra Marant for being here tonight.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor