

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on December 5, 2017 at 5:00 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: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Steve Moosa, Accounting Consultant

Mayor Piazza stated we are here today for the Committee meetings tonight. One is the Finance meeting chaired by Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr and the other is the Ordinance Committee chaired by Councilman Wayne Landry.

Since Councilman Touchet was absent, he asked Councilman Broussard to preside over the Finance Committee meeting. Councilman Broussard stated we are here to discuss the 2018 budget. This budget controls costs and does not reduce services. That is anomaly with what is happening around us. He turned the floor over to Mr. Steve Moosa.

Mr. Moosa stated the budget being presented tonight is for the 2018 year as well as an amendment to the 2017 budget. The amendment for the 2017 budget is less than 5%. We really don't have to amend it but we will amend it so we can use it as a guidepost for 2018. Everything fell in line with what was expected. Sales tax improved by 5% from last year's budget. We have a general fund type budget and the special fund budgets. We have a 10 million budget in general fund. We have 7 special funds and it represents \$865,000. A budget is not required by law for the Utility Fund however we do adopt a budget for the Utility Fund. There are two large capital projects in the 2018 budget. We will be constructing an airport terminal. We will utilize the oil and gas royalties for that project since those funds have to be spent at the airport. We will construct a new fire station to replace the one across the river that was flooded in the 2016 flood. Mayor Piazza stated that all municipal employees will receive a 50 cent per hour raise in the 2018 budget and all public safety and City court personnel will receive a 2% increase. The budget will be available for public inspection until it is adopted at the December 19, 2017 meeting. It will be published in the local newspaper. It takes a concerted effort to make these numbers work. We have concentrated our efforts on building our reserves. He thanked the Council for supporting him. We do it without raising taxes or utilities. We were actually able to reduce utility rates this year.

Councilman Plaisance presided over the Ordinance Committee since Councilman Landry was absent. He stated we have two ordinances up for consideration. One deals with billboards and the other one deals with the demolition of buildings. He turned the floor over to Mr. Ike Funderburk.

Mr. Funderburk stated that programmable digital billboards are now here. We prohibit programmable digital signs in our ordinance so this ordinance will also prohibit programmable digital billboards in this ordinance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend to the City Council to adopt an amendment to the ordinance dealing with provisions governing billboards in the City at their meeting scheduled for December 19, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk explained the proposed amendment dealing with demolition of buildings. Currently someone can come into City Hall and purchase a demolition permit. The permit does not have an expiration date. This ordinance would set a time frame of 90 days. After

that the purchaser would have to come in and request an extension. There would be additional fees charged for the extensions. If they do not request an extension and the work is not complete, then they would fall into our due process procedures. This ordinance also makes the contractor responsible for debris pickup.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance pertaining to the demolition of buildings at their next meeting scheduled for December 19, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor