

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on February 6, 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, 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
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Roslyn White, Candidate for Abbeville City Council District A
Pastor Steve Delino, Abbeville Parks & Recreation Board
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber and American Legion

Mayor Piazza asked Pastor Steve Delino to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Ike Funderburk to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to ratify bills paid in the month of January 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the minutes from the special City Council meeting held on January 11, 2018 and the regular City Council meeting held on January 16, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to accept the resignation of Hunter Luquette from the Abbeville Fire Department effective 1/26/18. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Roslyn White stated she is a candidate for City Council – District A. Mr. Joe Hardy has been in service for over 40 years and he is retiring. She is hoping to fill his seat. She is here to introduce herself and to put a face with the name. She is a 1995 graduate of Erath and a 2000 graduate of LSU in Baton Rouge. She has been living in District A for 14 years. She is involved in the downtown community as well as different things in our area. She comes from a tourism and a business background. That is what she has been doing for the last 20 years of her life. If elected, she will not make a bunch of promises she can't keep. She promises to think collectively and act aggressively for our community. She will be open-minded and accessible to the people of District A. She will work with the Mayor and the City Council members and any entity or office that currently exists or new offices and entities that come about to move our community forward in any way that it can. Her personal interests are drainage, business retention and recruitment for

new jobs in our community, community building to deter crime, building trust back between our officers and government and the community and to improve the recycling program. She is available for anyone. She is going door to door in District A.

Mr. Steven Menard with PUSH was on the agenda but he had called in earlier to say he was not coming because he was ill.

Sergeant Castille with the Abbeville Police Department discussed their Cancer Cops fundraiser that is scheduled for March 24, 2018 in Magdalen Square. This is a fundraiser for the relay for life team. It is a barbeque cookoff. They will close the road east of Magdalen Square on Concord Street. They will not interfere with elections or with church. They will not interfere with any businesses. Since Charlene is having the Great American Cleanup they will help her by barbequing for them. Mayor Piazza reminded Sergeant Castille that fun jumps are no longer allowed in Magdalen Square.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the special event permit and waive the fee for the Abbeville Police Department, Cancer Cops, to hold a barbeque cookoff in Magdalen Square on March 24, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to submit the names of Joey Songne and Nolan Libersat to fill one vacancy on the Abbeville Fire and Police Civil Service Board. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the recommendation from the hearing officer for the hearing held on January 31, 2018 for 1921 Society for dilapidated structure, junk items, and 18-wheeler trailer. They were given 10 days to apply for a demolition permit. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the quote from Bon Ami Floor Gallery in the amount of \$4,032.00 to install carpeting in the Cultural Center upstairs area. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve a liquor permit for Walgreen Louisiana, Co., Inc located at 2250 Veterans Memorial Drive (Rite-Aid). The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Joe Hardy and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the payment of partial payment estimate number 2 to Elliott Construction in the amount of \$27,653.94 for the Tee Dud Road sewer extension project. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Joe Hardy and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve contract change order #1 for the Tee Dud Road sewer extension project. The change order will extend the contract time. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to ratify the contract with Glenn Lege Construction in the amount of \$27,920.00 for the Airport Road/Airport Road Drainage Improvement project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard Primeaux stated the drainage and road stabilization plan for the 711 Putnam project will cost about \$4,200 in material and the City forces will complete the labor. The high volume of

water has washed out the shoulder on the road. This project will stabilize the road and redirect the water.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the drainage and road stabilization plan for 711 Putnam. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *The contractor should mobilize either the end of this week or beginning of next week to begin the repair on the John Hardy Drive bridge. We were awaiting notification from the gas company that they had removed their line. They have informed us that the line is moved. Once they begin the bridge repair project it should take about 3 weeks, depending on weather. Once completed we still have to wait for State approval to reopen the bridge.*
- *As of February 1, 2018, we are now implementing the 2015 State codes as required.*
- *Meeting with the demolition contractor for the Hebert Fire Station tomorrow.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *Councilman Plaisance invited a guest to talk about his sewer issues and asked Clay to respond to his concerns. Mr. Mike Atchetee lives in the Mount Carmel Subdivision. Mr. Atchetee stated In March of 2017, the City began sewer smoke testing in Mount Carmel Heights. In April 2017, the smoke testing results were made available. He understood that letters were going to be sent to the homeowners that failed the smoke testing. His home was built by his parents in the early 1950's. For the last 25 years, every time we get a hard rain in excess of three to four inches, we cannot flush our toilets until the water has subsided. He wanted to know what has happened since April 2017. Two weeks ago, on a Friday night we had six inches of rain, he could not flush the toilets at his house until 2:30 Saturday afternoon. This has become a health hazard and it needs to be dealt with. He did not get a letter so he does not know what the letter said. He is willing to go knock on doors of his neighbors to get this done. If they are not repairing what is on their property, what is the next step? Mayor Piazza asked Clay Menard how many leaks we had on the City side. Clay said there were over 30 leaks. These leaks were on public right of ways and private property. The City repaired the leaks on the public right of ways. Those who had private property leaks were all sent letters. Some people did contact us to find out where the leaks were and made the repairs. Then they contacted us and we went back and inspected it. The people who did not comply, received another letter. Mayor Piazza stated all the leaks on the City side were repaired and he only knows of 2 places that did not fix their leaks in that entire neighborhood. The leaks are not the whole problem. Mr. Gene Sellers may be able to answer what that problem is. Clay Menard stated he has been working for the City for over 10 years. This is the second time we have smoke tested Mount Carmel Heights. We had between 50 to 60 leaks the first time. That was done about six or seven years ago. We were still having problems, so we did it again and we still ended up with 30 to 40 leaks. Mr. Atchetee wanted to know if all the leaks were fixed. Mayor Piazza stated only two were not fixed and one of those is the lady who lives next door to you. Mr. Atchetee wanted to have a copy of the letter sent to her so he could talk to her. Mr. Clay Menard stated they have visited with her multiple times and have shown her the problem on her property. The City cannot fix it because it is on private property. Mayor Piazza stated on a couple of occasions she said that she could not afford it so that is why we are not pressing the issue. Mr. Gene Sellers stated that smoke testing is only to detect large breaks it will not detect small leaks. There may be a lot of breaks that smoke testing will not detect that cause infiltration into the system. It is not only in that area, it is the entire City because the system is 50 to 75 years old. On rainy days, the water will seep*

into the system. We have done at least \$3,000,000 of leak repairs throughout the City. When you compare the dry weather flow to the wet weather flow at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, that has crept back up to the same point before we spent the \$3,000,000. You will not stop 100% of the infiltration. We have done a lot of work in Mount Carmel. Mayor Piazza stated that there are probably 7 or 8 homes in that neighborhood, as well as all over town, that we have tried over and over and nothing works except when we put a back-flow preventer in their yard. We have offered Mr. Atchetee this solution but he does not want one. Councilman Broussard asked Mr. Gene Sellers if he is aware of any municipality in the State of Louisiana that does not have water infiltration into their sewer system. Mr. Sellers none except if their sewer system is less than 10 years old. Mr. Atchetee asked for the list of names who received a letter. Mayor Piazza stated he would be glad to give him the list however all the leaks have been verified fixed. They submitted copies of their plumbers bills as verification of the repair.

Chief Tony Hardy

- *Need to raise the pay for the Police Department. They are being recruited by New Iberia Police Department because they are rebuilding their department. He worked almost 8 years averaging four short. He was 16 short at one time. He would hate for a new Chief to come in 16 people short. They can throw all their plans out of the window. If you don't fix this problem it will never be fixed. This is coming. It will happen again. New Iberia is looking at about 15 of his officers. Keep this in the back of your head. He would hate for the citizens to go with no law enforcement. Councilman Plaisance stated he has an idea that he will bring to the table later. Mr. Jim Ruiz stated this is happening all over the country. Medium size departments, like Abbeville, are proving grounds for officers to get established. You will be in a constant cycle of getting new people, training them then losing them unless you raise the pay. Ten years ago, average police pay was \$36,000.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Thanked the City Council for drainage improvements for District B.*
- *Thanked all the candidates for Police Chief for attending the public forum tonight.*
- *Asked Kathy Faulk to contact the New Iberia Police Department to asked about their budget. Asked Chief Hardy to find out the starting pay.*

Councilman Wayne Landry

- *Happy to say a few streets in his district have been re-paved.*
- *There was a glitch on the pump but we will work on that.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *There is a great display at the Cultural Center next door. It is about our town and our culture. He encourages everyone to visit the Cultural Center to view the display.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Bringing a plan for Police and Firemen to the table shortly.*

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to enter into executive session to discuss threatened or pending litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk explained the executive session was held to discuss threatened litigation and we discussed options to resolve it. We need a motion to authorize him to take action in accordance with either option one or option two.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the City Attorney to take action utilizing option 2. 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