

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on July 17, 2018 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, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Steve Moosa, CPA
Joseph Vallee', Municipal Civil Service Board
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion & Chamber of Commerce
Ronald Darby, Vermilion Parish Police Juror

Mayor Piazza stated we are here for our Committee meetings. We have two committees meeting tonight. One is the Finance Committee meeting chaired by Councilman Touchet and the other is the Ordinance Committee chaired by Councilwoman Broussard. He turned the floor over to Councilman Touchet.

Councilman Touchet stated we are here for the quarterly budget update. He asked Mr. Steve Moosa to discuss the update.

Mr. Moosa had distributed several handouts. The first one was the revenue analysis. The major revenues for the City are Sales Tax and the Utility Fund. When we compare the sales tax revenue from 2017 to 2018, 2018 is about \$46,000 higher. This an increase of 2.5%. We have received \$119,000 more revenue than we had budgeted for so we are 6.9% ahead of budget. The water revenue was also more this year than last year by about \$81,000. We are ahead of budget by \$73,000 or 8.3%. Sewer revenue is also more this year than last year about \$76,000. We are ahead of budget by about \$57,000 or 7.8%. The electric sales revenue is more than last year too which is about \$107,000. We are not ahead of budget however. We are about \$91,000 below the budgeted amount. We do the budget straight line so we should make that up in the coming hot months of July, August and September. We also sold 1,843,759 more kilowatts this year than last year. The second page is payroll and we are ahead of budget overall by 1.4%. The third page is departmental expenses. The general fund is ahead of budget by 1.3% and the utility system fund is ahead of budget 1.8%. The final handout was the cash balances. Your operating accounts are in better shape than last year. You have almost \$2,000,000 in the Capital outlay accounts. Your special purpose/non-operating accounts are down but this included the infrastructure account which were borrowed funds and had to be spent down for infrastructure improvements. That is why the position decreased. Debt service funds are \$204,317. Overall the cash balances are higher than they were this time last year. They are right in line as we expected. Councilman Touchet asked Mr. Moosa if we should watch anything. Mr. Moosa stated he expects the utility revenue to be in line since we are experiencing some very hot weather. Health insurance is currently in good shape. We are spending what we take in. Health insurance is the only unknown as you cannot plan the expenditures. At this time, it is funding itself.

Mayor Piazza stated the next committee is the Ordinance Committee chaired by Councilwoman Broussard. He turned the floor over to Councilwoman Broussard.

Councilwoman Broussard stated the first item for committee is to discuss the amendment of section 13-22 – open container. Mayor Piazza stated what prompted this discussion was the new smoking ban. We were concerned on how it will affect the historical districts and the

establishments downtown where we have an existing open container law. According to our law, you cannot sit at the tables at the Midway Restaurant on the sidewalk and drink your glass of wine and have your meal. That is what the ordinance says. The ordinance also prohibits anyone from being at some of the other establishments downtown like restaurants or bars to walk outside with their drink while they smoke a cigarette. We thought we would do something to allow that within certain parameters near the establishment. Mr. Funderburk stated the proposed ordinance has been distributed to everyone. Section (b) in Section 13-22 provides an exception to the general rule. It states the rule shall not apply to any establishment situated in the Historic and Community Preservation District which holds a valid and current class A and/or R permit. This applies to the patrons of the said establishment who are being served in a designated outdoor service/smoking area; or to individuals who are validly waiting, on the sidewalk immediately adjacent to the establishment, in a line or queue for seating in said establishment. For example, if you go to Dupuy's on Wednesday when they have their special on fried fish and you get there at the wrong time you will be waiting 45 minutes to get a seat. So, you go into the bar and get a beer and then you go outside on the bench to wait. We are saying that will be ok since you are in queue. If you are at the Midway and you want to eat outside, this allows this to happen. If you are at Kelvin's and it is packed and you need a break to get some fresh air and you want to enjoy your drink out there on the bench outside of Kelvin's. This makes that ok. Councilman Broussard asked Chief Spearman if he thinks this will be an enforcement issue. Chief Spearman stated he does not think this will cause a problem. They have not had problems before. The only problems occur when they start making the sidewalks a "Party Central". When they do not go back into the establishment and they hang out in front of the bars and it is on the main drag. This doesn't look good for our City. We have never had problems with restaurants. We will use common sense and judgement. If it gets out of hand, we will address it. Mr. Funderburk stated they have to remain adjacent to the establishment. They cannot go across the street. This amendment would go into effect the same time our smoking ban would.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance amending section 13-22 – Open Container, at their meeting scheduled for August 7, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Broussard stated the second item is to discuss the amendment of section 5-241 – use of wood/plywood in signs. Mr. Funderburk stated the sign ordinance is a work in progress. As we go down the road we find some people find a loophole. They put up a sign that is made out of wood or plywood. It costs about \$100 to \$150 to put that sign up. Then someone next door to them puts up a sign that they spent \$30,000 on. It is a really nice electronic sign. That is not in keeping in what we have going on. This situation came to us recently. As a result of this situation, he is suggesting that we amend the part of the ordinance that deals with materials, which is section 5-241. We will add subparagraph (d) which prohibits the use of wood or plywood in signs and in their support system in the Abbeville Corridor #1. This was brought to the Planning Commission today and they have approved this.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance to amend Section 5-241 – Use of wood/plywood in signs, at their meeting scheduled for August 7, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Broussard stated the final item is to discuss the adoption of Article V – Naming of Streets, section 16-50 – New Subdivisions and section 16-51 – Changing the name of an existing street. Mr. Funderburk stated we learned that we have nothing prohibiting the City Council from changing the name of a street tonight. This would impact everybody that lives on that street. By adopting this ordinance, we are trying to create a process that will work for the City. We looked at what other cities were doing. He utilized their good ideas and changed them to fit our situation. He also utilized the assistance of Donna and Clay. This would amend our existing Chapter 16 – Streets and Sidewalks, by adding Article V. This would create the two new sections. The first one places the burden on the developer in naming the streets in the new subdivision. He has the obligation to make sure the street names are not deceptively similar to the streets that we already have. The second section deals with changing the name of existing streets. We want to make it fair to honor the constituents who want to honor a family member or historical figure by renaming the street but we also want to balance that on the impact it will have on people that own property there

and live there. There is also a draft of the proposed processes and procedures that would be used to facilitate this. The Planning Commission will hammer out what needs to be done with the process and documents needed. We have only changed the name of 2 or 3 streets in the past 25 years but we need a procedure on file.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance adopting Article V – Naming of Streets, Section 16-50 – New Subdivisions and Section 16-51 – Changing the name of an existing street, at their meeting scheduled for August 7, 2018. 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