

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on July 19, 2016 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., Wayne Landry, Joe Hardy and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Tony Hardy, Police Chief  
Clay Menard, Public Works Director  
Steve Moosa, CPA

*Mayor Piazza stated we are here for two committee meetings. One is for the Finance Committee and the other one is for the Ordinance Committee. We will start with the Finance Committee chaired by Councilman Touchet.*

*Councilman Touchet stated we are here to discuss the status of our budget. He introduced Mr. Steve Moosa to provide the update.*

*Mr. Moosa distributed a packet showing the revenue analysis for the first six months of 2016 compared to 2015. Sales tax revenue is down however we had anticipated this decrease. It is down by \$150,000 or about 8.5%. Water and sewer revenue is slightly down from the prior year and we had anticipated a slight increase in this year's budget. The weather plays a large part on this especially if we have a wet spring and people don't water as much. Sewer usage is based on water usage. The electrical sales revenue is down too by about \$100,000. This is due to a mild winter and spring. We have had less usage. Mayor Piazza discussed the KWH sold for the last four years. January, February and March were the lowest month in four years. In April we had a small increase over 2013 and 2014 but still less than 2015. May was almost the lowest in four years and in June we did spike because of the heat comparable to 2014 and 2015. We had a substantial decrease the first five months of the year. KWH sold is down about 7%. There is nothing we can do about the economy and sales tax is driven by the economy. Electrical revenues are climate driven and again there is nothing we can do about that. This is the mildest winter and spring we have had in four years. It is a pretty big number and it is a concern. Hopefully we will catch up this summer but it has a long way to go. Councilman Broussard stated we did have a 20% bump in our electrical usage in June. If that continues then it will heal a little bit of what we saw in the spring. We did see a big correction in June. Mr. Moose he also presented a departmental payroll budget analysis and departmental expenditures budget analysis. All departments were in budget. He also showed the trend of cash balances for the last 5 years. You have \$6.5 million in cash. A couple of years ago a reserve account was set up in the Utility System Fund. You have about \$1.2 million in that fund now. We didn't have that three years ago. Your operating cash is down slightly because revenue is down but you have a cushion to absorb short term expenditures. The health insurance fund is at break-even now. What we are taking in is just enough to pay claims and premiums. We had planned in our budget to increase the transfers but we have not done that. Before the end of the year, you may want to make an additional transfer to build up that balance. We will monitor that in the next few months. There are no surprises here as we anticipated most of this. Councilman Touchet asked Steve if there were any recommendations at this time. Mr. Moosa stated right now there is nothing dramatic but you can always monitor overtime as needed. Those are things you can control. Salaries are a fixed cost but overtime can be monitored. Your cash position is in good shape so you can handle the next six months. Mayor Piazza stated he agrees with Steve that we should monitor overtime, as usual, and has asked all department heads to spend prudently. We are not short in any departments and are not actively hiring except for the*

Police Department tonight. He thanked the Council for establishing the Utility Reserve Account. Councilman Broussard thanked the Mayor for the great job he does on a daily basis. Councilman Plaisance also commended the Mayor and all the department heads. Councilman Touchet wants to make sure all overtime is approved by the Mayor. He also wants to hold another Finance Committee meeting in three months.

Mayor Piazza stated we will take up items 1 and 2 of the Ordinance Committee.

Councilman Wayne Landry just arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Funderburk stated when we last met in Committee there was some concern about fences that divide commercial and residential property. In Section 5-10, we saw the best way to solve that problem was to amend the landscape ordinance to give us a definition of what a fence is. They use the term barrier so we changed that to fence as defined by Section 5-221 and regulated by 5-225. Both of those are in the landscaping ordinance. We amended the language so that the fence between commercial and residential property shall be not less than 8 feet in height and shall be constructed of opaque material in accordance with provision of section 5-225, 5-226 and 5-227, all of which are new ordinances in the landscape section. We have two new definitions in Article VIII, Landscape, Section 5-221. The first one is fences and the other one is line of sight. Richard has been concerned about this. You have to be able to see in both directions at an intersection at a specified distance. You have to have a clear line of vision to see if a car is coming. Section 5-225 also deals with fences. No fence may conflict with a public servitude or public structure. You cannot build a fence on a city right of way. Fences may not also block the function and flow of public storm water system. All fences shall be constructed by materials approved by the Planning Commission. Chain link fences are not allowed between commercial and residential properties. Fences may be built at a height of 5 feet to 7 feet without a permit, except between a commercial and residential property. The reason for that is because that is what the international building codes dictate. The higher the fence then the more likely you have to have engineering in it. If you build it up to the height of 13 feet, it becomes a wall. It really has to be constructed to a heavier degree than a six foot fence. In 5-226 we get into line of sight. This is to protect the motorist, pedestrian and bicyclist when they come to an intersection. The sight line and curb lines of the street intersection represents sight triangles that need to be free from obstructions. This prohibits someone from constructing a seven foot fence all the way to the property line. It has to come down to a minimum of three feet. You cannot plant trees that obstruct the line of vision of the motorist.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to recommend to the City Council at their next meeting scheduled for August 2, 2016 to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 5 pertaining to fences and the separation of commercial and residential areas and Article VII, Landscaping, Section 5-211 and to add Sections 5-225 through 5-227. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk stated item 3 and 4 are virtually the same thing. When the ordinance pertaining to modular buildings was drafted, a word got into the definition that made no sense. It originally read: A modular building means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is eight body feet or more in width and twenty body feet in length... We need to remove the word body and just have it listed as 8 feet and 20 feet.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to recommend to the City Council at their meeting scheduled for August 2, 2016 to consider an ordinance to amend Article I, Section 11-2 and Chapter 11 both pertaining to the definition of a modular building. 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