

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on July 3, 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, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr. and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Bill Spearman, Police Chief  
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney  
Clay Menard, Public Works Director  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Tom Carroll, Engineer  
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board

*Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Roslyn White to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meetings held on June 5, 2018 and June 19, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to accept the resignation of Randall Simon from the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the probational appointments of Kaitlyn Rudisill and Jacob Richard to the position of Police officer in the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

*Chief Spearman wanted to recognize Sergeant Trent Guidry and Sergeant Eugene Rougeau. These two officers were called out the other night to one of our local businesses. The situation could have been very bad. It ended up on social media. These gentlemen, through verbal and non-escalation, were able to stop the situation. He received a lot of thank you calls for them. They did a great job and they carried on a very proud tradition for our department. He will be sending a letter of commendation for each Council member and the Mayor to sign.*

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

-04 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to table item number 2, Mr. Larry Rader – candidate for U. S. Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, since Mr. Rader was not at the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza discussed and presented the committees for the new City Council term. Each Council Member will chair two committees. The committees are as follows:

*Councilman Francis Plaisance – Parks Committee and Public Safety Committee  
Councilwoman Roslyn White – Tourism & Economic Development Committee and  
Utilities Committee.*

*Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. – Finance Committee and Airport Committee  
Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. – Insurance Committee and Recreation Committee  
Councilwoman Terry Broussard – Ordinance Committee and Streets & Sidewalks  
Committee.*

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to ratify the committee appointments as presented by the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously.

*Mayor Mark Piazza asked if there were any Council appointments that the Council Members wanted to make. Councilwoman Terry Broussard stated she wanted to appoint Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilman Plaisance stated as Councilman at Large, he is the only Council Member who truly represents all citizens of Abbeville. He is the only one that is elected by all of the City to serve the needs of our citizens in all four districts. For the past 12 years he has faithfully served as Mayor Pro-Tem under Mayor Piazza and he wants to continue as such.*

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to appoint Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr. as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(T. Broussard, B. Broussard,Jr., R. White)  
NAYS: 1(F. Plaisance)  
ABSTAIN: 1(F. Touchet, Jr.)  
ABSENT: 0

Therefore, the motion carried.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to appoint the firm of Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick as the CPA/Auditor. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to appoint the engineering firm of Primeaux, Touchet & Associates, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to appoint the engineering firm of Sellers and Associates, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee from their meeting held on July 3, 2018 to approve and accept the audit for the fiscal year ended 12/31/17. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve the State Street sidewalk project from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Family Dollar. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. stated this sidewalk will help to get the pedestrians off of State Street that are walking to the Family Dollar Store. The property owners have already agreed to*

*this and have given easements as needed for this. The project is estimated to cost around \$37,000 but we are awaiting the receipt of quotes. The constituents in our City saw the danger of the children walking along State Street to get to the Family Dollar and requested this. No State approval is needed because of the way we are doing the project. We are going across Mr. Maxie Magnon's concrete. A lot of it is already paved and we have the easements from the property owners who agreed to this project.*

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve pay estimate #2 in the amount of \$46,800.00 payable to Minvielle Lumber for the Hebert Fire Substation #2. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. stated the property owners adjacent to the fire station may be interested in selling their property to the City in the future.*

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to appoint Councilwoman Roslyn White to the Vermilion Economic Development Alliance Board. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. Touchet, Jr./B. Broussard, Jr.  
Resolution R18-17**

*A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents for the DOTD grant for the Abbeville Airport Terminal Building.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *It looks like the settlement at the John Hardy Bridge has stopped. We will give it one more month. We are monitoring the situation every week.*
- *Thanked the Council for the re-appointment as engineer.*
- *Councilwoman White asked if Hebert Fire Station is on schedule. Mr. Primeaux stated it was still on schedule to be completed in November.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *Today we had a pre-construction meeting for the UV System at the Wastewater Plant. It will take about 10 to 12 weeks to receive the equipment and about 2 to 3 weeks to install it.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *It is an honor to be up here with our two new Councilwomen. He wished them the best of luck over the next four years.*
- *Congratulated Chief Spearman. The first day on the job was quite an active one with the arrest of the two Gremlin Gang members.*
- *He appreciated what Chief Spearman did last night. He was asked to get security over at the park last night for a tournament. He was a little short handed so the Chief went himself to provide the security. He looks great in that uniform.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *While we were on the pursuit and arrest of those two gentlemen, Sergeant Todd O'Bryan, SPO Scot Roberson, SPO Brittany Hebert, Sergeant Eugene Rougeau and Lieutenant Jason Hebert took part in this pursuit. They took it all the way to Lafayette from Abbeville. We*

were thankful that no one was injured. The two gentlemen did cause a couple of accidents. We were able to take two people off the streets who didn't really care. We were able to solve three cases. We were able to recover a stolen gun from Vermilion, a stolen vehicle from Lafayette and a stolen license plate from the UL campus. He also wanted to recognize Sergeant Castille who came out and helped Lieutenant Hebert finish up the investigation. Our officers in our department are doing great jobs. He will have a letter of commendation for the Mayor and Council to sign for each of these officers.

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *Thank you to the citizens of District A for trusting her to serve them on the Council. It is an honor. She looks forward to working with each of them moving forward to try and make a difference in our community.*
- *Wanted to commend the Chief and the Police team for their work. It takes team work and great communication to get things done. That was very obvious on Sunday. Thank you for your hard work.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *We are not getting any type of frequency from the Police Jury in getting trash picked up from the side of the road. He contacted Ronald Darby and Wayne Touchet. The very first question that they had was that the Council has a presentative on the Public Works Committee. He wanted to know who is our representative that is supposed to be going to these meetings. Our voices are not being heard because the Police Jurors are saying no one is attending the meetings. Councilman Plaisance stated he was at the last meeting last Wednesday night. Councilman Touchet asked what was decided that would keep them from coming back into the City for one month. Councilman Plaisance stated that at the meeting Wednesday night, they are in the process of negotiating with a different company for garbage pickup. As far as trash, all they did was go back and forth with that. Mayor Piazza stated he used to attend the meetings but he felt like the committee did not have any authority. They did not discuss a whole lot of that. That committee is supposed to have a representative of all six municipalities. The committee's actions can be overturned by the Police Jurors at the very next meeting. Clay Menard stated he attends when he is notified of the meeting. He has not received the last few notifications. Mayor Piazza stated their public works committee discusses more issues than just trash pickup. Clay Menard stated they discuss everything from mosquito control to solid waste and rabies. Mayor Piazza stated it is a lot of different issues that we are not involved in. Councilman Touchet stated he was told that the protocol is to go to the Parish Administrator and tell him what our concerns are, as far as pickup. Can we get from him what the schedule is for pick up and make it public record so all the citizens will know what it is? Mayor Piazza stated he thinks Ike should draft a letter to the Parish Administrator requesting that information and telling him that we had concerns that were discussed at this Council meeting. The discussion that he had with Ronald Darby is that he and Wayne and one of the other Police Juror's that represent Abbeville were dissatisfied with the changes that were made in the trash pickup. There are sixteen votes on the Policy Jury and they were outvoted. They were asking for our assistance to write a letter to the Parish Administrator to put it back the way it was. From what he understands is that they do not have the votes to put it back the way it was. He encouraged all Council Members to attend the meetings to voice their concerns. Councilman Touchet asked Clay to tell Nicole when the meetings are.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *The next Farmers Market is 7/14/18.*

- *The American Legion is selling Sugartown watermelons. They are using the funds to provide scholarships.*
- *He and the Mayor attended the APPA convention in New Orleans. He brought back fantastic information regarding other cities and how they do business, their rates and their equipment. Mayor Piazza stated one of the things that was stressed was about service to the constituents and making them aware of the service we offer. An example of that is today around the noon hour, we lost power from the Shop Rite north for about 30 minutes. From the time that the power went out, our employees from the electrical crew responded, found the problem, fixed the problem and had everybody's lights back on in about a 30 to 35 minute period. If we had to rely on some other entity like CLECO or Entergy or SLEMCO, it would take them that long just to drive here. Having our own crew is a tremendous benefit.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked the citizens of District D for this great honor.*
- *Thanked everyone who has been so kind to her including Councilwoman White, Ike, Clay and everyone else. She really appreciates it. She is looking forward to doing a lot of work for the constituents for District D and the City as a whole.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Thanked the Mayor and Council Members for allowing him to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for the last 12 years. He did it with great pleasure and respect. He appreciated the opportunity to represent the City in every opportunity he could.*
- *Reminded everyone this Friday from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, they will be serving lunch for everyone who helped with the Cleanest City Contest at the Red Barn.*
- *Asked Ike to provide an update of the status of the old Schwegmann building.*
- *Requested the status of the panic button at Mount Carmel Elementary and Vermilion Catholic schools.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza  
Mayor