

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on March 21, 2017 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, 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
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Denise Mouton, Park Director
Tracette Hillman, Municipal Employees Civil Service Director
Mike Mouton, Vector Aviation
Vanessa Anseman, candidate for judge for 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals

Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Wayne Landry to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Ms. Vanessa Anseman to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meeting held on February 21, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the probational appointment of Cody Menard and Shawn Lastrapes to the position of Police Officer with the Abbeville Police Department, pending successful completion of all post-hire assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tracette Hillman reported that she had proposed the Park Director position title, job description and pay range to the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board at their last meeting. This is the same that was given to the and approved by the City Council at their last meeting. The City Council had offered the position to the current Interim Parks and Recreation Director, Denise Mire. The job description and pay range is the middle of the Parks and Recreation Director and the Administration Assistant to the Parks and Recreation Director due to the recreation aspect being removed since QSA will be doing that function. A new classification does not need to be made and no advertisement is needed. It is the view of the Board that the City Council may appoint the person currently in the role as Park Director at a rate of \$13.53. Councilman Broussard thanked Tracette for her work on this and is glad the Civil Service Board saw it the same way the Council did. Mayor Piazza stated this was voted on unanimously at the last Civil Service Board and the Board Attorney, Woody Woodruff, concurred with the ruling. Mayor Piazza recommends Denise for the job. She has done a wonderful job. He has no

complaints about her work performance. Councilman Plaisance thanked Denise for her service during this difficult time.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to appoint Denise Mire to the position of Park Director at a rate of \$13.53 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Landry asked Tracette if there are any vacant positions. Tracette stated we currently have one vacant position in the Street Maintenance Department. It is the Maintenance Worker 1 position. The position was offered to someone today and they accepted it. Councilman Touchet asked why we only have four people working in the Street Maintenance Department but only one opening. Tracette stated we have one person out on worker's compensation and he is under treatment. Clay Menard stated we still have the program from the State for assistance after the flood. We have one of our employees that is supervising those two employees. We have eight workers in the Street Maintenance Department. We had one vacancy, which we are filling today, we have one person out on worker's comp and the other worker is supervising the two workers we received free with the State program. That makes three short. If one person calls in sick, or is pulled to assist another department then we have one four man crew. Tracette stated the City is eligible to hire temporary workers under these circumstances. Mayor Piazza asked how much longer will the two workers from the State be here. Tracette stated we will have them for one year. Clay Menard stated the workers started in late October or the beginning of November. They were pulled from us for a while since the contractor that is handling the two workers is new. Mayor Piazza stated we have one guy tied up with the two workers from the State. We are getting our money's worth because we have two free workers. Unfortunately they cannot cut grass. Couldn't we have a provisional person to replace the guy that is supervising the State workers and also the one on worker's comp leave? That would warrant the temporary employment of two people to get us through this spring time. Tracette stated they could providing it is in the budget. Mayor Piazza stated we would need them about 90 days. He asked Tracette if we had other eligibles on the list. Tracette stated she did. Mayor Piazza stated it would not stress our budget if we utilize them for 90 days. He asked Tracette to hire two provisionals.

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

Ms. Vanessa Anseman was at the meeting to discuss her candidacy for Judge for the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Anseman stated she has been side tracked since the last time she was in Abbeville on the campaign trail. As of yesterday, at about 10:30 AM, everything that is going on pertaining whether or not she was qualified to run was resolved by the 3rd Circuit. She prevailed. She is on the ballot. Technically, she was never off of the ballot. She is running because she believes that politics should have no role or influence in our courts. Judges are not elected to run anyone's agenda or to serve some political faction. She was fighting that fight herself. It was completely political. Her opponents enlisted the help of a D A in St. Landry Parish. Our courts tax payer monies were used as a conduit and as a way to campaign against her. When the judge walked in it was clear that the judgement had already been written. It is textbook legislating from the bench. She is in no one's back pocket. What happened to her should not happen at all. Our laws should be strictly construed otherwise you open the door for judges to make up their own laws. We don't need to open the flood gates and have precedence on the books. This could have been detrimental to our election process. She is from Baton Rouge. She is the most qualified because of her legal experience. She graduated in the top 10% from LSU law school. She worked for Jones Walker first then Liskow and Lewis. Her practice there consisted of ligation. She was a defensive attorney. She defended oil and gas companies

and service companies. She also dealt with cases involving maritime law and worker's compensation. Those are the types of cases that go before the 3rd Circuit. The court has an enormous impact. She was admitted in 2003 and starting practicing then. She decided to stop practicing in 2012 to take care of her Father who had Alzheimer's. She is a full time mom.

Plaisance/Hardy

Resolution R17-06

A resolution requesting DOTD to conduct a traffic study to research the feasibility of creating a turning lane on Highway 167 when turning onto Alan Lane.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Touchet

Resolution R17-07

A resolution adopting the annual Louisiana compliance questionnaire for the audit of fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Touchet

Resolution R17-08

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the fixed based operator agreement/lease with Vector Aviation, LLC to require Vector to perform safety functions at the airport as approved by FAA and DOTD.

The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *Discussed the repair to the clarifier at the Water Treatment Plant. The crew started the cut down on Tuesday of last week. They were able to clean all components of the clarifier. Broussard Brothers will do the installation. The old bearing was removed Monday and the new bearing will be in today. Hopefully we will have the clarifier back in service tomorrow night. After that we will have a one day wash down. It will take some time to clear the lines. If the water is still discolored by Monday then we can begin flushing. Chief Mire stated his firemen can begin flushing and testing the hydrants since they had to stop the annual flushing because of the repair work. They were only able to complete about 1/3 of the City previously so this would give them an opportunity to complete the other 2/3.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Sounds on the Square is this Thursday night.*

Police Chief Tony Hardy

- *The Relay for Life is scheduled for April 1, 2017 in Magdalen Square from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Because of Daylight saving time, he is concerned about kids waiting at the bus stops. It is dark while some of the kids wait for their buses. We need to make sure all street lights are operating. Clay Menard stated he would contact Ken Small with the School Board to ask his bus drivers to notify him of any problems.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Cleanest City contest is coming up very soon. Call Chief Hardy if you see anyone littering.*
- *Welcomed the two new police officers, Mr. Menard and Mr. Lastrapes.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *He went to the RV Park to welcome the Airstream campers. It is wonderful to have them here. They are from all over the United States. He asked Chief Hardy to have extra patrols at the RV Park for them.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary- Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor