

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on March 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
Tom Carroll, Engineer
Pastor Lane Payne
Members of NAUW Vermilion Region Branch
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber and American Legion
Brian Davison and Pamela Noel, Constellation

Mayor Piazza asked Pastor Lane Payne to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Chief Tony Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 6, 2018 and February 20, 2018 and the public hearing held on February 6, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Pastor Lane Payne made a formal invitation to all the elected officials. On Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 6:00 PM, they will be showing a documentary by David Barton on our Constitution and its founding. There have been many attempts to mess up what was written when our nation was founded. David Barton is the foremost authority in America on our founding fathers and the Constitution. He has been invited to five different nations to help them restructure their constitution. He mailed an invitation to each one of the elected officials but he also wanted to come today to issue a public invitation to our elected officials. We would like you to be there. It is open to the community. It will be very enlightening. It is at their church.

Ms. Esther Duffy, with NAUW Vermilion Region Branch, invited the Mayor and City Council to attend the dedication of the newest birdhouse library to be placed at McKinley Scott Park. The birdhouse library is in memory of the young girl, Paige, who was killed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade in 2017. The dedication is scheduled for March 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to table any action on the contract for grass cutting for the Lafitte Drive-In Park until the first meeting in April. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Broussard

Resolution R18-05

A resolution supporting the efforts of St. Mary Community Agency/Headstart in its participation in the re-competition process.

The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve a special event permit for PUSH to hold a bike ride on March 17, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM to raise money to repair the Old Herod Gym, pending Chief Hardy's approval of the route and the receipt of a certificate of insurance and also to waive the permit fees. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to table any action to approve the quote from F & R Air Conditioning, Inc. in the amount of \$11,800.00 for a new heating/cooling unit for City Court in order to receive more quotes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated there has been some discussion about washing and painting the City Court building and the Police Jury has agreed to help. We do not have anything in the budget for these expenses. Councilman Plaisance asked what will City Court contribute to these expenses. Councilman Touchet stated they should have requested to have this in this year's budget. The air conditioner is an unexpected expense but we could have scheduled the washing and painting in the building. Ike Funderburk stated he would have a conversation with the Judge tomorrow.

-06 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the estimate in the amount of \$10,751.00 for the City Hall underground electrical project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza commended the young men from the ARC who have been doing the work on the flower beds at City Hall. They are doing a fantastic job.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the quote from Wesco in the amount of \$5,249.58 for wire for the electrical department stock. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve a variance from the noise ordinance to allow Thompson Brothers Construction to pour concrete between 3:00 AM and 4:00 AM for the construction of the Abbeville Community Health Clinic located on the corner of Charity and North Lyman. The contractor will return to another City Council meeting to give the exact date. The motion carried unanimously.

The contractor stated this is necessary due to the number of trucks that will be needed. There is less traffic this early in the morning. He expects the pour to occur in the middle of April. He will let the City know when the exact date of the pour will happen.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Joe Hardy to table any action at this time on the quote from Elliott Construction in the amount of \$78,822.00 for the sewer extension along Carolyn Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated because of the depth of the line this causes this sewer extension to be expensive for just a few households. He thinks they can make a few adjustments to the plan and shallow the line up and we may be able to do the work in-house with our own crew. It may take some work from a contractor to build a manhole. Please give him an opportunity to work on this further to get the price reduced.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize advertisement for bids for the replacement of the U. V. system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Joe Hardy and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to accept the completion of the demolition of the Hebert Fire Substation #2 and to approve payment of \$19,150.00 to Acadiana Shell & Limestone, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- *The bridge on John Hardy Drive is in place. The asphalt crew should be here next week. After that we have to wait for State approval to reopen the bridge. Hopefully that will happen in about two weeks.*

Tom Carroll, Engineer

- *Received an email this afternoon. Mike Domingue with the Office of Parks has given us the approval to move forward with the recreational trail grant application for a new recreational trail at Lafitte Drive-In Park. The application is due July 2, 2018.*

Chief Tony Hardy

- *Discussed the alarm systems for the schools as requested by Councilman Plaisance and Councilman Touchet. We contacted COX, Kaptel and Acadian Security. COX has not yet given us a price. They are working on getting something together. Kaptel called us and they do not have an exact number. They will have to go to every school to see who has cable and who doesn't. It is a long and tedious project but they would be willing to do it. Acadian Security sent in a quote. The quote is the bare minimal without going into the school. This price will change. This alarm will be the same as any alarm. There is room for human error. As far as the alarm going straight into the unit, AT&T said it might be possible but you are looking at tens of thousand of dollars to do that. They have not submitted anything on paper. These alarms are the same as banks. Councilman Plaisance stated he would like us to pursue this idea. This is about our kids. We need to protect our kids in the schools. Somebody should be able to do this at a reasonable price. A representative from Acadian Security is here tonight. The representative stated the quote they submitted is really a guess. There are so many different systems out there. A decision would have to be made on how many buttons you would need for each school. Once we know we can better determine the range of the wireless signal. Councilman Touchet stated that the button should be in the front office. The problem he has is that if the signal goes to a dispatcher and the dispatcher does not answer it. How can we not have a system whereby when you push the button, it is tied into our radio system of police officers all over the City. It would be a message that would go through the radios. That is what we want. We do not need multiple buttons. We only need one. The quote is \$1,600.00 and then \$29.00 per month. The representative stated that quote is for 4 wireless buttons.*

We don't have access to the police radio system. Our monitoring system cannot communicate and interface with your system. There is no security company that can provide that. This would be a text message as well as a call to the dispatcher. Councilman Plaisance asked what happens when the button is pushed. The representative stated it goes to their central monitoring station. Then the central monitoring station dispatches to the police department. The text alert will be simultaneously to those numbers in the system. Mayor Piazza asked why the button couldn't go straight to 911. The representative stated if we have your panel dial directly into 911, then 911 will only get the panel signal. It will not be definite information about location. Councilman Touchet wants to avoid 911. When the button is pressed he wants it to ring a special phone in the dispatcher's office. We want a special protocol for the schools in order to reduce the amount of time it takes to get someone there. Mayor Piazza asked if anybody has communicated with the school board. Councilman Touchet stated they have not because they wanted to come up with the system before approaching the school board. If they don't want it its ok. We are willing to pay for this and if they refuse it, let it be on them, not us. Mayor Piazza stated we would need an intergovernmental agreement with them. We can't just give the school board money. You would need a special intergovernmental agreement that they would have to agree to and you would have to justify the funding of this and then get something in return from the school board. That is the constitutional law. Councilman Touchet asked Ike to get something together than we can bring to them. That is just paperwork. We are looking for one button because we have a single point of entry. We have the best security for our schools in the parish. You can't go to Herod Elementary without someone letting you into that school. Councilman Plaisance stated we are looking for one button at the receptionist desk.

Councilman Wayne Landry

- *He is working with an organization that will bring summer jobs to the youth.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Thursday, 3/15/18 is the first Sounds on the Square of the season. Saturday, 3/17/18 is the first Farmers Market of the season.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *March 23, 2018 and March 24, 2018 is the circus at the Louisiana Cattle Festival grounds on Rodeo Road.*

-12 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.

-13 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk stated the executive session was held to bring together and discuss a possible closeout of a piece of litigation between us and Constellation, who is our electrical wholesale provider. The Council had previously authorized him to try and settle the situation by working out, what was know as, Resolution Option #2. He is pleased to inform them that they have successfully done so. He has a resolution here which will authorize the Mayor to execute a settlement agreement and release and an amended and restated extension for our power purchase agreement in order to bring this situation to a closure.

Broussard/Landry
Resolution R18-06

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the "Settlement Agreement and Release" and the "Amended and Restated Extension of the Power Purchase Agreement dated February 26, 2013" and to do and perform all acts necessary in the premises.

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