

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met for a committee meeting on May 15, 2018 at 5:15 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  
Jude Mire, Fire Chief  
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager  
Richard Primeaux, Engineer  
Tom Carroll, Engineer  
Roslyn R. White, District A Councilwoman-Elect  
Terry Y. Broussard, District D Councilwoman-Elect  
Eric Adcock, Kathy Richard & Renee Stansbury

*Mayor Piazza stated we are here for an Ordinance Committee meeting chaired by Councilman Landry. He turned the floor over to Councilman Landry.*

*Councilman Landry stated there is only one item and it is a discussion to adopt an ordinance to ban smoking in all bars. Councilman Plaisance had asked for this to be placed on the agenda so he turned the floor over to Councilman Plaisance.*

*Councilman Plaisance stated in 2015 Councilman Landry initiated the effort to ban smoking in public places. Tonight, we want to tighten up the ordinance. In Louisiana, there are 12 cities and 3 parishes that have banned smoking in public places including bars and gaming establishments. This is the kind of direction we want to go. He introduced Kathy Richard and Renee Stansbury. He turned the floor over to Mr. Ike Funderburk.*

*Mr. Funderburk stated the proposed amendment to Section 9-38, which prohibits smoking in public places. It also gives a non-exclusive listing of those places. The amendment adds bars and gaming or bingo facilities to the list where smoking is prohibited. This is a health issue.*

*Ms. Stansbury stated she is here to make your job easier to make your community a healthier community. This ordinance is a step in the right direction. We want to protect the health of all workers. Louisiana was recognized at a national level for the smoke-free work that we are doing. There are 16 states that have a state-wide ban. Louisiana is not one of them so we are working at a local level. New Orleans is smoke-free. Alexandria was the first in the state to go smoke-free. Baton Rouge will be smoke-free beginning June 1, 2018. Lafayette is also smoke-free.*

*Councilman Touchet asked Mr. Funderburk what the steps would be to adopt this. Mr. Funderburk stated it would first go to the City Council to be adopted at their next meeting. In our discussions earlier with the Mayor, we talked about the effective date of the ordinance. Conditionally, the ordinance usually goes into effect 30 days after publication. Since this is something that will impact some businesses, the Mayor has suggested that we make this effective September 1, 2018.*

*Mr. Eric Adcock is a resident in Abbeville and a musician. He is also a member of the Abbeville Planning Commission. He travels internationally. He wants to encourage the Council to ban smoking in bars. Second hand cigarette smoke doesn't just contaminate the air, it contaminates the experience. There is nothing hospitable about bars where patrons have to breathe in cancer causing second hand smoke. It puts our people and their guests' health at risk. It is unfair and undeniably dangerous that patrons and staff are exposed to toxins of second hand cigarette smoke. Other cities have contemplated the harmful effects to businesses that banning smoking may have but in fact the opposite has been the result. It has*

*been his experience when performing in smoke-free environments in the state and across the country that attendance and business thrives. He is amazed, when he plays in smoke-free venues, of the new fans who chose to come out because it is smoke-free. They would normally stay home instead of supporting our local culture because they didn't want to be exposed to cigarette smoke and come home smelling like an ashtray. Second hand smoke chokes our bystanders and our culture. He hopes the Council will ban smoking in our bars to provide a more enjoyable experience. We owe it to our citizens and guests to get this done.*

*Councilman Plaisance stated that second hand smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals. 70 of those chemicals cause cancer. Councilman Broussard added that 34% of all deaths are from tobacco.*

*Mayor Piazza recognized Councilwoman-elect Roslyn White and Terry Broussard. Councilwoman-elect White stated she is all for a smoke-free Abbeville.*

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to recommend to the City Council to adopt an ordinance banning smoking in all bars and gaming or bingo establishments within the City of Abbeville at their next meeting scheduled for June 5, 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