

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on May 15, 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
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Lee Schexnaider, Wastewater Plant Superintendent
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Tom Carroll, Engineer
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber & the American Legion
Roslyn R. White, District A Councilwoman-Elect
Terry Y. Broussard, District D Councilwoman-Elect
Debbie Garrot, Abbeville Film & Visitors Commission
Mrs. Vana Plaisance

Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Wayne Landry to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr. to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of April 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza informed the Council that he has received three resignations all from the electrical department in the last three weeks. That is a critical department and those positions are difficult to fill. We have been advertising for a couple of weeks for a Lineworker position but have had no luck. They are two Apprentice Lineworker positions and one Lineworker 2 position.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments on any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

Mr. Gerald Gaspard asked what the reason was for the resignations. Mayor Piazza stated one has already left because of his wife's health and he wanted to be closer to Lafayette. Also, his father works in that business so he was going work for his father. The other two have not yet left so he cannot discuss that.

MUNICIPAL BOARD REPORTS

Main Street report given by Charlene Beckett. They had a very successful spring Sounds on the Square. We had great weather. The Blacksmith Shop is very busy in the spring. The Crusin' Cajun Country Cars will be visiting on Thursday. Roots Square and the Farmers Market paired up on Saturday April 22nd. The City received a grant to create a mural and hire an artist. It was a paint by number and people just showed up and picked a color and painted. The City workers

transported this huge mural very tenderly. They took special care of it. The Daylily Festival is June 2nd and we have 38 vendors coming.

Keep Abbeville Beautiful report given by Charlene Beckett. We were first in the district in the Cleanest City Contest. We placed 2nd in the State Cleanest City Contest behind Pineville. She thanked Clay Menard, Marlon Batiste and all the City Workers for their help. She would really love to win for all the work that they put into it. They do such a good job. We are grateful for them. The Civic Pride Award will go to Laporte Appraisal and Woody and Linda Woodruff. Councilman Plaisance expressed his condolences for Liz Gremilion. She recently loss her husband and she is a vital member of the Garden Club. Councilman Touchet complimented Charlene for her work.

Abbeville Planning Commission report given by Ike Funderburk. The Commission met today and approve two sign applications.

Parks and Recreation had no report. Councilman Landry said the park is very clean.

***Touchet/Broussard
Ordinance 18-03***

An ordinance amending Chapter 4, Animals and Fowl, Section 4-1 – Definitions; Owner.

The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

<i>YEAS:</i>	<i>5(Plaisance, Broussard, Landry, Hardy, Touchet)</i>
<i>NAYS:</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>ABSENT:</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>ABSTAIN:</i>	<i>0</i>

Therefore, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to table the approval of the workers compensation proposal for coverage from 5/19/18 through 5/19/19 because the City will receive another proposal tomorrow. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Francis Plaisance discussed the vision for Lafitte Drive-In Park. He distributed a proposed layout prepared by Mr. Gene Sellers. It shows where the walking trail, fishing pier and other features are planned. Councilman Touchet has been working on the old tourist center building to renovate it into a meeting room for the public. Councilman Touchet and Councilman Broussard are both working on a new terminal at the Airport. Councilman Broussard has been working on a downtown streetscape project for a while and it going to happen in 2019. Councilman Hardy's district, soon to be Councilwoman White's district, is getting a brand-new fire station. Councilman Landry's district, soon to be Councilwoman Broussard's district, has the brand-new Lafitte Drive-In Park. We have recently approved the new sign. That will be in soon. The sign is similar to what we had before in order to hold on to the history of the park. We have utilities at the park that were installed by our crews. We hope to have the park in a position soon to open. We spoke about acquiring the additional 13 acres adjacent to the park. There is so much potential out there. He has been to several parks around the area to see how their parks are set up and to get ideas. This park can be used for several things like festivals and RV parking. We can eventually put a permanent stage with the help of private donations. We could slowly develop that park utilizing grants and donations for the use of the citizens. This is the prettiest park in Vermilion Parish. He spoke with Peggy Ashley and the family will be meeting later this month to discuss selling the rest of the property to the City. They understand that we cannot

purchase it for more than the appraised price. He wanted to authorize the Mayor to get the appraisal. When we sold the property at the Airport to Technical Industries, we agreed we would utilize the money to purchase additional property. We did utilize a portion of those funds to purchase the current park property so we should use more of those funds to purchase these additional acres if we can. It would enhance the park. Scouts can camp out there. There would be something for everybody. It will not be a sports park like baseball or football. It will be a family park. Councilman Landry would like to have an Easter Sunrise Service there next year. If you have a chance, please go out there. It is beautiful. It is very unique. This park is his passion. Councilman Touchet stated the idea is great but we should wait for the other two Council members to take office. He is also concerned about the costs associated with the park. We need to slow this down and not rush it. Councilman Plaisance stated we will utilize grants to develop the park. We have already applied for a grant for the walking trail. The Scouts have already agreed to make the picnic tables. Also, we need to partner with local companies to sponsor other things. Ms. Roslyn White stated she is pro-green space in the City but she knows what it costs to maintain a park. She was under the impression the park was only going to be developed through grants. You should not spend money to purchase additional land until you know what the end product is and if you will get the grants. Her constituents think the City is not taking care of the parks they already have. Councilman Landry stated we are getting ahead of ourselves. We are only authorizing the Mayor to get an appraisal. Councilman Broussard stated he agrees it doesn't hurt to get the appraisal. That does not commit us to a purchase. Councilman Touchet asked who would pay for the appraisal. Councilman Broussard stated if the Mayor feels we cannot afford the appraisal then that would be his decision. The cost of an appraisal is not much. Mayor Piazza stated we have a lot of large projects that came in overbudget. We have also made some commitments with the tennis courts and the splash pad. We have the project at the Airport, the Fire Station, the Streetscape project and the UV system at the wastewater treatment plant. We also need to put in drying beds and a training tower at Lafitte Drive-In Park. Sales tax money is placed on some of these and will run out before it is over. We will have to dig into the reserves to do some of these projects. If we have the extra money, he would like to see us purchase the property. Councilman Broussard stated Palmetto State Park would not have opened without corporate sponsorship. We are the only organization that would be interested in purchasing the property. It will take some creative thinking to develop funds for that.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to authorize the Mayor to get an appraisal on the 13 acres next to Lafitte Drive-in Park. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:	3(Plaisance, Landry, Hardy)
NAYS:	2(Broussard, Touchet)
ABSENT:	0
ABSTAIN:	0

Therefore, the motion carried.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the estimate for partial payment #1 in the amount of \$80,001.00 for the Construct Asphalt Taxilane Project at the Chris Crusta Memorial Airport. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve plan change #1 for the Construct Asphalt Taxilane Project at the Chris Crusta Memorial Airport. The plan change adds the relocation of an existing 1-inch waterline to increase the contract by \$3,033.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Debbie Garrot discussed the mural on the Cultural Center. Robert Dafford will begin that tomorrow. It will depict three festivals: the Louisiana Cattle Festival, The Daylily Festival and the Omelette Festival. It took three years to raise the funds. The mural will cost between \$16,000.00 and \$18,000.00. The City will only have to pay \$1,250.00 and that is to paint the "Abbeville Tourist Center" on the building. Mr. Dafford will be working on the mural all summer.

Broussard/Plaisance

Resolution 18-13

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with Robert Dafford for the mural on the Cultural Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard to award the contract for the replacement of the UV disinfection system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the apparent low bidder, Volute, at a cost of \$242,400.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard Primeaux presented the estimate to renovate the old Tourist Commission building into a meeting room. The price would be about \$42,000.00. This will not address the parking issues. Since we are changing the use that changes the classification of the building so we have to submit plans to the State Fire Marshal. Those have been submitted. The building will need a handicapped access ramp and restroom. When we remove the partitions, it will mess up the flooring so we will have to change the flooring. The estimate does include a storage building to have somewhere to store the tables and chairs. If you choose to leave the chairs in the facility, the storage building will not be needed so that will save \$3,500.00. There are some structure problems in the interior that are sagging. Those will be addressed and are included in the proposal. Councilman Touchet stated he had approached the owners of Sunbelt to allow parking for the facility. Mayor Piazza stated Kiwanis and other organizations are anxious to start using the facility. We have had a couple of individuals questioning whether it will be open for the general public and whether not there was going to be a fee. Councilman Touchet stated if there is a civic organization then we need to waive any fee for them on an as need basis. If someone wants to have a birthday party then they should be charged. Councilman Touchet asked Mayor Piazza if he thought the cost was reasonable for the renovation. Councilman Plaisance asked if the City had the money to complete this project. Mayor Piazza stated the cost was reasonable and we do have the money for this project. Councilman Touchet stated he wants to get people in that building by July 1st. Are there some things we can do without fire marshal approval? Mayor Piazza stated yes, we could do the demolition part. Mr. Gerald Gaspard stated if you rent the building then you will need somebody to manage the building and you will need someone to clean the building. Councilman Touchet stated we have our secretary, Nicole Nguyen, that could manage the building.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to proceed with those things we can do without fire marshal approval at this time and to approve the estimate. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Primeaux, Engineer

- The site work at the Fire Station has started. We are ahead of the schedule by one and one-half week.*
- They worked on the John Hardy Bridge today. It should be complete within the next day and ½. It is a warranty repair so it will not cost the City anything.*

Tom Carroll, Engineer

- *We will be submitting plans for the two generators for the lift station. Councilman Touchet asked about an additional generator for the pump at the retention pond. Clay Menard stated Mr. Gene and the electrical engineer had met to discuss this project. The cost was \$200,000.00. He submitted that price to the Mayor. Mayor Piazza stated the generator that is there now will accommodate the Barn Lift Station and the pump at the retention pond but not at the same time. Councilman Touchet asked if we have an auto start up on that generator. The pump did not turn on last time. Councilman Broussard stated we are looking for some automation. Mayor Piazza thought the pump has that. The reason it did not kick on that one time is because the calibration was not done. The calibration has been done. To calibrate it, it has to be on. Clay Menard stated we do not have an automatic transfer switch. Mayor Piazza stated it has to be switched on manually for either the pump or the lift station. If you lose electricity City wide none of the other lift stations will work because they don't have any generators either. You want to keep it on the pump first. Councilman Touchet stated he ate with Ron and you have to physically go out there and turn it on. Clay Menard state he did not think it was auto start and transfer. Mayor Piazza believes it is. Councilman Touchet suggested we call Ron. Lee Schexnaider was not sure which way it worked. More research will be conducted on this topic.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *Glenn Lege is patching road cuts. There are 20 roadcuts left as of today. Please call me if you know of one that has not yet been addressed. Glenn Lege will also be working on the bridge.*
- *Councilman Plaisance asked about the pond leakage. Clay stated we still have the aqua damn in place. The leak is between the metal of the gate and the concrete wall. They are trying to get the manufacturer of the gate to recommend a product to seal the leak. He will let the Mayor know the cost. It will be some type of special epoxy.*

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *The electrical department did a great job in the parking lot here at City Hall. All they have left is to remove the two poles.*

Mr. Jim Ruiz requested to address the Mayor and Council at this time. Mayor Piazza explained that they could not deviate from the agenda at this time. That would have had to be done prior to item one, the public comment period. Mr. Funderburk agreed. Mr. Ruiz stated it is ashamed that no one said anything about the 16-year-old that was murdered.

Councilman Wayne Landry

- *It is ashamed the 16-year old was murdered. The Police are doing the best job that they can. The last he heard, they are moving forward.*
- *He is having fun with his Grandson who is three days old.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Encouraged everybody to go to the Farmers Market this Saturday and the Daylily Festival on June 2, 2018.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Recognized his wife, Vana Plaisance, who is here tonight. We have been married nearly 50 years. He thanked her for being such a good friend.*
- *He recognized Mr. Maurice Sonnier and his wife, Linda.*

- *Mr. Cy Miquez with the Real Santa House is out there tonight.*
- *We are going to have a meal at the Red Barn on a Friday at lunch time for all those who helped with the Cleanest City Contest.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor