

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on November 7, 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, Jr., Wayne Landry, Joe Hardy and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber of Commerce/American Legion
Ester W. Duffy, National Association of University Women

Mayor Piazza asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the tragedy of the small town in San Antonio, Texas then he lead the assembly in the Lord's prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Joe Hardy to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to ratify bills paid in the month of October 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meetings held on October 3, 2017 and October 17, 2017, the special City Council meeting held on October 11, 2017 and the Committee meeting held on October 17, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to deviate from the agenda to change the requested date of the variance from November 9, 2017 and November 10, 2017 to November 14, 2017. This is for a concrete pour at Abbeville General Hospital. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Broussard stated the dates of November 9th and 10th were the dated originally reported to him. He wanted to know if the contractor had changed his mind. Mr. Stewart with J. B. Mouton reported that they are changing the dates because it is taking them longer because of the weather and the pour was not coming together as they had planned. Councilman Touchet stated he thought they had already been granted a variance. Councilman Broussard stated that was for the foundation. This pour is for the roof. Mr. Stewart stated the pour will begin at 3:00 AM. Pouring earlier makes for a better slab and the concrete trucks are able to negotiate better due to less traffic. The plant is sometimes better available in the morning to pour these bigger pours. It gives the cement finishing crews the entire day to finish the slab. It will take about 10 hours from start to finish.

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

Ms. Ester Duffy stated the NAUW Vermilion Region Branch would like to donate a birdhouse library to be placed in Councilman Landry's district where the toddler was killed during last year's Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. They will build it and decorate it. They will also replenish the books.

-04 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to accept the donation of the Birdhouse Library as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Wayne Landry and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute an amendment to the engineering agreement with Sellers & Associates, Inc. to make modifications to the plans and specifications requested by DOTD for the Sidewalk Improvements, Lighting and Vegetative Planning project. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to declare the Veterans Day holiday November 10, 2017, the Christmas Holidays as December 25, 2017 and December 26, 2017 and the New Year's Holidays as January 1, 2018 and January 2, 2018 for all City employees. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated there was some confusion by the Fire Department. They thought they would be able to earn overtime on both November 10th and November 11th. He contacted their Civil Service in Baton Rouge and they are to earn overtime on the day designated as the holiday by the Mayor and City Council. So, they can only earn overtime on November 10, 2017 this year since this is the declared holiday. In January of next year, we will declare all holidays for the year in order to avoid any confusion.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to grant a variance from the noise ordinance for Mourain Construction to pour concrete for the Vermilion Parish County Agent's building on November 9, 2017 and November 10, 2017 beginning at 1:00 AM. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to grant a variance from the noise ordinance for J. B. Mouton, Inc. to pour concrete for the Abbeville General Hospital Safe Room Addition on November 14, 2017 at 3:00 AM. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the installation of the LED PAPI upgrade project at the Abbeville Chris Crusta Memorial Airport to GT Services of Morgan City, Inc. at a cost of \$4,900.00. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plaisance/Broussard
Resolution R17-24**

A resolution requesting that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development implement a patching project on Business LA 14 in the Downtown area and on LA 82 on North St. Charles and authorize the Mayor or his designee to contact the said Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked Ike Funderburk to send a copy of the resolution to all our local representatives and senators.

-10 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to approve the recommendations of the hearing officer for hearings held on November 1, 2017 for the following properties: 800 Loraine/chickens/given 10 days, 703 S. St. Valerie/chickens/given 5 days, 414 Duroq/dilapidated mobile home/given 20 days, 1114 Clover/dilapidated structure/grass/given 20 days, 1607 Cherokee/tall grass/certificate of compliance issued, 309 & 311 E. Vermilion/grass, brush, junk/given 10 days, 809 S. Lyman/grass/certificate of compliance issued, 201 9th St/burnt house/given 20 days, 704 S. St. Valerie/chickens/given 5 days, 304 ½ Fourth St/camper, raw sewer/certificate of compliance issued, 710 Loraine/camper, vehicles, connect to City Water & Sewer/given 7 days. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *We received a \$4,000 grant from the Lieutenant Governor's office. This was awarded to Main Street for Downtown lighting, a painting project (art), and some additional furniture.*
- *The National League of Cities conference is next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday but he may have to cancel because of the new addition to his family.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *The drainage study of the intersection of Rodeo Road and Airport has been completed. He will be meeting with Mr. Gene Sellers on Friday at 9:00 AM to hear solutions on how to remedy that situation.*

Councilman Joe Hardy

- *Asked Mr. Gene Sellers about the overlay of Coulee Kinney. Mr. Gene reported the asphalt is complete and they are completing the dress up, shoulders and driveways.*

Councilman Wayne Landry

- *Asked Ike Funderburk to research a multiple offender clause in our ordinance dealing with chickens.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *There was a big rain recently in Lafayette and Broussard and we are downstream from those places. Our coulees were nearly overflowing even though we did not have any rain here. When the river there rises, it will rise here. Councilman Plaisance stated the mouth of the Vermilion River needs to be cleaned out.*

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to enter into executive session to discuss pending or threatened litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Wayne Landry to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funderburk reported on the executive session. We went into executive session because we had received a demand letter threatening possible litigation against the City. He asked the Council to authorize him to move forward and try and resolve this matter by making contact with the opposing party and the powers that be who are involved in this situation.

-13 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize Mr. Ike Funderburk to use any avenue available to try and resolve this situation. 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