

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on October 2, 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, Terry Broussard, Brady Broussard, Jr., Francis Touchet, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem and Roslyn White

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Bill Spearman, Police Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Stewart Head, Electrical superintendent
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board
Gerald Gaspard, Chamber and American Legion
Gale Luquette, Matt Suire, Marcella Davis & Jan Boudreau,
Louisiana Cattle Festival board members
John Landry, Glenn Suire & David Ashley, Golf Committee members
Carlton Campbell, former Abbeville City Councilman
Kenneth Nutt

Mayor Piazza asked Councilwoman Terry Broussard to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Carlton Campbell to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the Committee meetings held on September 4, 2018 and September 18, 2018 and the regular City Council meetings held on September 4, 2018 and September 18, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to deviate from the agenda to move agenda item #13 and #14 up to items #1 and #2. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 4(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, White)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 1(Plaisance)

Therefore, the motion carried.

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

-03 introduced Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to grant a variance from the noise ordinance until 12:00 AM on October 12, 2018 and October 13, 2018 for the Louisiana

Cattle Festival that will be held on their property on Rodeo Road. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 4(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, White)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 1(Plaisance)

Therefore, the motion carried.

B. Broussard/White
Resolution R18-27

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Cattle Festival which sets forth the public purposes which will justify the utilization of public property (electrical power and water delivery system) for the 2018 festival on the property owned by the Louisiana Cattle Festival, Inc.

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

YEAS: 4(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, White)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 1(Plaisance)

Therefore, the resolution was adopted.

Touchet/White
Ordinance 18-10

An ordinance to amend the food truck ordinance pertaining to food trucks utilized on school grounds for school events.

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

YEAS: 5(Plaisance, T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet, White)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the same route as last year for the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Broussard stated she will be holding a "Team Up to Clean Up" event this Saturday in District D from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. They will be meeting at McKinley Scott Park. She is asking the community to get involved.

Mr. Kenneth Nutt had requested to be on the agenda regarding his concerns with the City taking over the operations of the golf course. Mr. Nutt stated he has been here since the beginning of the process. Councilwoman White recused herself because of her association with the Broussard family. He has lived in Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.'s district for a long time. However, when he first moved to Abbeville, he lived in District D. He made a lot of friends there. A lot of those people just scrape by. A lot of people he has talked to there believe this is something solely for the rich. He does not have a problem with the City opening the golf course or that this property

belongs to Councilwoman White's family. The people in District D that he has spoken to are wondering if the City is doing this for the rich, then, what will they do for them? Why can't they open the park on John Hardy and let them fish. It has fish in it but they have a fence around it. If you want to concentrate on opening the golf course and spending a lot of money on that project, then why we can't we at least turn around and do something so that the kids can go fish. You act like the golf course is for the kids and he doesn't have a problem with that. He sees the young boys riding bicycles dragging ice chests behind their bicycles to go and fish out of the coulees. There aren't any fish in the coulees but there are fish in that pond. Wildlife and Fisheries stocked the pond. There is no reason why the City can't invest a little bit of money and put a three-foot fence around the pond and let the kids fish in the pond. You don't need a pier and a boat launch right now. These people think that you are doing this(the golf course) for the rich and whether you are doing that for that is beside the point. There are elderly people who would love to go there and fish. Open the gates and let them go fishing and then close the gates at night. He doesn't play golf and 90% of the people in District D won't play golf because they can't afford it.

Councilman Touchet stated the golf committee met over the last few weeks to look at numbers, possibilities and conduct fact finding. He distributed a sheet of figures. He wants to be transparent to everyone. He has a history of six years of what was earned, gained and loss. These are numbers based upon activities of things that were done in the past. We are only interested in opening a golf course and these number reflect a country club including pool activities, and \$300,000 of salaries. This is not an indication of what we are proposing. We have looked at every aspect of what has happened and these are numbers of what happened since 2011 up to the closing date. The summary prepared by the committee shows that start up costs are project to be \$90,000 including the outside course and the inside buildings. This is not operating expenses. This is the cost to get the course playable and setting up the facilities in the club house. The projected income is based on 100 members being a part of the club. We currently have 91 people who have signed up as interested members. The dues would be \$90.00 per month. The projected operating expense would be \$532,00.00 per year. The projected income is \$544,000.00 per year. Councilman Broussard asked what personnel would be utilized. Councilman Touchet stated we would outsource it and they would hire their people for the outside. We will need part-time workers and other people to work the inside. If we can spare some employees that work for the City we could do that. We would need two full time employees at a total cost of \$40,000.00. We can also outsource the inside too. His point tonight is to give the Mayor the opportunity to go and negotiate with the Broussard family. We are not looking at making any decisions tonight. Councilman Broussard stated the action tonight would not cost us anything and it will give us the opportunity to make the right decision. Mayor Piazza is great representation and we have to see where the negotiation goes. Mr. David Ashley stated there is no reason we can't let the little ones play golf. It is not just for the rich. Mr. Kenneth Nutt stated his remarks are not his feelings. It is what he has heard from others. He requested a meeting in the evening in a much larger place so others could come to give their opinions. If you can do this and it works then that is a great thing. A lady in the audience asked if the kids are taken to the golf course then they will have to be taught how to play. Mr. Sanford Suire stated a few former golfers have volunteered to offer a free clinic once a month. They will provide the equipment. Councilwoman Broussard stated when the issue came up she thought about John Nguyen because he was a fighter and a wonderful human being. Years ago, he had a youth group that he taught golf. They practiced at Herbert Williams Park. If the golf course would open, she has talked with several people to make sure that her district is represented and they are not left out. Councilman Plaisance stated that he has sat through two committee meetings. He will probably vote no tonight. He has nothing but respect for every committee member and Councilman Touchet and his intentions. The problem he has is that if there was this much effort for police and firemen and for getting them an increase in salary, he would feel better about this. That is a critical need for us. That is his opinion. He is

very uneasy about the golf course being a high-risk situation and requiring funds that we may not have. He would like us to focus, before this golf course, in getting something for our police and firemen. Mr. Louis Garrot stated that he spoke with Neal Romaine who works for Brec in Baton Rouge. He has agreed to come to the golf course here to give us an estimate of the cost to bring the greens up to playable condition. These greens have not been used or cared for like they should have been for the last year. There will be some inherent cost to get them up to snuff. Councilman Touchet stated this is a process that we need to look at every time we look at doing a project in the City of Abbeville. It is to get the community involved and to do fact finding. Don't rush to any type of judgements. This committee has worked very hard these past few years. He called for question. Mayor Piazza stated he apologizes to all the female golfers in the audience because he did not appoint a female golfer to the committee. If we go through with the golf course, Councilman Touchet will be replaced by a female on the committee. He asked the golf committee to provide a schedule of employees especially needed for the inside. He needs to know when people would be working and where they would be working. The negotiations will take a long time.

-05 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to authorize the Mayor to negotiate with the Broussard family regarding the City taking over the operations of the golf course. The motion was put to a vote and thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet)
NAYS: 1(Plaisance)
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 1(White)

Therefore, the motion carried.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to surplus unit numbers 609, 491, 591 and 589 from the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the special event permit application for Relay for Life of Vermilion to be held on April 6, 2019 in Magdalen Square from 6:00 PM to 11:45 PM and to waive the permit fee. The motion carried unanimously.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the changing of the pad mount transformer at the Courthouse at a proposed cost of \$10,550.00 and authorizing the City to pay the cost. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the recommendations of the hearing officer for hearings held on September 26, 2018 for the following properties: 1100 S. Miles/demolition of structure/given 30 days, 812 S. Lamar/demolition of mobile home/given 5 days, 1104, 1104-A S. East/demolition of 2 mobile homes/given 5 days, 1101 S. East/secure structures/given 5 days, 305 Messina/tall grass & junk items/given 5 days, 215 S. Gertrude/junk on property/given 5 days, 700 S. State Trailer #3/junk of property/given 5 days(after eviction), 1011 Vernon St/abandoned vehicles & grass/given 5 days, 1010 S. Miles/abandoned vehicle/given 5 days, 413 Duroq/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 1118 Green Street/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 605 Dutel/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 809 S. Miles/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 605 S. Miles/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 601 S. Miles/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 810 Schlessinger/grass & junk vehicles/given 5 days, 1608 Martin Luther King/grass & junk property/given 5 days, 408 & 410 Schlessinger/abandoned vehicles/given 5 days, 1109 S. Shireview/junk & vehicles/given 7 days,

322 & 334 Alley/grass & securing of structure/compliance certificate issued, 1004 S. Guegnon/grass, junk & vehicles/given 5 days, 704 S. St. Valerie/loose chickens/given 5 days, 703 S. St. Valerie/loose chickens/given 5 days and 906 Greene St/dilapidate building/given 15 days. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve pay estimate number 5 in the amount of \$27,453.60 payable to Minvielle Lumber Company for the Hebert Fire Substation No. 2. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Touchet
Resolution R18-26

A resolution requesting funds from the Capital Improvement Program for the airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to surplus one block of Emmett Street north of Parkview Street. The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve amendment Number 3 to contract with Sellers and Associates, Inc. for the DOTD Transportation Enhancement Program for coordinating and conducting public meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Sellers, Engineer

- *Received quotes to upgrade the electrical control system at the sewage pump station and stormwater pump station at Franks Alley. The lowest quote is from Derouen Electrical at a cost of \$32,000.00.*

-13 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to award the contract for the upgrade of the electrical control system at the sewage pump station and stormwater pump station at Franks Alley project to Derouen Electrical at a cost of \$32,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *The fire department received a \$40,000 grant for gear. The Police Jury has offered to pay the City's share of 10%.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *He can't believe that we will leave here tonight pursuing a country club that has loss over a half of a million dollars over a period of six years and it was ran by some of the best business minds in our community. He hopes that we move very cautiously through this process.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *She thanked the people from her district that attended the meeting tonight. She appreciates the support.*
- *She would like the people of District D to know that she was elected by them and it is an honor. She will always make decisions that will be for the good of District D. She will make sure that District D is never forgotten or left out.*

- *She has received one donation for a park bench at LaFittte Drive-In Park. She has talked with several other people too. Let's open the park. Let everybody go fish and walk. Let the park open. Mayor do whatever it takes to open that park on John Hardy Drive.*
- *Mayor Piazza commended Councilwoman Broussard for helping a constituent to secure the funds to get her utility bill paid through donations.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *The Christian Service Center have opened their women's outreach clinic last week. They will be hosting a community baby shower on November 11th. They will be collecting items for mothers in need. She commended the Police Department for contributing to this effort.*
- *We are meeting with the insurance to get guidance regarding the signage that we need at Lafitte Drive-In Park to be able to open the park. After we have that meeting in two weeks then we will be able to give more information to the public.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor