

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on September 20, 2016 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, Joe Hardy, and Francis Touchet, Jr.

Members Absent: Councilman Wayne Landry

Also Present: Jude Mire, Fire Chief
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board member
Scott Angelle, Candidate for Congress

Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Joseph Vallee to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Scott Angelle to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Scott Angelle introduced himself. He is from Breaux Bridge. He knows what local governments do because he sat in a similar chair for 16 years. He understands that you have to do more with less. You get to see your constituents that you serve. Government that works closely with the people is a government that works best. Government shouldn't be everything to everybody but it certainly has to be something. Government needs to focus on policy to help businesses and the opportunity for jobs. Job creation is so important to a healthy economy and a healthy family life. We need to be a national government that invests in infrastructure. Over the last 3 decades we have cut by 50% our investment in infrastructure. You build a whole economy by investing in roadways, highways, waterways and runways. Cities that have done this across America have had that growth. He will be a congressman that will fight for the infrastructure improvements that are necessary. When he thinks of the 3rd congressional district, he thinks of three legacy industries that are worth fighting for. That is energy, agriculture and navigation. They all have a very strong federal component and we need someone who understands that. He will be about understanding that. While everyone should have an opportunity to go to college not everyone needs to go to college. We took a wrong turn in America some decades ago and we began to create two classes of citizens. Ones that went to college and ones that didn't. It is wrong and it did not serve us well. We need to celebrate and elevate our technical schools. There are great opportunities there and we need to give the skills they need to pull the wagon for their family and for their part of America. Our technical schools can be a very big part of the solution for us. From the rice field to the cane field from the oil field to the ball field, and indeed tonight from Abbeville to Capitol Hill, he is prepared to fight. Some would say it is important for you to know who your congressman is but he says it is more important for your congressman to know who you are. Washington is broken, you are mad and I'm mad so together let us go make them listen. Mayor Piazza stated he is glad that you see the

importance of infrastructure. It is certainly important to a municipality. The smaller the municipality the harder it is to keep and maintain that infrastructure. The CDBG grant is the only grant that we still have out there, they have cut everything else out. Without the CDBG grant from the federal government, we will not survive to try to maintain our water and sewer plant. Mr. Scott Angelle knows first-hand the importance of the CDBG grants and is familiar with the improvements that they were able to make both in water and sewer and even in some of the economic development projects. He gets it. Instead of having more Washington in American we need more America in Washington. We need to continue to push Block Grant opportunities and decisions out to the states and municipalities instead of Washington. We need to return the money to our locals because you know what you need to do in your community. You don't need a congressman from Wyoming or California deciding on what you need. He will fight and we may not win all the battles but they will definitely know how to spell Angelle in Washington.

Plaisance/Broussard
Resolution R16-29

A resolution requesting the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of North John Hardy Street and Louisiana Highway 14 By-pass and report its findings to the City of Abbeville.

The motion carried unanimously.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to request a turn signal light instead of a turning lane for the traffic study at the intersection of North John Hardy Street and Louisiana Highway 14 By-pass. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Broussard
Resolution 16-30

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with LA DOTD for the Upgrade PAPI-2 Systems to LED technology project.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/Broussard
Resolution R16-31

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with LA DOTD for the solar powered LED reflectors – taxiway project.

The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents relative to the State grant projects for the Upgrade PAPI-2 systems to LED technology and solar powered LED reflectors – taxiway project. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the repair to the screen press at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$9,356.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Ike Funderburk, City Attorney

- *Conducted first ethic training session today. We have two more scheduled on October 20 and October 21.*

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- *Requested to purchase transformers for stock.*

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the purchase of 15 transformers for stock from Solomon Corporation in the amount of \$13,425.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Provided an update of Sub 2. It is closed due to flooding. A contractor came in to look at it to give us an estimate to remodel it. We are also working on getting an estimate of the cost for a brand new station. We are looking at what will fit on the property and our options of construction. He will report at a later date once the estimates are received. Mayor Piazza stated they talked to the FEMA representative to see if there was any type of mitigation. We did not qualify for mitigation with FEMA because it didn't flood often enough or bad enough this time. It is repairable. The alternative we talked about was a new one at the same location. If FEMA would have paid for a new fire station, it would have had to be in a different location that didn't flood. Since that is not an option, we are looking at a new fire station at the same location but elevated. If we find that is not affordable, once we get the estimates, then we will remodel the existing one. Right now it is gutted. Chief Mire stated the contractor stated we will have to take the roof off. If we construct a new building, we will look for a metal building that looks like a house on the outside. We received \$46,000.00 from our insurance company. The contractor thinks a remodel will cost over \$100,000.00. Mayor Piazza stated that is why at this point we are leaning towards a new building instead of remodeling a 60 year old building.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *Asked for an update of the study on the West Side. Mr. Gene Sellers stated they are waiting for the survey.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for October 18, 2016 to discuss the status of the budget.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor