

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on February 19, 2019 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
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Marlon Batiste, Public Works Assistant
Charlene Beckett, Main Street Manager
Tracette Hillman, Personnel Director
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Sandra Cresswell, Abbeville Garden Club
Liz Gremillion, Abbeville Garden Club
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion & Chamber of Commerce
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board
Gil Meaux, AHS Alumni Booster Club
Lance Broussard, Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office
Ben Rivera, Insurance agent
Blair Menard, new owner of Concord Club building

Mayor Piazza asked Councilman Francis Plaisance to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Gerald Gaspard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the appointment of Marlon Batiste to the position of Street Maintenance Foreman at range 10. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Sandra Cresswell and Ms. Liz Gremillion are members of the Abbeville Garden Club and they were at the meeting to discuss the upcoming Cleanest City Contest. Ms. Cresswell stated that the dates of the contest are between March 19, 2019 and March 21, 2019. They are not yet sure of the exact date. It will be the same route as last year. We have already contacted Clay and Marlon. We are here to ask for your support. She also wanted to thank Councilwoman Broussard for taking leadership in getting her district clean. Mayor Piazza stated that Sandra and Liz do a fantastic job as well as all the volunteers. We appreciate your efforts and we hope for a victory this year. Liz asked for the help from the crew as in the past for a couple of weeks. Councilman Broussard stated that the City could not do this without Sandra and Liz and the Abbeville Garden

Club. It is a partnership that has worked. You do an outstanding job and it does make our City more beautiful. We deeply appreciate what you contribute to our City. Liz stated that a cleaner City means less crime and more visitors. We did meet with the Garden Club last night and they have agreed to help again. They have all taken a route. Councilwoman Broussard stated that she doesn't mind helping because she wants us to win but also, she is concerned with her district. She wants to keep her district as clean as possible. Councilman Plaisance stated his day is Friday and they can have the crew on those days. Charlene Beckett stated the entrances are always a problem. Litter is a big problem especially with the wind and rain. The grass is not the problem. Clay stated our grass cutter times his cutting as close to the contest as possible. He picks up the litter before the cut. It is the litter that is thrown or blown after he cuts that poses the problem. Sandra also stated that the roadside debris is also a challenge this year. She met with Wayne Touchet to discuss this. He said that he would see that it gets picked up. Mayor Piazza stated they have complete support of himself and the City Council. Charlene Beckett also wanted to compliment the guys who did the parking lot at City Hall.

Mr. Gil Meaux discussed the AHS Alumni Softball Tournament to be held at Comeaux Park. He would like to use Shelby Chester Field and Vorhoff Field on May 10th and 11th. We will have alcohol. He asked if the amount of insurance needed was \$2 million. Mr. Funderburk stated that was correct. He requested to have the special event permit fee waived. He has met with Denise to help coordinate the use of the fields. Mr. Funderburk stated that they will still need to get the insurance. Councilman Touchet stated that they will also need security since they will have alcohol. Mayor Piazza advised Mr. Meaux to get with the Police Chief regarding security.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the AHS Alumni Softball Tournament as discussed, to waive the special event permit fee and to require them to get the required insurance and security. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Blair Menard requested to place a 15-yard dumpster trailer for two weeks in the parking spaces on Lafayette Street. This is so he can renovate the old Concord Club building which he recently purchased.

-03 introduced Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to allow Mr. Blair Menard to place the dumpster as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

***Touchet/Plaisance
Ordinance 19-03***

An ordinance to amend the power cost adjustment.

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.

Councilman Broussard stated City Court is land locked and out of space for storage and personnel. There is property available immediately in back. It is owned by the Sagrera family. There is a metal building on the property. They have decided to sell the property. Because of its contiguous situation with City Court it would be good. He talked to the Mayor to see if this was possible. The Mayor said some proceeds from our dealings with George Sfeir when we he purchased City

property is available for land purchase. After getting it appraised, the \$27,500 was significantly lower than what the owners were hoping to get but they did accept that as the limit the City could pay. It is now something City Court can use for storage. Its availability right outside the back door of City Court makes it easy. We are at the point that we need to get an abstract done to verify clear title. Mayor Piazza stated we haven't decided if we will keep the building. We budgeted an amount that exceeds this amount to give us some lead way to do some improvements. We have some options that we haven't explored yet. The first thing we need to do is purchase the property. It is in the budget. It protects our own property. Ike stated this purchase would include the alley too. It connects to Lafayette Street. It is an unusual configuration. City Court uses that private property to get to their property as well as the people who work at Minvielle.

B. Broussard/

A resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a purchase agreement for the acquisition of a 0.107-acre tract in the City of Abbeville for \$27,500 and to engage the services of an abstractor.

The motion died for lack of a second.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment of partial payment estimate number 2 in the amount of \$85,450.00 payable to Volute, Inc. for the UV System Replacement Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Broussard/Plaisance

Resolution R19-03

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an act of acceptance from Volute, Inc. pertaining to the completion of the contract for replacement of the UV Disinfection System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/T. Broussard

Resolution R19-04

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Vermilion Parish Police Jury pertaining to the sidewalk construction on South State Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

A surplus property list from the Street Department was discussed. Councilman Touchet was concerned that not all items were on the list. The list included various non-working vehicles and lawn mowers. Mr. Funderburk stated as long as each item is not more than \$5,000 then a notice could be posted on the bulletin as in the past. It does not need to be advertised in the newspaper.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to table the surplus of various vehicles and equipment. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 3(T. Broussard, B. Broussard, Touchet)

NAYS: 2(Plaisance, White)

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Lance Broussard stated Vermilion Parish has never had a pro-life march. They have had them in other cities in Louisiana. He is looking to start the first one. He contacted churches and they are all for it. We originally wanted to march from St. Theresa to the Courthouse then back to St. Theresa but that got cancelled. We had to revamp and decide on a different map. We are going from the County Agent building to the Courthouse, then back to the grounds of St. Mary Madgalen to say the rosary and then back to the County Agent building. We are planning to feed the people who are going. There will not be any alcohol at this event. They may have some people in wheelchairs. The insurance for this event would cost \$2,500. It depends how many people attend. Some other people who have had this type of event get the church to sponsor it. He contacted Father Louie but he hasn't returned his call. We will do this from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We will be on the street. It will be Saturday, March 9, 2019. Ike stated if the church sponsors the event, then he will be able to go under their coverage. Mayor Piazza asked if the church doesn't sponsor the event, would the Council be ok with only \$1 million coverage instead of \$2 million? They agreed.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the special event permit for Vermilion March Life to hold a pro-life march on March 9, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, to waive the special event permit and to reduce the insurance requirement from \$2 million to \$1 million. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Broussard stated we received our renewal from RMI for general liability, law enforcement, auto liability and errors and omissions insurances. Ike stated our policies are first dollar coverage. The proposed renewal premium is \$354,671.45. Last year our premium was \$324,824.74. The increase is based on our claim experience and also increasing some values in our automobiles. They do provide good service as far as litigation support.

-07 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to accept the renewal from RMI as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

The insurance renewal from Thomson, Smith & Leach was discussed. The proposed renewal premium for property, inland maire/equipment, airport liability, auto physical and boiler machinery/equipment breakdown insurances is \$155,601.92. Last year's premium was \$151,624.17.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the renewal from Thomson, Smith & Leach as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

-09 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract to Russell Alexis for the demolition of a mobile home located at 502 Loraine Street for \$1,000 and the demolition of a structure located at 808 Solomon Street for \$1,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- We will not have a meeting on March 5, 2019 because it falls on Mardi Gras. We will have a special City Council meeting on March 7, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Wished everyone a Happy Mardi Gras.*
- *March 14th will be our first Sounds on the Square in Magdalen Square.*
- *March 16th will be the first free Farmers' Market in Magdalen Square.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Wished everyone a Happy Mardi Gras.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *On March 22nd there will be a circus at The Red Barn.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor