

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on February 5, 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
Kelly Mire, Assistant Fire Chief
Jason Hebert, Police Lieutenant
Jonathan Touchet, Police Lieutenant
Ike Funderburk, City Attorney
Clay Menard, Public Works Director
Richard Primeaux, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Corey LeBlanc, Architect
Steve Moosa, CPA
Anne Falgout, Vermilion Parish Economic District
Debbie Garrot, Abbeville Film and Visitors Commission
Gerald Gaspard, American Legion and Chamber of Commerce
Lynn Guillory, Chamber of Commerce
Reverend Osborne Taylor
Carlton Campbell, former Abbeville Councilman
Wayne Landry, former Abbeville Councilman
Fred Hoyt
Jim Ruiz
Chad Duhon
Steven Menard
Thomas Vallot

Mayor Piazza asked Reverend Osborne Taylor to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked former Abbeville Councilman, Carlton Campbell, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to ratify bills paid in the month of January 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the minutes from the regular City Council meetings held on December 4, 2018, December 18, 2018 and January 15, 2019, the Committee meetings held on December 18, 2018 and January 22, 2019 and the personnel interviews held on January 15, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

-03 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the probational appointment of Bryce Melancon to the Abbeville Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to deviate from the agenda to move item number 3 under old business, Naming of Charles Campbell Street, to number 3 under new business and to allow Corey LeBlanc to present a pay application request for the Airport Terminal Renovation project. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to enter into a public hearing to receive public input about a one-half cent sales tax to be used for raises for the Abbeville Police Department, the Abbeville Fire Department and the Abbeville Municipal Employees. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza stated they were presented information by the Police Department, the Fire Department and some Municipal Departments for the necessity of raises in their various department. They are here tonight to answer questions from the public. Our Police Chief is not here tonight but Lieutenant Jason Hebert and Lieutenant Jonathan Touchet are here tonight. Chief Mire is here as well as some of the Assistant Chiefs. We do also have a few Municipal Employees here tonight that can answer questions. Before we open the floor, he asked Mr. Steve Moosa to give his presentation. Mr. Moosa stated a packet was distributed showing what it would cost the City to adopt a pay raise for the employees. The report was separated by Police, Fire and Municipal Employees. The proposal assumes a \$500 per month increase for Police and Fire and a \$2 per hour increase for non-Police and non-Fire employees. We also proposed an annual 2% increase in order to see how far this tax would take us. We have to take into consideration retirement contributions, FICA and Medicare contributions and workers compensation premiums that are based on payroll. Overall the City has a little over 140 employees. That number reflects 38 Police Department employees, 38 Fire Department employees and 65 Municipal Employees. That is based on budget numbers at full employment capacity. A \$500 per month raise for the Police Department would cost \$389,048 per year and \$365,686 per year for the Fire Department. The annual cost for all other non-police and non-fire department employees assuming a wage increase of \$2 per hour, would cost \$383,790 per year. In year one of the tax, the pay raise would cost the City \$1,138,523. The one-half cent sales tax is estimated to bring in about \$1,400,000 of revenue. Based on the 2% annual increase, by year 12, the tax would no longer fund the pay raises. In year 12, the pay raise would cost \$1,415,611. Councilman Broussard stated he is concerned about the State Legislated mandate retirement factor. We have seen it go down recently but it is something that moves depending on how they (State Legislature) feel. Mr. Moosa stated in recent years the State Retirement systems have been making better investments so they are not needing as much from the municipalities. We hope to see some reductions in the future. Councilman Plaisance stated the sales tax projected figure is also not guaranteed. It can go up or down. Mr. Moosa stated when you don't need the entire \$1,400,000 then you can save the excess so that it may carry you out a few more years than the 12. This salary calculation also contains projected overtime based on past history. If overtime can be controlled, then the amount will be less. Councilman Touchet stated this is a projection on the people we have working but the real problem is that the starting salaries have to be adjusted. We have to be able to adjust those starting salaries. This will be in addition to the pay raises for our current employees. Councilman Plaisance agreed that we have to be competitive. Councilman Broussard stated that is boils down to public safety. When you have so many vacancies in your Police Department and the Electrical Department as we get nearer to hurricane season, it is public safety that is affected by all these open slots. If the public feels that this is justified to fully staff these departments, so be it. Councilman Plaisance stated there is a critical need and some of these employees risk their lives every day. Councilman Touchet stated that this is a very difficult situation because he is not someone to go out and say, "Tax, tax, tax". He doesn't believe in all that. But, he can say that this is a very difficult situation and we have one of three

choices: (1) Three people at this table can raise electricity, water and sewer rates and the people would not have any vote, (2) We could have gone with a property tax and affected just property owners or (3) We can propose a one-half cent sales tax and it will not only affect the people in Abbeville but all those who shop here. To him, the better option of the three is the third option if this is something that we have to pursue. It is hard to make a decision based on the money that we currently have. We just don't have that money to be able to say we can do something for Police, Fire and Municipal. Those are the only three options that we have. Councilwoman White stated that she looks at these numbers and she agrees that across the board is the fairest way to go and something that ideally, she wants to do. We previously discussed in another meeting that a \$2 per hour raise in our Electrical Department does not solve the problem we have there. We are looking at an 11-year sustainability with the increase in sales tax but we are still not solving the problem in some of the other departments. She wants to err on the side of caution to look at what is fair marketability for pay scales for certain positions whenever you compare it to private industry so that we are not just perpetuating our problem, we are solving it. She would like to look at that. Councilman Touchet stated that is why he says we have to be able to do these across the boards but between \$1 and \$10, you have to be able to take that \$10 and tap it into something if there is a need for it. That is something that we would have to look at. Not only would that \$2 go to that lineman but we may have to pop them with another \$10 just to be competitive with what is happening in Lafayette. That is the flexibility that he is talking about. We need to make that adjustment so that the needs are being met to fix the problem. Councilman Broussard stated that we are a Civil Service City and our employees are under a Civil Service system and as long as that is the case, your best and your brightest will not be rewarded for their potential to the City and for their skill. That is something that this Council and Mayor have to deal with and it is not fair, in his opinion. That is not something that works in the private sector and, quite frankly, it doesn't work in the government sector either. That is the system we have so it is not as easy as giving this employee what he deserves to be paid. We have to work within the rules of the Civil Service system. Mr. Fred Hoyt stated that he understands, from a government standpoint, the box that you have been painted into and employee needs. A lot of these policemen and the staff need a raise. He has a little trouble swallowing the one-half cent because that will put Abbeville 2% above Lafayette. We already have an out migration of sales to the Lafayette area. 2% is a lot. That will put us at 10.45% with this. Lafayette is at 8.45%. Have we really done an analysis on the existing financing? He did a comparative analysis on the Fire Department. The Abbeville Fire Department has a budget of \$3.2 million. Rayne's Fire Department budget is \$750,000. Crowley's Fire Department budget is \$2.5 million and they have three stations. Jennings' Fire Department budget is \$1.4 million and they have two stations. Their rating is a 3 and Crowley's is a 2. A lot of these other departments are utilizing volunteers. When we are in business, we have to maximize every dollar coming in to utilize to be able to pay for the expenses. He urges the Mayor and Council to look at alternatives in the Fire Department area or to explain the gross disparity between the budget numbers. He understands the plight with the Police. 35 years ago, he was lobbying the City Council for a raise to get them out of the soup kitchens and the honor that they deserve and raise their pay. We had a quarter cent sales tax that went to an across the board raise at that time. Mayor Piazza stated it was for Fire and Police and it was not across the board. It was according to their rank. The higher the rank the more raise they received. Mr. Hoyt asked how much the election will cost in May. Ike stated he has requested this information from the Secretary of State but he has not received it yet. Mr. Hoyt stated since this will be the only thing on that election date, the City would bear the full cost of that. If you could wait until October, then the election would be free and you could tag onto it. He hopes the Council gets this information before making a decision. To have 33 full time policemen and have a turnover of 32 in a four-year time period. You want the best and brightest but you have to pay them. He urges the Council to reconsider an across the board and put more into the Police Department. Our full-time employees work 40 hours a week plus overtime. They cannot have part-time jobs on the

side. The fire department employees, on the other hand, work a 24-hour shift and are off for 48 hours. In that scenario, just about everybody at the fire department has another job or they own their own business. The fire department is a different animal than the police department. City workers, like linemen, are a separate issue too. He knows they have spent a lot of time to get to this effort and he urges that it is researched as much as possible and maybe involve some of the business community. It will affect sales in this parish. It will push Abbeville down. Let's make sure we have all the questions answered. Mr. Jim Ruiz stated he was with the New Orleans Police Department and they were trying to get a raise. We were trying to push a sales tax. Once this meeting is over that is when your job begins because you have to sell this to the public. They have to understand why and the need for it. The people that work for the City will have to educate the public. It is up to you to get out there. Mayor Piazza stated that he has been in the retail business in Abbeville all of his life. He has some grave concerns in regards to what Mr. Hoyt alluded to about raising our sales tax one-half cent and pricing ourselves out of business when our competitor in Lafayette is just right down the road. He lives on Highway 167 and he sees the line of traffic going to Lafayette every day. It is a tremendous concern for him and he has had a very difficult time with this too. He agrees with Councilman Touchet that when you look at the less of the three evils, if you raise utilities that would affect just the people of Abbeville, especially some people in Abbeville that can barely afford their utility bills now or the possibility of raising property taxes. If we did that to equal the amount of money we would collect from the one-half cent sales tax, we would have to quadruple the millage rates that we are currently collecting. The sales tax is spread out in a bigger area than just the citizens of Abbeville. Anyone that shops in Abbeville will pay this tax. However, we need to make sure that our businesses continue to be competitive with the surrounding areas. It is a tough decision. We also have the internet to deal with. People buy on Amazon now and they are not paying taxes at all. The bottom line is that our employees do need raises and we need to figure out a way to get more money in their pockets because of the issues that have been brought to us before this meeting. It is a problem that we have to fix. We do have a big budget in our fire department. We have a Cadillac Fire Department and he is proud of these guys. We have one of the best fire departments in the state. We have 36 fully paid full-time firemen. We probably have more than any City our size in the state of Louisiana. We are offering a tremendous service to Abbeville and the citizens in the surrounding area. We have first responders that go out and save lives every day. It will be up to the citizens whether they want to continue to have a Cadillac Fire Department or not. We are not making a decision tonight. We wanted to make sure we allowed public input on this topic. Mrs. Arlene Collee wanted to add that there is also a 2% hotel/motel tax too charged for lodging. She is in favor for a raise especially for the police department. Increasing the sales tax will place an even bigger burden on the lodging industry. Councilman Touchet stated that this Council and this City has taken a backstreet and we have had hospital taxes, school board taxes and others. When you start looking at where that 10.45% is going, there is not much coming to the City of Abbeville for us to do anything in this City. We have to rely on electricity, water and sewerage to be able to take care of things. That is why he doesn't want to touch these. If we start doing that, then we start affecting people. We are at a point where we have to do one of these three things. Councilman Plaisance stated when the Mayor assigned committees, he assigned him this Public Safety Committee. He had no idea of the challenge that would be ahead of us. We have had several meetings with this. There has been a lot of frustration. Now tonight we are looking at these figures that Steve presented. That adds more stress and challenge to it. This is a decision that we are faced with and we have to make. This is a matter of public safety. It costs for service and we have to be competitive. Mayor Piazza stated that we have some issues to clear up with Senator Hensgens dealing with the police and fire department so we hope to bring this up at the February 19, 2019 meeting or at the latest, the first meeting in March. The deadline to put something on the ballot for the May election is March 11th. Councilwoman White stated the police department reached out to the Attorney General for an opinion whether it would be legal to give

them an across the board raise. Have we heard back from them? Mr. Funderburk said we have not yet. Councilwoman White asked if we need to hear back from them before we vote on this. Ike said not necessarily. Mayor Piazza added that we will be talking to Senator Hensgens about this.

-06 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Broussard stated that it was brought to her attention that the Campbell Family along with former City Councilman Carlton Campbell had completed their paperwork prior to the new rule. She would like them grandfathered in since all of their paperwork was turned in. She did not know that they had completed all their work previously. Mayor Piazza stated the family did have this petition signed and was presented before the new ordinance came into place. He met with the family and former Councilman Wayne Landry regarding this. He is in complete support of this. He knew their father well and he is very deserving of this honor.

-07 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to rename South Oliver and North Oliver to South Charles Campbell Avenue and North Charles Campbell Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Anne Falgout with the Vermilion Parish Economic District was at the meeting to update what they did in 2018 and their plans for 2019. She distributed a bulletin showing the accomplishments for 2018. The bulletin was divided into dedicated economic development effort, existing business assistance, business development and community development. It showed those things the organization had completed in 2018. The other handout distributed was the 2019 Action Plan – Key projects. Councilman Plaisance asked what new businesses are coming to Abbeville? He and Councilman Touchet are concerned about the empty buildings. Ms. Falgout stated they have a state-of-the-art mapping program. They use that to build marketing information for available properties. We launch it to the world and market that mapping system. Another thing is that we answer the phone when those proposals come in. Last year we worked with 5 prospects to move into Abbeville. Some we worked for over 2 years and then they died on the vine. Some of those are still in the works. 80% of your job activity come from existing businesses so that is our focus. We try to help them grow to grow their workforce. We are equally frustrated with the lack of good job creation in Abbeville. We are working hard to get exposure. We are working with some real estate agents who are working regarding those vacant buildings. We use that connection to try to attract people to these buildings. Councilman Touchet asked if they have reached out to the land owners to see what their plans are for the building. Ms. Falgout stated they are working with the realtor or the property owner with site certifications and other things. Councilwoman White stated she and Anne are working on an open house for Downtown Abbeville. We reached out to some of the vacant building land owners and most of them are eager to work with them. We will have an open house on a Saturday afternoon. They will have someone there who knows about the building and we are also trying to incorporate an art component. We will also have land owners who have renovated existing buildings so people can see the potential that those buildings have. We will have more details hopefully by March. We are also both attending the Opportunity Zone Conference tomorrow. Abbeville has been designated as an Opportunity Zone so we are hoping we can learn more about that and how we can spur economic development. Councilman Touchet asked Ms. Falgout specifically about Schwegmann's, Stine's and Super 1 Foods (vacant building). Ms. Falgout stated she has talked to the agents on those buildings and some are working harder than others. Some are in litigation. Some are out of town folks that

don't have an interest here. She would love to sit down to discuss what other places are doing with situations like these. Councilman Plaisance stated that Henderson Implement would like to move into the City.

Mrs. Debbie Garrot discussed showing "The Blob" on June 8, 2019 in Magdalen Square. She was contacted by Kenny Caperton about a month ago. He is the owner of On Set Cinema. He is based out of North Carolina. Mr. Caperton stated that he travels the country and he is interested in horror movies. He brings them back to the towns and cities where they were filmed. That is why he wants to show "The Blob". The Vermilion Film and Tourists Commission would like to partner with Mr. Caperton. She did contact Swank Motion Picture. She did verify Mr. Caperton with Swank. They did know him. All entities that want to show a movie must have the rights to show that movie at a price. The cost is about \$400.00. Mr. Caperton would put up the money. It will be free to the public. Mr. Caperton did ask to sell some posters and other paraphernalia. The Vermilion Film and Visitors Commission will sell food and refreshments to put in reserves for future movies. Councilman Plaisance offered the Red Barn if the weather does not cooperate.

-08 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. to approve the showing of "The Blob" in Magdalen Square on June 8, 2019 and to waive the special event permit requirements. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza told Mrs. Garrot how spectacular the new mural on the Cultural Center is looking.

Mr. Steven Menard discussed Kings Mart and the disturbances in the area. Mr. Menard stated he is very concerned because he has friends who live there. He heard that two Friday's ago, Kings Mart got shot up. There were thirty rounds and one person got hit. He is here to see if we can come up a solution. This store has people loitering and dealing drugs. The liquor license has already been revoked. They are staying late at night. Someone will get murdered there. We need to control that problem. You have a lot of elderly people living throughout the area. Councilwoman Broussard stated she has talked to Mr. Menard several times and she understands what he is saying. However, she is out there and she is involved in her district. She has visited that store several times. She is concerned about the crime in her district but she doesn't want anybody to leave here tonight thinking that she is not concerned. When most of her constituents in that area are sleeping, she is riding. That is why she was able to have a meeting, about three weeks ago, with another individual along with the Mayor and the Police Chief. The Mayor listens to her concerns about her district three to four times a week. It is unfortunate that the Chief of Police is not here tonight, but she calls him and talks with him and she lets him know about her concerns in her district and that area and what needs to be done. You mentioned about closing the store but we cannot, without justification, go and remove an occupational license. She asked Mr. Funderburk to explain this. Mr. Funderburk stated that if you violate the permit, it can be revoked. There are certain areas in criminal code that make it clear that a business can be shut down. If it is involved in prostitution, gambling, dealing drugs or other types of business that would be contrary to the criminal code, it can be shut down. If Mr. Menard has evidence of any of these activities taking place inside of the store, at Kings Mart, he would suggest that he go over to the police department and give them that evidence so that proper procedures can be followed and charges can be filed. Councilman Touchet asked Mr. Funderburk if the loitering outside is the responsibility of the land owner? Mr. Funderburk stated the loitering does not occur just on the store's premises. The problems are on the street and across the street in both directions. Councilman Touchet asked Mr. Funderburk if it is possible to put a security guard there. Mr. Funderburk stated it would be possible for the store owner to place a security guard. Lieutenant Jason Hebert stated that when they sit out there, we do not see a lot of people. Mayor Piazza asked if we could restrict the hours of operation? Lieutenant Jason Hebert stated that since the

liquor license has been revoked, he is not staying open as late. Councilman Plaisance would like the number of incidents there. Mr. Jim Ruiz stated when you have a static location like that, an alternative would be closed circuit TV. It will focus on that one location. It would be an alternative and the dispatcher could monitor it. Ms. Kay Joiner stated Kings Mart was owned by her Grandmother. At the moment we are leasing the store to the owner. There are a lot of juveniles there and the police officers do their jobs. They run them off the property and then they go across the street. By the time the officers leave, they come right back again. There are signs on the building that say "No Loitering". Closing the store is not the solution. When her Grandmother passed, they closed the store for 6 to 8 months, but the juveniles were still there. It is an area to hang out. Children are rougher than they used to be. When the store is closed, they are still out there. The guy that got shot several weeks ago has been told by her several times to leave the premises. He goes out there and listens to his radio all night long. The young man who is leasing the store cannot afford a security guard. He has no alcohol license and he has no tobacco license. It is just groceries. It is a meeting area. The juveniles are something different now. The new officers have to reach out to the juveniles. The park is closed so they have nowhere to go. Councilwoman Broussard stated McKinley Scott Park is closed now and will go back to regular hours. She received complaints from elderly people that live in that area. They were afraid because that is where the fighting and the shooting was. They asked that the park be closed early during the winter months. When the time changes again, the park will go back to regular hours. Councilman Touchet stated life is more important than anything and we need to have a presence out there. Who pays for that? Who doesn't? We have to do something so this does not continue. Money is nothing compared to the life of a person. We have to do something. This is a decision the Chief has to make. Ms. Marilyn Mitchell stated the problem is the young adults. Take them away from the sidewalk. Get them out from around there. Why can't the store close at 8:00 PM? She is concerned about where she lives. Is the curfew in effect? Are they being picked up? Are they bringing them to their parents? She is tired of the shooting and tired hitting the floor. We need to figure out what to do in that area. Mr. Anthony Joiner stated the solution may be a police substation in the area. They would have officers there. It would get results. It has worked in the past. It would result in quick response and a police officer presence in the community in that area. Mayor Piazza stated he was reluctant to put this on the agenda since Chief Spearman is not here tonight. Our charter calls for an elected Chief of Police. The Mayor and City Council are not in charge of the Chief of Police. He answers to the citizens and the public. We are not his boss. He has equal authority, just like the Sheriff, they don't have a boss. He has his own budget and he has complete authority over scheduling his personnel. The Police Department owns a command post that we bought for them that they could station right on the corner if they chose to do that. Only the Chief of Police can make that decision. He wanted to make that clear and his recommendation is that some of the citizens in that neighborhood, that are concerned, need to contact the Police Chief and set up an appointment with him and go to his office and have this conversation with him in his office. He is sure that he and Councilwoman Broussard would be happy to go with you. Talking like we are doing tonight does absolutely no good without the Chief of Police here. Councilwoman Broussard stated she has mentioned this to the Chief about a substation in the area. Mr. Wade Buchanan stated he owns Pa Paw's Grocery in the same area. As an owner or manager of an establishment you do bear some responsibility of what you allow to happen on your property. When we first opened, we saw a trend that was happening. We started to allow people to hang out and have a beer or two. That started to escalate into drug use. Since we were a young business and needed the money we allowed some things to go on but when it started to get out of hand, we stopped it. As the owner, he had to make that happen. The grocery store they are talking about is a landmark building. It deserves to be here but it may have to be here under different management. The owner does not have a vested interest in the community. I have a vested interest because I was raised there. I remember when it was Mayberry. That business deserves to be there because the lady that started it was everything.

He should not allow folks to stand outside of his business (Kings Mart). Once you purchase you have to leave. He is not honoring that. He is a part of the problem. Mr. Buchanan stated he recently changed the closing time for his business from 10:00 PM to 9:00 PM because he felt like the people who live in that community don't need to hear car doors slamming and music blaring. I respect them. He picks up the trash in a one block radius of his store. The owner of Kings Mart does not have a love for the community. He needs to take responsibility for what goes on in front of his store. If he doesn't, then maybe he needs to go. Mr. Thomas Vallot stated that he is willing to speak to the Chief. He worked that area in 1990 when things were really bad. He cleaned it up. Once he got it cleaned up, his contract was terminated. He is offering to help again. You can't send just anybody out there. I will not send a white police officer to sit there. You need to have somebody who can communicate with them. You have to know how to approach and deal with them.

Mr. Chad Duhon was at the meeting to discuss trash in the neighborhood. He had pictures, which had already been distributed to the City Council, of the trash. The problem he is having is that the trash is being deliberately thrown on the side of the road across the street from his property. It continues to fly in the street and flies onto his property. The smell is very bad. There is no reason to have to walk out your house and have to smell that. He spoke to Ms. Vickie Toups about the situation. She came out Monday morning but the parish had already picked up the trash. He has been working with Mr. Ike and there are charges pending on the case. This has been going on and it continues to go on. There is also an abandoned vehicle on the side of the street. There are rats coming in and out of that and you have dogs and cats eating out of the trash. It is disgusting. Trash is across the street from my front door. The trash can be put at another area. There needs to be a solution to this problem. This has been going on for two years. Mayor Piazza stated he thinks that charges have been filed for a couple of the incidents that you reported. They have been charged and prosecuted. Mr. Funderburk added that guilty pleas were entered. Mr. Duhon knows that because he was in court when it happened. He can take this recent incident to the police and file additional charges. Mr. Duhon stated he came tonight because he wanted to make sure everybody knows about this. Mr. Funderburk suggested that Mr. Duhon seek another remedy. You can hire an attorney and take some civil action. That may be quicker for you than the process of going through the criminal. But the criminal is always available to you too as long as there is probable cause. Mr. Duhon stated this occurs in the City right of way. Mr. Funderburk stated that the Police Jury picks up the garbage so the City has no jurisdiction over removal of garbage. Mr. Wayne Landry stated that he too has pictures too. It is the same scenario. It is a two-way street. It goes both ways. He throws stuff but he doesn't complain about it because that is what he wants to do. This has been going on for five years. Most of the people know the situation. He has made this personal. So, he came here tonight to try and embarrass him. He has trash too. He will sue him. He already has a civil rights attorney. He is a racist and he will file a race hate crime. NAACP and Rainbow Push are aware of this. He has trespassing and stalking violations on him. Mr. Duhon has had two fights with his sons. He calls me and my wife racially derogatory terms. Mr. Duhon is not telling the whole story. Councilwoman Broussard asked if Mr. Landry and Mr. Duhon would agree to meet with her to try to come to some sort of agreement or solution so there can be some peace. Mr. Landry stated he is willing. He is renovating his home and he will not move my trash from the south side way to the north side. He has 8 lots so why should he walk all the way to the other side when he can walk 10 steps to put it on the side of the road? He is 65 years old. It is legal for me to put it there. Ms. Bridgette Campbell stated this is ridiculous. She does not come to a lot of the City Council meetings. She was born and raised in the City of Abbeville and her heart will always be a part of Abbeville. You do not come to a City Council meeting where we are here to discuss the business of our community, to take our personal issues. We are not here to hear about Mr. Landry and Mr. Duhon's five-year battle and what is going. That shows no respect for the business that is going on. There needs to

be some kind of rule about what is allowed and how much time is allowed. This is crazy. Mayor Piazza stated we do follow Robert's Rules of Order here. But it is a public meeting so when someone calls and requests to be on the agenda, we cannot deny them the opportunity to speak. He told, just like he told Mr. Steven Menard, Mr. Duhon the same thing, that they had 3 minutes. He wasn't prepared to hear a rebuttal from Mr. Landry but this is a public meeting and it is unfortunate that we have an issue between neighbors that came to a City Council meeting but everybody has their opportunity and freedom of speech. He will not deny that to anybody. Ms. Bridgette Campbell stated she agrees but the personal attacks go beyond the reason of why everybody is here. We don't need to be personal and name call just to get our point across. She means that with all levels of respect. She wishes that we could come to a public meeting to conduct business for the City and it shouldn't turn into a circus.

-09 introduced by Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to authorize the Mayor to execute the engagement letters from Darnall, Sikes and Frederick for fiscal years ending 12/31/18 and 12/31/19 for services pertaining to the audit, consulting and Legislative Auditor agreed upon procedures. The motion carried unanimously.

-10 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve change order #1 for the sidewalk construction along Highway 82 (State Street) to extend the sidewalk as per original plans. The change order is for \$20,896.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-11 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve change order #1 for the sewer extension at Alvin Street and Dear Lane (Sassy Suds Car Wash) for an increase in the contract of \$1,782.00. The motion carried unanimously.

T. Broussard/Plaisance
Resolution R19-02

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with Herod Village, Inc. and James A. Herod Apartments, Inc. to utilize property to be used as a parking lot for McKinley Scott Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

-12 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to approve the purchase of transformers from Solomon in the amount of \$5,580.00 for stock. The motion carried unanimously.

-13 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to award the contract for the securing/repairs to the structure located at 801 E. St. Victor to the low bidder, Knott's Cajun Construction in the amount of \$1,288.71. The motion carried unanimously.

-14 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mrs. Roslyn White to award the contract for demolition of a structure located at 414 Duroq Street to the low bidder, Tony Landry, in the amount of \$1,800.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-15 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve payment of the pay application in the amount of \$59,632.50 payable to Minvielle Lumber for the Airport Terminal Renovation Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *One month ago, he asked to purchase a used LUCAS machine. We used it for the first time two weeks ago. The gentleman survived and after two or three days of being unconscious he has woken up and is talking.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *At the last meeting he missed the City Hall staff at the last meeting when we were discussing raises. They do a tremendous job for the City and we want to make sure they are included in what we are trying to do.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked everyone for their prayers for her brother. Please keep the prayers coming.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Wanted to recognize Mr. Jim Ruiz. He has stepped up and has offered to mentor and school any children who have college aspirations or who has higher education aspirations. He has a P.H.D. and a lot of experience. He wants to donate his time to any child that has higher expectations for himself and for his community. He thanked Mr. Jim for this.*
- *Reminded everyone that we are getting to a good time of the year. Spring is near. Our Farmers' Markets Downtown will be March 16th, April 13th and May 18th. Get ready for some great public events in Magdalen Square.*

Councilwoman Roslyn White

- *I hope we can all start treating each other with a lot more respect in the City. She learned a rule when she was a child. It is good for everyone to know it. "Do onto others as you have them do onto yourself". Just keep that in mind when you are dealing with other people.*

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor