

The Mayor and Council of the City of Abbeville met in regular session on May 7, 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
Kim Touchet, Engineer
Gene Sellers, Engineer
Corey LeBlanc, Architect
Ronald Darby, Vermilion Parish Police Juror
Joseph Vallee, Municipal Civil Service Board
Mike Collins, Risk Management, Inc.
Ben Rivera and Colton Daigle, Thomson, Smith & Leach
Reverend Madge McLain, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Mayor Piazza asked Reverend Madge McLain to lead the assembly in prayer. Mayor Piazza asked Mr. Ronald Darby to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-01 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. to ratify bills paid in the month of April 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

-02 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the minutes from the personnel interviews held on April 2, 2019, the Committee meetings held on April 2, 2019 and April 16, 2019, the emergency special meeting held on April 5, 2019 and the regular City Council meeting held on March 19, 2019, April 2, 2019 and April 16, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Piazza asked if there were any comments from the public regarding any agenda item prior to action. There were none.

Councilman Broussard began a discussion on the workers compensation proposals for the renewal of May 19, 2019. The proposals have been distributed and we have representatives here from each company than submitted a proposal. We have a different kind of quote in each. Working with LWCC and Thomson, Smith and Leach, we have already received a \$16,000 dividend. That dividend is expected to go up over time. It is something that is returned to the policy holders. We have to take that into account and subtract that from the premiums paid. That is money back in the City's pocket. With LWCC we know that is statewide. Thomson, Smith and Leach have a safety advisor and they have worked with our City for a safety program for the safety of our employees. Because of this, our claims have gone down significantly. We are down to 8 claims. In 2014-2015

we had 14 claims. That is a system that is working. Risk Management, Inc. has given us a discount so the two quotes are very close. One is an Abbeville company and the other one is from Baton Rouge. We know Mr. Mike Collins and we know Mr. Ben Rivera. After six months, we received \$16,000, as a dividend, from LWCC. All policy holders receive a dividend. Mr. Funderburk stated the dividend depends on your longevity with LWCC. The longer you are with them then the higher your percentage in participation of their profits. After five years you are fully vested and you will receive the maximum dividend that would be given regardless of your experience. The dividend would be the same as anyone else in your class. For years we were with RMI, which is affiliated with LMA. If you take a look at the proposal worksheet, our premium with RMI for 2014-2015 was right around \$340,000. The next renewal it remained nearly the same. The next renewal is dropped to about \$330,000. For the 2017-2018 renewal it increased to nearly \$430,000. For the renewal last year, they provided a proposal for renewal of nearly \$580,000. We also received a quote from LWCC last year. That quote was for \$405,000. So, we accepted the proposal from LWCC. This year RMI has proposed a quote for a premium of about one-half of what they would have charged for the renewal last year. He asked Mike Collins to be here today to explain why there was such a large swing in one year. We went from nearly \$580,000 to a premium just under \$300,000. Mr. Collins stated that the LMA program did some tweaking last year as a result of the performance of the trust and the member municipalities. The trust does not perform well unless the member municipalities perform well. The City of Abbeville has done exceptionally well over the last three to four years. The trend of claims was down. The change in premium is two-fold. All of the cities received a 20% reduction in costs that is guaranteed. The reason is because the RMI trust has enjoyed good experience. That is because the cities have done better. The other aspect that has to do with your premium is that we were using a mod that had to include those bad years. The mod we used to have to use was 1.43. He is not using that. He is using 1.00 as though you had no mod for this renewal. That is because of the City of Abbeville's particular performance. You have done well. You implemented some programs that have contributed to this. The results speak for themselves. We believe in helping member cities. The trust is doing better so we can help our member cities. The administration is doing something right because the trend is doing good. Councilman Touchet asked Mr. Collins if the mod can increase. Mr. Collins answered yes. The City of Abbeville's performance will determine the mod. Mayor Piazza asked if the mod can go below 1.00. Mr. Collins stated the mod can go below 1.00 and if the City continues the trend it will be. Mr. Funderburk stated the other proposal we received is from LWCC and Ben Rivera and Colton Daigle are here to discuss their proposal. Mayor Piazza asked Ben to explain how the dividend program works. Mr. Rivera stated Mr. Colton Daigle is very instrumental in building mods and working with carriers. LWCC's proposal this year is \$314,329.00. This does not account for any dividends received. Our proposal in 2018 was \$405,000.00. The City has already received a dividend check for \$16,014.00. As you renew with LWCC the amount of dividend will increase and at 5 years, you are fully vested and you will earn the maximum amount. The City implemented a safety program and we met over 6 times last year. We see this working as we have the lowest claim frequency and severity that we have seen in the past 5 years. That model is working for us. The dividend you received is not for a full year. The dividend period runs from January 1st through the end of the year. We wrote this coverage on May 19, 2018 so the \$16,014.00 represents about 6 ½ months. Our goal is to implement a safety program where fewer people get hurt and then this will reduce premiums in the long run. Councilwoman White asked Mr. Collins how many cities declined to renew with RMI last year. Mr. Collins stated a couple did but then they got a couple back. We have been doing this since 1979 and they are not making new municipalities every year so his market place is not expanding. We have reached saturation so we will probably hold saturation. He just recently received three new accounts in the face of significant competition. Mr. Funderburk stated we are comparing apples to apples. The quotations are very close. The dividend program with LWCC may make up the difference. Mayor Piazza stated competition is good. We were with RMI for several years and we were with LWCC

before and RMI came in and saved us a lot of money. LWCC has been here for 1 year now and we have seen tremendous benefit. Maybe we need to give LWCC another year so he is leaning towards paying a little bit more up front to save more later. Councilman Touchet stated he feels we need to save the money now for the taxpayers. Here is an opportunity to save the money. LMA has taken care of us with liability insurance. That is how the market should work. Councilwoman White stated that she understands that we need to save money but we have the proposals that are very close and we have an opportunity to get money back so then they are even and she believes in keeping our dollars local. This gives jobs to people in Vermilion Parish and there is an added value to that. That is why she is in favor of renewing with LWCC. Councilman Plaisance agreed that we should keep our money local and give LWCC another year. Councilman Broussard added that the net price with LWCC may be better. If we had been with them for one year then the dividend may have been \$32,000.00. Their safety consultant helps our safety program.

-03 introduced by Mr. Francis Plaisance and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to approve the renewal from LWCC for workers compensation insurance for 5/19/19 through 5/19/20. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaisance/T. Broussard
Resolution R19-12

A resolution adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the audit of fiscal year 2018.

The motion carried unanimously.

-04 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to award the contract for the sewer collection system extension on Carolyn Drive to R. J. Broussard in the amount of \$13,060.00. The motion carried unanimously.

-05 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Ms. Terry Broussard to approve the recommendations of the hearing officer from the code violation hearings held on May 1, 2019 for the following properties: 906 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive/abandoned wrecked black car/given 5 days, 2510 Frankie Street/tall grass/no action taken as property has been foreclosed, 1602 Timber Trail/dilapidated burnt mobile home/given 7 days, 1103 Green Street/abandoned boat/given 5 days, 411 E. Vermilion Street/grass & unsecured structure/given 10 days, 304 S. Young Street/unsecured garage apartment/given 7 days, 708 S. East Street/junk items on property/issued certificate of compliance, 1109 Godchaux/dilapidated house/given 30 days, 114 S. Gertrude Street/dilapidated burn house/given 30 days, 608 E. Oak Street/dilapidated structure/given 10 days, 311 W. Lafayette Street/dilapidated building/given 14 days and 617 Nugier Street/multiple abandoned cars/given 10 days. The motion carried unanimously.

-06 introduced by Ms. Terry Broussard and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve a 30-day extension on the demolition permit for 1100 S. Miles. The motion carried unanimously.

-07 introduced by Ms. Roslyn White and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to grant a variance from the mobile home ordinance to move a new 2019 mobile home to 1326 Coulee Kinney Road as it replaces a 2006 mobile home that will be removed from the property. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tommy Rhymes was requesting a variance from the mobile home ordinance to add another mobile home on a lot. Mr. Funderburk stated more than one mobile home on a lot is a mobile

home park. We passed an ordinance on 4/17/18 that stated it shall be unlawful for any person to establish or operate a trailer or mobile home park in the City which is not duly permitted and operational prior to 6/1/18. That is the first hurdle. This was all done for a reason. It is not to keep people from utilizing their property. So many of the lots in Abbeville are narrow and it is a fire hazard to put two mobile homes close together on these small lots. There is already a mobile home on the lot and there would be problems with setback requirements. Our ordinances also require that there be certain distances from the mobile homes and for the mobile home to comply with the side, front and back requirements and with the square footage of the lot. No mobile home shall be placed closer than 20 feet to any other mobile home within the park and it shall abide by the setback requirements for mobile homes. Each individual trailer site shall abut or face on a driveway or clear unoccupied space not less than 30 feet in width, which space shall have unobstructed access to the public highway or alley. These are the challenges we have with this lot. Mr. Rhymes feels there is plenty of room there for two mobile homes. Mr. Kim Touchet stated that Mr. David Greco, with their office, did inspect the property. The proposed mobile home is 28 x 44. He will not be able to place the mobile home so that it meets the setback requirements or the minimum separations. If the variance is granted and it becomes a mobile home park, there is a larger separation requirement between the mobile homes. That will pose additional problems.

-08 introduced by Mr. Francis Touchet, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Roslyn White to deny the request for a variance to the mobile home ordinance to move a 2017 mobile home to 419 E. Eighth Street. The motion was put to a vote and the vote thereon was as follows:

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

Therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Funderburk provided an update on the status and process of sales tax election and special legislation. The Secretary of State will certify the results of the election by May 15th. Thereafter, we will have a meeting on 5/21/19 at 5:00 PM for the purpose of canvassing and declaring the results of the election, causing the results to be published in the Abbeville Meridional, preparing and executing a proces verbal of the election, and sending certified copies of the proces verbal to the Secretary of State and the Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court. We will commence collection of the ½ cent sales tax on October 1, 2019. The status of Senate Bill 142 is that on May 2, 2019, representatives of both the Fire and Police Departments, with Mr. Funderburk, appeared at a meeting of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs for the purpose of assisting Senator Hensgens with the presentation of the bill for the committee's consideration. The bill was approved by the committee and will make its way to the Senate floor for a vote. Once the bill is passed by the Senate it will be docketed in the House of Representatives where it will eventually be brought to a vote. If it passes both houses, it will be presented to the Governor for his signature. It will become law upon his signature.

-09 introduced by Mr. Brady Broussard, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Francis Plaisance to approve pay application number 9 payable to Minvielle Lumber in the amount of \$67,889.85 and the invoice payable to The Sellers Group in the amount of \$2,015.96, both for the Airport Terminal Renovation Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Clay Menard, Public Works Director

- Thanked the Mayor and the City Council on behalf of the Public Works Department for pushing on with the sales tax election for raises. The employees are very excited for the

pay raise. They do work hard and they know that all of you worked hard to do this for them.

Mayor Mark Piazza

- *Thank you for the birthday wishes last week.*

Bill Spearman, Police Chief

- *Thanked the Mayor and Council for sales tax election.*

Jude Mire, Fire Chief

- *Thanked the Mayor and Council for the passing of the sales tax.*
- *Councilwoman White asked about the completion of the groundwork of Hebert Fire Station. Clay Menard stated they are waiting for the weather to allow them to do the work. First, we have to complete the drainage then we can do the site work to pour the concrete pad for the generator.*

Councilman Francis Touchet, Jr.

- *Thanked everyone for their efforts in helping to get the tax passed. He thanked the voters that supported the tax for pay raises. This will be great for the employees and the citizens of Abbeville.*

Councilman Brady Broussard, Jr.

- *Provided a status of the mural on the Cultural Center Building. The artist, Robert Dafford, had an accident that will require a lengthy recuperation. He intends to resume and finish the mural. That is not a victim of budget cuts.*
- *Next month is the Daylily Festival in Magdalen Square. That is in the beginning of June.*
- *Congratulated everyone at Mount Carmel Elementary and Vermilion Catholic for another successful May Festival.*
- *Prayers go out for a City employee who had a loss of life in her family. Please keep all the City employees in your prayers. It is a tough job they have out there and when they have a loss in their family, that makes it especially difficult.*
- *October will be here before you know it and Geno Delafosse is already booked for the Sounds on the Square in October 2019. That is free to our citizens.*

Councilwoman Terry Broussard

- *Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This is where you get it straight.*
- *Prayers go out to one of our family members who works for the City. We ask you to keep them in your prayers.*
- *Congratulated Koryn Hawthorne on her Billboard Award.*
- *Congratulated all the high school and college graduates.*

Ronald Darby, Vermilion Parish Police Jury

- *Asked if Councilman Broussard and Councilwoman Broussard wanted to work with the Police Jury in the capital outlay project for street overlays.*

Councilman Francis Plaisance

- *The Cake and Ice Cream Festival will be held in July.*
- *Today there was an 18-wheeler carrying oil field casing. There is no way that is being delivered in the downtown area of the City. He has been asking the past 3 Chiefs to try make an effort to get these 18-wheelers out of our downtown area. Chief Spearman*

stated it is hard to get somebody downtown to patrol. In the summer it will be easier because Chris will be out of school.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Kathleen S. Faulk
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Piazza
Mayor