

Town of Abita Springs

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(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

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The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on June 19, 2018, at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1.) POP - Mike Norman and Katy Bridges approached the Board to tell them about a new program at The Art and Farmer's Market. It was explained that POP, standing for the Power of Produce, is a club which provides a fun opportunity to engage younger customers in the farmers market through conversations directly with farmers, educational games and demonstrations, and exposure to new fruits and vegetables. POP Club kids receive vouchers to spend at the market, allowing them to make their own shopping decisions. There are approximately 30 children participating. 2.) Certificate of Appreciation – Marlin Rittenberry was awarded a Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation recognizing his service to the community as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner and Emergency Operations Center Liaison. 3.) Town Center Sign - Mayor Lemons said that he hopes to have the Town Center Sign complete with the addition of two Tesla fuel charging stations by the of July. 4.) Historic Meeting (O'Reilly Auto Parts) - The Mayor reported that O'Reilly Auto Parts has expressed interest in annexing property on Hwy 59 into the town limits. He added that O'Reilly representatives were meeting with members of the Historic Commission to discuss compliance with Historic Guidelines. 5.) July 4th Celebration - Mayor Lemons announced the Independence Day Celebration explaining that the VFW, ACES, and the Town of Abita Springs have partnered together to provide a hometown celebration with music, food, a flag retirement ceremony, and fireworks scheduled for June 30th from 5 to 10pm. A local resident asked that the prohibition on shooting fireworks within town limits be publicized. 6.) NPR Interview – Mayor Lemons advised that he was interviewed by Here & Now's Robin Young with National Public Radio for a broadcast on June 20th about the town's efforts to achieve energy sustainability. 7.) LPBF Grant – The Mayor reported that he Town of Abita Springs has been awarded a grant amounting to approximately \$42,000.00 by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to study expansion alternatives and strategy for the town's wastewater treatment plant. The town's match responsibility is 25%. 8.) Emergency Plan – Mayor Lemons informed attendees of developments related to the town's emergency plan. He noted that earlier in the day at a parish sponsored meeting he learned that local municipalities, in the event of a disaster, would possibly participate in a medical distribution process. 9.) Newsletter – The Mayor announced the resumption of the publication of the quarterly newsletter. Distribution will no longer be provided via USPS but instead the information will be posted on the town's website.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2018-004 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #483 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2018 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018, ADJUSTMENT TO SECTIONS VIII. AND IX. AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. The Mayor explained that the proposed ordinance adjusts income and expenditures for line extensions to the DOTD facility on LA Hwy 36. After hearing public comment on the merit of the Louisiana Government Budget Act, Alderman Murphy moved to close the Hearing, seconded by Alderman Curtis. All were in favor.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to accept the May 15, 2018, Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Murphy. All were in favor.

REPORTS:

STPSO: Lt. Williams reported that many automobile accidents appear to be the result of inattentive drivers. Responding to a question on another subject, the Lieutenant suggested a call to 911 or dispatch would certainly be proper when encountering unleashed dogs. TOWN MARSHAL: There was no report from the Marshal. FIRE DISTRICT #8: Chief Glynn reported that monthly reported incidents totaled 76. GRANTS: The Mayor reported that the Recreational Trails Grant and the Trace Lighting Grant are both still under review by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

ENGINEERING: Mayor Lemons, on behalf of Jean Thibodeaux, reported on the following engineering projects:

a. Railroad Avenue Drainage Project – Construction is virtually complete. The Mayor, in answer to a question posed by Alderman Berrigan, said that he hopes the project will alleviate the flooding problem at Artigue's Abita Market.

Town Engineer Andre Monnot presented a follow-up spreadsheet for the "Sewer System Rehab Project Budget Status" and reported on the following engineering projects:

- a. Sewer Rehabilitation Program: CCTV inspection of sewer gravity mains is complete. Engineering design development is beginning, he expects the basis of a design document by August 31st.
- b. Harrison Ave Extension Land Use and Transportation Study: Final report is in assembly for submittal to the Regional Planning Commission this week.
- c. Utility Service to the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development Hwy 36 Facility: Design is complete, and has been submitted to the Louisiana Department of Health, and to LADOTD for permitting.
- d. Meadows: Final comments on the developer's engineering drawings have been issued.

Mayor Lemons reviewed the Town's practice of creating written reports to address maintenance, public works, and garbage collection activities and complaints. The Mayor noted that the town's garbage collection contractor no longer provides commercial recycling services.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons first opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2018-004 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #483 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2018 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018, ADJUSTMENT TO SECTIONS VIII. AND IX. AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, prior to calling for the amendment to adjust income and expenditures related to construction of the town center sign. The Mayor then asked for a motion to amend. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to amend INSTRUMENT 2018-004 adding income and expenditures for the construction of the sign for the 2018 budget year, seconded by Alderman Murphy. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. Alderman Murphy moved to adopt as amended, INSTRUMENT 2018-004 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #483 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2018 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018, ADJUSTMENT TO SECTIONS VIII. AND IX. AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS (ADD INCOME AND EXPENDITURES RELATED TO LINE EXTENSIONS TO THE DOTD FACILITY ON LA HWY 36,) seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. Deferred from the prior Town Council meeting, Mayor Lemons asked for a motion on A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS AND THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT. Alderman Curtis moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons, as part of the required public meeting proceedings opened discussion of A RESOLUTION LEVYING THE FOLLOWING MILLAGES ON THE 2018 TAX ROLL ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION BY THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS: GENERAL ALIMONY AT 7.86 MILS, PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS & STREET LIGHTS AT 3.00 MILS, AND STREET BONDS AT 5.00 MILS. After reading the details of the resolution, the Mayor asked for public comment. On a related matter, a local resident asked the Mayor if he anticipated resistance to the upcoming call for the 3mils supporting parks/playgrounds & street lighting. Mayor Lemons said that he did not. After hearing all comment, Mayor Lemons called for the vote. The roll call vote yielded the following results: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver There were 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent. The next item on the agenda was presented by Joe Daher of the town's auditing firm Erickson Krentel. Mr. Daher presented an overview of the results of the Town's Financial Audit adding that there were no material non-compliance issues or any significant deficiencies noted. Agenda item three was an introduction of INSTRUMENT 2018-005 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ZONING AND ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, LOUISIANA AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. (CLEAR CREEK LOT 5 – TASHA AND CHRISTOPHER ARNETT). Alderman Berrigan moved to introduce Instrument 2018-005, seconded by Alderman Curtis. Moving on to item four, Alderman Murphy moved to adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS AND ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT to provide for the repaving of Allen Road, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt A RESOLUTION SELECTING THE ST TAMMANY FARMER AS THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL JOURNAL, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Residents posed questions and commented on the following topics: oversight of the clearing of trees at the Abita Meadows Development, the timing of the historic meeting, freedom of speech issues and the town law prohibiting fortune telling. Local resident Jay Hawkins announced that his name would be listed among those running for office on the November 6th ballot. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper announced upcoming events.

Alderman Murphy moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 19th DAY OF JUNE 2018.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor