



These minutes are from the meetings of the Public Committees on November 7, 2017. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper called the meeting to order adding that Governmental Committee participants were running late. With this she asked for a motion to move the discussion until after the Economic Developmental Committee meeting. Alderman Murphy made a motion to move the Governmental Committee meeting to the end of the agenda, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Yeas were Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays:0 Abstain:0 Absent:0. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Lemons announced that the Holiday Lighting Project is underway. He invited attendees to visit the Choctaw Ridge location to view the progress. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper reported that she is working to organize an evening with the aldermen and the mayor to raise additional funding for the project.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Murphy moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and to accept the October 2017 minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Alderman Murphy asked the Mayor to provide an update on the sewer project. Mayor Lemons advised that execution of the loan documents has been scheduled, that the first draw has been requested, and that he anticipates the video investigation of the lines will begin early in 2018. Alderman Curtis, considering recent correspondence, noted his concern over the age of the natural gas infrastructure system. Mayor Lemons advised that testing is done by means of a "sniff test" and that the Town is accountable for gas usage versus gas supplied. Alderman Murphy moved to close the committee meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and to accept the October 2017 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Mayor Lemons directed attention to the 2018 Budget and Budget Message. The Mayor summarized points from the Budget Message including the addition of loan income and sewer project expenditures, a sidewalk grant, and the construction of a columbarium in Abita Springs Cemetery No. 1. The Mayor also mentioned plans to build a dog park. Alderman Blitch Welliver asked the Mayor to provide information regarding anticipated annual maintenance costs for the dog park. The Mayor said he really didn't anticipate maintenance costs in 2018. Estimates of subsequent annual costs should be available in the first quarter of next year. Other points touched upon include shared sales tax revenue, employee salaries and benefits, the lease of a vacuum truck, the Harrison Avenue Extension, the addition of solar panels on Town Hall, and a video system at the park. Responding to a question posed by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper, Mayor Lemons confirmed that the purchase of a new electronic vehicle is not in the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper appealed to the public to review the budget information and went on to express concern regarding matters related to law enforcement and the proposed Harrison Ave. drainage improvements. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to favorably recommend the Budget Ordinance to the Town Council, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. After public comment, the vote was Yeas: Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper and Alderman Blitch Welliver. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Alderman Curtis moved to open the Economic Development Committee Meeting and to accept the October 2017 minutes, seconded by Alderman Murphy. The Mayor mentioned that on Thursday morning at 11am the Longbranch Recovery Center will hold its grand opening. Other topics discussed included changes in ownership at the Brew Pub and Frabbiele's Deli. Alderman Curtis moved to close the meeting, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE: Alderman Berrigan moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the October 2017 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Mayor Lemons directed attention to the Abita Meadows Preliminary Plat. He then introduced consulting engineer Jean Thibodeaux. Mr. Thibodeaux advised that the six items requested of the developer have been provided and added that more engineering details would be forthcoming. Paul Mayronne, counsel for the developer asked that the Board move the plat forward to the Town Council meeting. Responding to concerns regarding traffic it was noted that developmental plans call for a J-load configuration which would allow front facing entry onto the roadway. Alderman Berrigan made a motion to favorably move the topic forward to the Town Council meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. With no response to the request for public comment, the resulting vote was approval by both members of the committee. Mayor Lemons added that verification of the legal description must be made and any discrepancies resolved prior to approval. The Board moved on to a discussion of the 2018 meeting schedule. Holiday conflicts were resolved and the new schedule was established. It was noted that the schedule would be posted on the website. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper moved to close the committee meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

Alderman Murphy moved to close the meeting of the Public Committees, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

MEETING ADJOURNED
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 7th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2017.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Greg Lemons, Mayor