

Town of Abita Springs

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The following minutes were taken at the monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on August 21, 2018, at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1.) Mayor Lemons advised that Sandra Slifer has been selected to serve as an alternate Emergency Operations Center Liaison. 2.) The Mayor introduced St. Tammany Development District CEO Chris Masingill. Mr. Masingill explained the reorganization of the administration and expressed his desire to creatively move forward with new development. He invited all to feel free to contact him for additional information. 3.) Mayor Lemons reported on the installation of utility lines to the planned LADOTD facility on Hwy. 36. He announced that a meeting with participants took place on the preceding Monday. The projected completion date of the utility line extensions is estimated for the end of November. 4.) The Hutton Co. (O'Reilly Auto Parts) has received pricing for utility line extensions to their proposed location. 5.) Mayor Lemons invited Historic Commission Chairman Ron Blitch to provide an update on the adoption of the improved format for historic guidelines. Mr. Blitch advised that thus far there have been several opportunities for public input and invited further citizenry participation. He added that the current Town ordinance addresses exterior color, stating that the Mayor has made it clear that he does not support regulating color nor landscaping. Mr. Blitch informed attendees that the draft is posted on the Town's website and encouraged residents to submit opinions and suggestions to the P&Z Director, Cindy Chatelain at cindy.chatelain@townofabitasprings.com. 6.) The Mayor announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Town Center Sign and Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations will be held on Sunday, September 9th at 10am.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the July 24, 2018, Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. All were in favor. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to approve the Mid-Year 2018 Financial Report seconded by Alderman Murphy. All were in favor.

REPORTS: **STPSO:** Lt. Williams introduced the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office resource officers assigned to Abita Elementary and Abita Middle Schools (Gil Freeman and Stephanie Rogers.) **TOWN MARSHAL:** Marshal Slemmer reported on the following complaints: 1.) Dumpster complaints 2.) Trash 3.) A resident blowing leaves on a neighbor's property. **FD 8:** Chief Glynn reported that total complaints 484 compared to 425 for the same period last year. Mayor Lemons commended the Chief and his crew for their dedicated service and help during the recent water line break on Hwy. 36. **GRANTS:** The Mayor reported on eight grants including Recreational Trails, Trace Lighting, Community Water Enrichment Fund (for utility line extensions,) along with others related to the Town's sewer plant, wastewater gravity collection system, looping and increased number of injection sites into water supply lines and improvements to the Town Hall.

ENGINEERING: Mayor Lemons, on behalf of Jean Thibodeaux, reported on the following engineering projects: a.) Abita Oaks: Developer is working on the design and implementation of an eleven-spot parking lot and green space area with an engineering inspection to follow. b.) Recreational Trails: The grant is still under a wetlands determination review. c.) Trailhead/Trace Parking Lot: The feasibility study is underway. d.) Railroad Avenue Drainage: The bumpers and crosswalks are not yet completed.

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 report was received two weeks ago. The basis of the design document is expected in mid-September. b.) Harrison Ave Extension Land Use and Transportation Study: The Regional Planning Commission Report is complete. The next phase of the effort will begin in September, including environmental and engineering advancement of the concept. c.) Utility Service to LADOTD: The design is complete, permits have been issued, and the LADOTD agreement has been executed for extension of approximately 1,500 linear feet of 10” water main, a new sewer lift station, and 1,500 linear feet of 2” sewer forced main. Construction of the water main will begin in early September. The total project time is approximately 90 days.

Mayor Lemons further elaborated on the content of the Regional Planning Commission Report on the Harrison Ave., Extension and Land Use Study, informing attendees that the intersection at Harrison Ave. and Hwy 59 has been evaluated and received a D grade. The Mayor added that Parish President Brister acknowledged the need for improvements and the extension of Harrison Ave. Ms. Brister communicated her overall support of the project.

Mayor Lemons reviewed the Town’s practice of creating written reports to address maintenance, public works, and garbage collection activities and complaints. The Mayor advised that he is working with staff to gather additional information to move forward with improving effectiveness of radio communication between utility meters and the readers.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business on the agenda.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderman Candidate Stewart Eastman spoke about the importance for preserving the Town’s tree canopy. Mr. Eastman also made suggestions regarding methods to increase longevity of street surfaces.

Alderman Murphy moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 21st DAY OF AUGUST 2018.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor