

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

PATRICK BERRIGAN
DANIEL J. CURTIS
RYAN MURPHY
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

UTILITY MANAGER
DEBRA MACLEAN

UTILITY CLERK II
LINDA MEEKER

PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR
CINDY CHATELAIN

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on October 18, 2016 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Lemons presented local resident Rachel Lambert with the Town of Abita Springs, Citizen of the Year Award for 2016-2017. The Mayor read from his proclamation acknowledging Ms. Lambert's contribution to the community. The Mayor then called on Mike Norman to give the Art & Farmer's Market Report. Mr. Norman advised that market participation decreases during the hot weather months and has begun to pick up with recent cooler temperatures. Announcements of past and upcoming market events included mention of the Children's Halloween Costume Contest at the Market with registration beginning at 1:30pm on Sunday, October 29th. Mayor Lemons thanked Water Festival volunteers adding that much effort goes into the planning of Town festivals. Next, the Mayor reported that the debris removal/disposal and debris monitoring contracts have been executed and our contractors for these emergency services are now in place. Mayor Lemons recognized Johnny Clay as October's Employee of the Month and thanked him for his service. The Mayor closed his announcement section by thanking STARC and COAST through a proclamation presented to members of the organization on October 11th.

ROLL CALL:

Council members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the September 20, 2016 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. All present were in favor.

STPSO:

Lt. Williams gave his monthly report. The Lieutenant warned residents to be aware of several scams presently circulating in St. Tammany Parish. He described one scenario where the perpetrator asked for personal information after stating that the homeowner had won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. Another involved the IRS and another involved a call from someone threatening to harm a member of the victim's family if they did not pay a ransom.

FIRE DISTRICT 8:

Chief Glenn reported that the recent motor vehicle extraction class was successful and that the wrecked vehicles will be removed from the rear of the firehouse soon. The Chief also mentioned that District 8 firefighters would prepare and serve hot dogs at the Town of Abita Springs Halloween Block Party.

TOWN ENGINEER:

Mayor Lemons advised that things are progressing with cemetery improvements. The Mayor also mentioned that the base of the traffic circle fountain is leaking and that additional repairs are underway.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons asked the Board to defer consideration of instrument 2015-007 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. Alderman Berrigan moved to defer the instrument to the November Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Curtis. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays: 0, Absent: 0 Abstain: 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons introduced his choice for the position of Town Marshal, Matthew King. Mr. King thanked everyone for the opportunity and the Mayor presented a resolution of support and approval to the Board. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN MARSHAL, seconded by Alderman Curtis. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays: 0, Absent: 0 Abstain: 0.

The Mayor asked for an introduction of the Budget Instrument. Alderman Blitch-Welliver moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2016-005 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

Mayor Lemons presented a resolution for Board authorization to submit a pre-application to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for funding of necessary sewer system improvements. Alderman Murphy moved to adopt A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS FOR SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays: 0, Absent: 0 Abstain: 0.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Local resident Jay Hawkins reported that the third week of October is feral cat week and that October 17th was feral cat day. Mr. Hawkins noted that there are programs available to the community to assist with trapping, spaying, neutering and release of feral cats. He advised that he had taken advantage of the program by having a neighborhood feral cat neutered.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper announced upcoming events including the Cajun Dance, the Halloween Block Party and Harvest Dance, and the Abita Springs Trailhead Museum Smithsonian Exhibit "Hometown Teams" opening on November 19th.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 18th DAY OF OCTOBER 2016.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor