

Town of Abita Springs

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MAYOR
GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

PATRICK BERRIGAN
DANIEL J. CURTIS
RYAN MURPHY
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

UTILITY MANAGER
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UTILITY CLERK II
LINDA MEEKER

PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR
CINDY CHATELAIN

TOWN MARSHAL
MIKE SLEMMER

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on June 20, 2017 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the adoption of 2017 millage rates.

1. The first public hearing allowed for a discussion of Resolution No. 1 setting the 2017 millage rates for General Alimony at 7.750 mils and for Parks/Playgrounds and Street Lights at 2.960 mils. The Mayor called for public comment. No one from the public commented.
2. The next hearing was a discussion of Resolution No. 2 related to the setting and the roll forward of the 2017 millage rates. The resolution provides for the roll forward of General Alimony from 7.750 mils to 7.86 mils and for Parks/Playgrounds and Street Lights from 2.960 mils to 3.0 mils. Local residents asked questions regarding the distribution of the millage among funds and for clarification of the roll forward process.
3. The third public hearing involved a discussion of the Resolution to levy on the 2017 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Abita Springs 5.0 mils for the Town's street bond debt obligation. A call for public comment resulted in no comments or questions from the public.
4. The final hearing was a discussion of INSTRUMENT 2017-004 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #309 RELATIVE TO THE ZONING AS A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OF A CERTAIN PARCEL OF GROUND IN SECTIONS 5 & 8 TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, ST TAMMANY PARISH, STATE OF LOUISIANA AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper explained that discussion of the Abita Meadows subdivision first began approximately nine years ago. A local resident expressed concerned over the density of the proposed development. Mayor Lemons explained that the density is consistent with the rest of the town. He added that the proposed ordinance simply clarifies that the development conforms to the most recent Planned Unit Development Ordinance.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Lemons recognized the Keep Abita Beautiful Committee and the Abita Springs Garden Club for their volunteer efforts in achieving the Louisiana Cleanest City Award. The Mayor invited members to join him while he read a Proclamation thanking all the volunteers for their service to the community. Keep Abita Beautiful Coordinator Adrienne Juttner thanked all those who diligently worked to beautify Abita Springs. Garden Club President Darlene Johnson invited any interested to join the Abita Springs Garden Club. The Mayor and Ms. Juttner presented Abita Springs lapel pins to the volunteers as a gesture of appreciation for their service. Mayor Lemons next awarded Niki Mendow the Employee of the Month Certificate. Ms. Mendow expressed that it is an honor and a privilege to serve the administration and the community.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the May 16, 2017 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were in favor.

ORAL REPORTS:

STPSO: Lt. Williams gave his monthly report of incidents. The Lieutenant noted property was stolen from the front porch of a home in Abita Oaks. MARSHAL: The Marshal reported on twelve complaints in his June report. FIRE DISTRICT #8: Chief Glynn reported that his June report reflects 67 incidents, the exact number as for the prior month. ENGINEERING: Mayor Lemons reported that work to move forward on the Trace sidewalk lighting project continues. The Mayor said he hopes to begin construction on the project in January 2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alderman Berrigan moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2017-004 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 309 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS RELATIVE TO THE ZONING RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON A CERTAIN PIECE OF GROUND IN SECTIONS 5 AND 8 TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, STATE OF LOUISIANA; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. A local resident asked what prompted the changes to the PUD Ordinance commenting that the law should not be changed to suit the needs of developers. Mayor Lemons responded that the recommendation originated with the Planning and Zoning Commission. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Alderman Curtis moved to adopt a Resolution in support of participation by the Abita Guest House LLC in the Louisiana Restoration Tax Abatement Program for their property located at 22088 Ann O'Brien Ln., Abita Springs, Louisiana, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Local residents expressed support for the project. The vote was Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0
2. Jim Tonglet of Erickson, Krentel, and Laporte presented an overview of the Town's Financial Audit. Mr. Tonglet advised that the audit resulted in an unmodified or clean opinion and that within the test samples no material misstatements were found.
3. Alderman Murphy 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 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0.
4. Mayor Lemons read Resolution No. 1 setting the **adjusted** millage rates for 2017 in its entirety. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. The Mayor called for public comment. In response to a resident's question it was noted that the tax is due each year on December 31st. The result of the roll call vote was Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0. The resolution was adopted; the vote was unanimous.
5. Mayor Lemons read Resolution No. 2 setting the adjusted millage rates and the roll forward of millage rates, but not in excess of the prior year's maximum for 2017 in its entirety. Alderman Berrigan moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Mayor Lemons called for public comment. Responding to questions from the public, the Mayor noted that the roll forward would bring approximately \$3200.00 to the Town and that the roll forward of the millage must be approved by the Council annually. The roll call vote was: Yeas: 4 Aldermen Berrigan, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:1 Alderman Curtis Absent:0 Abstain:0. The resolution was adopted by a vote of four in favor and one opposed meeting the requirement for passage of a two-thirds majority.
6. Mayor Lemons read the Resolution to levy the bond millage on the 2017 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Abita Springs in its entirety. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt the resolution seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Mayor Lemons called for public comment. There were no public comments. The result of a roll call vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0 The resolution was adopted; the vote was unanimous.
7. Mayor Lemons presented an overview of points covered during the prior week's meeting regarding the proposed utility rate increase. The Mayor explained that the increase is needed to fund a rehabilitation of the Town's aging sanitary sewer. He warned that the poorly functioning system is a threat to the health and well-being of the community. He added that a failure by the Town to address the issue could set into motion a chain of events whereby the federal government takes over the system through a consent decree. Alderman Blitch Welliver introduced a discussion of several amendments to the resolution. Agreed upon amendments included

the following: that the Town Council conducted a Public Meeting on June 14, 2017 to hear public comment regarding the proposed utility rate increase, the removal of the Mayor's authority to independently maintain, amend and renew the adjusted rates, a requirement for the Council to review the rates every four years, that the funds derived from this rate increase be dedicated to the rehabilitation of the Town's Sanitary Sewer System (funded by a loan from the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund administered by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality) and that all calculations which are the basis of the increase shall be certified by the auditor. Alderman Blich Welliver moved to adopt the amendment, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt the resolution as amended to retain the gas rate at its current level and to increase the water and sewer rates, seconded by Alderman Blich Welliver. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0.

8. Mayor Lemons explained that the Town is renewing the garbage collection contract with Progressive Waste/Waste Connection. There will be a small increase (eighty cents) in residential rates. The resolution also provides for the addition of commercial dumpster service collection and establishes corresponding rates. The Mayor added that the Town negotiated increased services including the weekly pick-up of green waste. Alderman Blich Welliver mentioned that the proposed resolution contained language authorizing the Mayor to independently maintain, amend and renew the rates and suggested an amendment to remove said language. Alderman Berrigan moved to amend the resolution as suggested, seconded by Alderman Blich Welliver. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0. Alderman Berrigan moved to adopt the resolution to increase residential garbage rates and to establish commercial garbage rates as amended, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick Harper. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0.
9. Mayor Lemons presented the resolution declaring the intention of the Town of Abita Springs, State of Louisiana, to issue Taxable Utility Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in an amount not to exceed Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00) for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing, acquiring and installing additions, extensions, improvements and replacements to the sewer component of the combined waterworks system, sewer system and natural gas system of said Town; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Alderman Murphy moved to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderman Blich Welliver. The vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper announced upcoming events.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20th DAY OF JUNE 2017.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor