

Town of Abita Springs

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GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

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DANIEL J. CURTIS
RYAN MURPHY
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

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TOWN MARSHAL
MIKE SLEMMER

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on March 21, 2017 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order. The Mayor advised that the discussion of drinking water chlorination would take place during the Mayor's announcements. Mayor Lemons also mentioned that Mike Lopez representing Recreation District 11 would address the Board during the announcements.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2017-001 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ZONING AND ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS (ABITA MEADOWS PUD – ENE OF TOWN, HWY 36 AND PROPOSED HARRISON EXTENSION AREA) AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. The Mayor invited Paul Mayronne, representing the owner of the property, to provide information relative to the proposed ordinance. Mr. Mayronne offered that the parcel is part of a larger tract. He went on to say that the owner desires to maintain continuity in ownership and regulation. Mr. Mayronne added that the annexation and development would increase the developer's portion of the Harrison Avenue roadway construction by approximately 1000 ft. He concluded by stating that the annexation would be of benefit to both the Town and the owner and asked for the Aldermen's support. Local resident, Stewart Eastman spoke in opposition to the ordinance. Mr. Eastman expressed that the annexation and the PUD were not in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Eastman stated that he feels the proposed development is problematic. He then summarized his objections saying that he felt the plan is too large, too dense, that it is not particularly architecturally innovative or unique and compromises an environmentally sensitive area. Mr. Eastman concluded by adding that the development, if realized, will be another example of suburban sprawl in St. Tammany Parish. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. All Aldermen were present and in favor.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Lemons introduced Louis Fitzmorris, former Mayor and St. Tammany Parish Assessor. Assessor Fitzmorris spoke to attendees regarding the upcoming vote on April 29th to continue the parish wide sales tax which funds the St. Tammany Parish Justice Center (including the Towers Building in Slidell) and the Jail. Mr. Fitzmorris reported that ¼ cent sales tax with a 20 year renewal for each agency was on the ballot last year and failed. This year the amount has been reduced to 1/5 cent with a ten year renewal. Assessor Fitzmorris explained the expiring ¼ cent brings in approximately 11.3 million dollars for the Justice Center annually and pays the 3.4 million dollar debt service into 2018. If approved 10% or approximately \$960,000.00 will be allocated to the 22nd Judicial Specialty Courts. Assessor Fitzmorris asked the Mayor, the Board, and attendees to support the tax. The Mayor then introduced Forest McQueen as the employee of the month for March and commended Mr. McQueen on his ability to communicate effectively. Mayor Lemons invited local community volunteer Adrian Juttner to approach the Board. The Mayor awarded Mr. Juttner a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the Town. The Mayor recognized Mr. Juttner for landscape and tree trimming work performed in and around the Town Center and the Tammany Trace. Mayor Lemons also thanked the Friends of the Park for a successful Earth Day event. The Mayor reported that the event appeared to have the

largest attendance to date and was informative and fun for all. The next topic discussed during the announcements section was drinking water chlorination. The Mayor introduced John Williams, Deputy Chief in Field Operations with the Louisiana Department of Health. Mr. Williams explained that the *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba was identified in some water systems and was found to be responsible for three deaths in the State of Louisiana. Responding to these events, the state has mandated that water systems maintain a higher residual disinfectant level of .5 free or total chlorine. Mr. Williams advised that the .5 level of chlorine required throughout the entire distribution system was decided upon based upon Australian efforts to address a similar situation along with CDC recommendations. Residents disclosed problems with their drinking water supply ranging from rashes to intolerable odor and taste issues. Mr. Williams asserted that the level of chlorine introduced into the system should not in itself, result in the type of problems described and suggested that residents keep a log of incidents. Mayor Lemons suggested that attendees report incidents through a complaint form on the Town's website. He added that this would provide the information that the Town and the State needs to work together to investigate claims of poor water quality. Announcements were concluded with a presentation of a plaque from the Chairman of Recreation District 11, Mike Lopez, to the Town of Abita Springs expressing appreciation for the Town's support and dedication to the district and its assistance in the opening of the new multi-use facility.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Berrigan moved to accept the February 21, 2017 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. All present were in favor.

STPSO:

Lt. Williams gave his monthly report including several miscellaneous complaints along with details related to the incident that resulted in damage to the town center electronic sign.

TOWN MARSHAL:

The Marshal reported on code violations most of which were resolved without incident. Pending complaints will be addressed in future reports.

FIRE DISTRICT 8:

Chief Glenn read from his report of monthly statistics and advised that he is anticipating the delivery of four automated external defibrillators which will be donated to the Town by the Fire District.

TOWN ENGINEER:

Mayor Lemons stated that Andre Monnot and Principal Engineering would provide the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project budget for the next town meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alderman Murphy made a motion to adopt INSTRUMENT 2017-001 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ZONING AND ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS (ABITA MEADOWS PUD – ENE OF TOWN, HWY 36 AND PROPOSED HARRISON EXTENSION AREA) AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Alderman Curtis. The vote was Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Abstain:0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons invited LeAnn Magee to address the Board regarding the Abita Committee for Energy Sustainability resolution of support. Ms. Magee is the Chair of the committee and explained the committee's goals to the Board. Alderman Berrigan made a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY, STATE OF LOUISIANA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ABITA COMMITTEE FOR ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY, 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.

Susan Robbins from the Louisiana Rural Water Association addressed the Board of Alderman explaining the need for the proposed Groundwater Protection Ordinance. Ms. Robbins communicated that one of the goals of the ordinance was to protect public wells from the handling use or storage of chemicals within a 1000ft radius of the wellhead area thereby preventing contamination of the well at the well-head site. Alderman Blich Welliver moved to introduce the ordinance seconded by Alderman Curtis.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper announced upcoming events including among others, the Whole Town Garage Sale, the Opry, Easter Festivities and the Busker Fest.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH 2017.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor