

Town of Abita Springs

TOWN CLERK/
CLERK OF COURT
KATHY ARMAND

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR
NIKI MENDOW

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
LEANNE SCHAEFER

ATTORNEY
EDWARD DEANO

CERTIFIED BUILDING OFFICIAL
DAVID CHATELAIN

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
JOHNNY CLAY

PUBLIC WORKS CLERK
KRISTIN TORTORICH



**MAYOR
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

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 October 17, 2017 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Lemons began the announcements section of the meeting by recognizing Mary Davis as Citizen of the Year. The Mayor noted that Ms. Davis has been instrumental in preserving the history of Abita Springs through her efforts to create an archive of photographs, documents and found items. The Mayor also mentioned Ms. Davis' contribution to the Museum. Mayor Lemons next announced the appointment of Marlin Rittenberry as the new Planning and Zoning Commissioner and concluded the announcements section by revealing that Cindy Chatelain has been selected as the Employee of the Month.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Murphy were present. Alderman Blitch Welliver was absent. Alderman Berrigan moved to accept the September 19, 2017 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Murphy were in favor.

REPORTS:

STPSO: Lt. Williams presented his monthly report of incidents. The Lieutenant advised that the Sheriff's Office is monitoring suspicious activity around the Park. He added that later in the evening he would be attending a gathering in the Villas for the Night Out Against Crime and invited others to attend. **TOWN MARSHAL:** The Marshal reported on five complaints for the month. Marshal Slemmer noted that most recent reports relate to derelict property. **FIRE DISTRICT #8:** Chief Glynn stated that the District's Open House was a success and happily reported that the millage passed ensuring adequate future funding. **ENGINEERING:** Mayor Lemons invited Town Engineer Andre Monnot to address the Board. Mr Monnot reported that he anticipates the loan for the sewer rehabilitation should close prior to the next meeting. He briefly spoke about the status of the Abita Meadows and the Harrison Avenue Extension. The Mayor asked Jean Thibodeaux to speak to the Board regarding other pending engineering projects. Mr. Thibodeaux advised that there are plans to improve Railroad Avenue drainage. Mr. Thibodeaux went on to address unresolved matters with the Abita meadows. Responding to a question, Mr. Thibodeaux stated that it must be verified that a recently annexed parcel which is part of the PUD complies with engineering requirements. The Mayor suggested the resolution related to the Meadows be deferred. Mr. Thibodeaux reported that he is also working on a sidewalk grant for the Town. The grant would not provide funding for sidewalk repairs but would fund the construction of new sidewalks.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Alderman Murphy moved to defer the RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO SIGN THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF RESUBDIVISION OF THE ABITA MEADOWS SUBDIVISION, seconded by Alderman Curtis. Yeas:4, Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper and Murphy were in favor. Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Alderman Blich Welliver was absent.

Mayor Lemons asked for the introduction of the 2018 BUDGET ORDINANCE. The Mayor explained that there would be a discussion of the budget at the Public Committee Meeting to be followed by a public hearing on November 28th prior to adoption on the same night. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper made a motion to introduce INSTRUMENT 2017-007 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018, seconded by Alderman Curtis.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Several vendors from the Abita Springs Art & Farmer's Market addressed the Mayor and the Board. Many expressed dissatisfaction with the way the Market is being managed. Those speaking expressed that the manager did not display professionalism when dealing with the vendors. Vendors also voiced opposition to certain policies and practices. Abita Springs' resident Lee Barrios noted that it is unfair to allow personally disparaging comments when the involved party is not present. She added that the Town might want to consider enacting a policy prohibiting personal attacks at public meetings. Mayor Lemons advised that the evening's comments only represent a very limited perspective. The Mayor went on to say that a committee has been formed to review Farmer's Market practices and to suggest improvements. He invited the public to participate. Residents, Donna Caire and David Dupont spoke on unrelated topics. Ms. Caire produced a 1979 Abita Springs Land Use Study for consideration and Mr. Dupont expressed his concern over plans to promote sustainable energy in the community. Mr. Dupont said that he does not want see the aesthetic of the Town compromised nor the sacrifice of trees for solar panels. The Mayor assured Mr. Dupont that trees are very important to this community and their preservation is a priority.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER 2017.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor