



These minutes are from the meetings of the Public Committees on April 11, 2018. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Lemons announced that he would issue a proclamation of appreciation for Citizens Bank & Trust at the next Town Council Meeting. The Mayor also mentioned that the judges for the Cleanest City Contest would be visiting the community near the end of the month. After winning the district award, Abita Springs will be eligible for the state finals. He recognized The Abita Springs Garden Club and Keep Abita Beautiful for their hard work in achieving this award.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE: Alderman Berrigan moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the March 2018 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Discussion of the Abita Quail Farm Trace and AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING TO A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OF 44.37 ACRES SITUATED IN SECTIONS 29 & 38, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS was opened as the first item on the Governmental Committee agenda. Jack Mendheim, one of the developers of the project, reviewed the conceptual plat and reported compliance with town requirements. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper stated that she had no objections and Mayor Lemons recommended to move the ordinance forward to the Town Council Meeting. Comments from the Aldermen and residents involved several aspects of the plan. The discussion focused on lot sizes, infrastructure, and the commercial area outside the main boundary of the development. Other comments addressed the rounding down of the density calculation from 2.24 to 2.2, traffic considerations, and the town's general ability to accommodate the burden of this type of growth. Alderman Berrigan moved the ordinance favorably for further discussion at the upcoming Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The second agenda item for discussion, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO DECLARE CERTAIN MOVABLE PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OR OTHER DISPOSAL OF SUCH PROPERTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS was opened. Town Clerk, Kathy Armand reported that the town's obsolete computer equipment, printers and monitors must be declared as surplus prior to being offered for public sale. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper made a motion to favorably recommend the resolution for adoption at the Town Council meeting seconded by Alderman Berrigan. The third agenda item for discussion was an update on the Town Center Sign. Mayor Lemons reported that the design of the sign has been approved by the Historic Commission. Alderman Blich Welliver expressed her concern over contract terms. Alderman Murphy voiced the importance of amending the agreement with Citizens Bank & Trust, stating that while current management might not choose or intend to enforce certain aspects of the contract, the future could bring different management and a different perspective. The Mayor agreed to work with Alderman Murphy to amend the contract and improve financial reporting on sign related income and expenses. He added that he would be moving forward with construction of the sign. The Aldermen unitedly expressed opposition to the construction of the sign under current terms. Mayor Lemons invited Alderman Murphy to meet with him to strike through objectionable language in the advertising agreement. Alderman Murphy replied that Town Attorney Edward Deano agreed to address changes to the document. Mayor Lemons reiterated that he would proceed with construction of the sign. Several residents commented that they do not want to see the sign rebuilt. The final Governmental Committee agenda item was presented by Mayor Lemons. Mayor Lemons informed the Board that Abita Oaks has not yet provided the revised plat for the parking lot and recreation area. No action will be taken or recommended until this information is made available to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Alderman Berrigan moved to close the Governmental Committee meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Murphy moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and to accept the March 2018 minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. With no new business scheduled on the agenda public comment was heard by the Board. Residents asked that repairs to streets and roadways be undertaken, along with the addition of more clearly defined crosswalk signage. Alderman Murphy moved to close the meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the March 2018 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Finance Director, Niki Mendow reviewed figures and information from the 2017 budget amendment, the recent audit, the enhanced audit and the end of the year adjustments. Ms. Mendow reported that cemetery, parks, and lighting funds warrant amendment with actual income and expenditure amounts deviating from projections by more than 5%. Ms. Mendow gave a detailed account of figures. Mayor Lemons explained the content and purpose of the next agenda item related to acceptance of the 2017 Compliance Questionnaire as part of the town's annual audit. Alderman Blitch Welliver made a motion to favorably recommend A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2017 COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Discussion of A RESOLUTION ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF A SPECIAL TAX THEREIN; MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH followed. Town Clerk Kathy Armand announced that there would be a Public Meeting on April 17th to consider the resolution. It was further explained that the resolution called for an election to renew 3 mils supporting parks, playgrounds, and street lights. Alderman Blitch Welliver made a motion to move the resolution forward, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Ms. Armand announced that the 2018 millage renewals for General Alimony, Street Bonds, Parks, Playgrounds & Street Lighting would be considered and the official announcement would take place at the May Town Council Meeting. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Alderman Curtis moved to open the Economic Development Committee Meeting and to accept the March 2018 minutes, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Mayor Lemons reported that the Regional Planning Commission has a draft of the Harrison Avenue Extension Study with a final expected in June. A plan for a coffee roasting facility on Gordon and Hwy 36 was also mentioned. Alderman Curtis moved to close the meeting, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to close the meeting of the Public Committees, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

MEETING ADJOURNED
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 11th DAY OF APRIL 2018.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Greg Lemons, Mayor