



These minutes are from the meetings of the Public Committees on March 7, 2017. Alderman Curtis led the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper called the meeting to order. The Mayor Pro Tem reminded attendees to do their best to attend the Leaders Against Litter Open House at Town Hall on Friday, March 10th at 8am.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE: Alderman Berrigan moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the February 2017 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Berrigan invited LeAnn Magee to address the Board regarding the resolution of support for the organization she chairs, the Abita Committee for Sustainable Energy (ACES). Ms. Magee summarized the goals of the Committee and specifically their goal of conversion of municipal buildings and moving the Town forward to achieve 100% clean energy by 2030. The Aldermen had several questions related to the Town's natural gas business and the affordability of alternative energy. Ms. Magee reported that at this time efforts target electrical consumption and that she understands the Town's position as it relates the use of natural gas in the community. Responding to the concern regarding affordability, Ms. Magee stated that prices have begun to decrease and the industry anticipates a continued move toward more competitive pricing. Additional discussion involved energy storage and advancements in science improving the size and capacity of batteries. Alderman Berrigan made a motion to favorably recommend the resolution forward to the Town Council meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Berrigan next opened discussion of the revocation and sale of a portion of 4th St. Local resident and the party interested in purchasing the property, Sissy Wiggin, was invited to approach the Board. Ms. Wiggin advised that she is still interested in purchasing the property. Alderman Berrigan and Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper agreed, asserting that they have no objections to move forward with the process. Alderman Berrigan moved to close the committee meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: Alderman Murphy moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and to accept the February 2017 minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Mayor Lemons provided information in the Aldermen's packets regarding the need for a local ordinance to protect the Town's ground water supply. The Mayor summarized important points and statistics involving the number of water systems that experience problems with contamination. Motivated by the topic, local resident, Evette Randolph asked for water system chlorination information. Mayor Lemons explained that the chlorine levels are mandated by state law. He added that the recent water tower maintenance only temporarily contributed to taste and odor issues. The Mayor went on to describe circumstances that complicate efforts to diminish the strong odor and unpleasant taste such as dead end piping runs and fewer than desired injection locations. Mayor Lemons emphasized that current chlorine levels are well below acceptable levels. Local resident Marlin Rittenberry commented that after experiencing unpleasant taste and odor issues he contacted the state for water testing. Mr. Rittenberry reported that he was told that the test revealed that his water tested below the acceptable chlorination minimum. Mayor Lemons stated that the Town has a long-term goal of adding more injection sites, looping supply lines, and has already begun a schedule of line flushing. The Mayor noted that the long-term system improvements are costly. Alderman Murphy moved to forward the ground water protection ordinance to the next Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Alderman Murphy moved to close the committee meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Blich Welliver moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and to accept the February 2017 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick Harper. Local resident Jay Hawkins made inquiry regarding the status of the 2016 final quarter financial report. In response, it was mentioned that the audit was delayed thereby delaying the end of the year financial report. Alderman Blich 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 February 2017 minutes, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Mayor Lemons mentioned that the Economic Development Foundation is working with a grocer interested in the development of a local grocery. Alderman Curtis moved to close the meeting, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH 2017.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Greg Lemons, Mayor