

# Town of Abita Springs

TOWN CLERK/  
CLERK OF COURT  
KATHY ARMAND

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR  
NIKI MENDOW

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
LEANNE SCHAEFER

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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 on May 16, 2017 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2017-003 AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #470 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2016 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, ADJUSTMENT TO SECTIONS VI., VII., VIII., IX., X., XV., AND XIX. AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Public comment was limited to a suggestion to lobby against the current budgeting statutes. Alderman Curtis moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were in favor.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Lemons recognized Debbie Maclean as Employee of the Month and awarded her a certificate of appreciation for her dedicated service for the month of May. The Mayor next announced that on June 14, 2017 a special meeting will be held at the Abita Springs Town Hall to discuss a proposed utility rate increase and invited the public to attend. Mayor Lemons also mentioned that Abita Springs has been designated as Louisiana's Cleanest City in its class. He concluded the announcements portion of the meeting with a presentation of a proclamation recognizing May as National Bicycle Month and May 15 through May 19 as Bike to Work Week to local resident, Stewart Eastman.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the April 18, 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 that the theft of unattended bicycles continues to be a problem. MARSHAL: The Marshal reported on eleven complaints in his May report. Responding to questions presented by the Aldermen, the Marshal stated that he continues to monitor activity around a local church which was the subject of a complaint. The complainant asserted the church was the source of loud noise occurring in the late evening hours. FIRE DISTRICT #8: Chief Glynn reported the number of fires were lower for May. The Chief added that he is still waiting on the arrival of defibrillators which will be donated to the Town. ENGINEERING: Mayor Lemons reported that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is considering moving a local engineering office to Hwy. 36. Town Officials are performing preliminary research regarding the provision of services to the location.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS:**

Mayor Lemons reviewed the type of information included in the written reports. The Mayor mentioned that recent problems at the Minkler St. lift station were addressed as noted in the Maintenance Report.

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## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Mayor opened discussion of chlorination of the Town's drinking water supply. A local resident, William Schomp asked for an update on the results of recent water testing. The Mayor explained that the state of Louisiana requires the chlorination of the drinking water to levels at or exceeding .5 mg/L. and no greater than 4.0 mg/L. at all locations. Recent testing revealed that the Town's drinking water is within the mandated range. The Mayor added that the Town is working to improve water quality by looping the water supply lines. Mayor Lemons responding to a local resident addressed the question of turbulence in the system assuring attendees that the chemical is adequately mixed in the system. A local resident noted that she reported a problem with her water through the web portal. She was pleased to find that a Town representative responded, tested her water, and found it to have .8 mg/L. Mayor Lemons concluded by noting that the state's objective is to protect the public health, a goal for which they should not be faulted.

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of an amendment to INSTRUMENT 2017-002 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADDING "GROUND WATER PROTECTION" AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. The Mayor invited Alderman Murphy to summarize the amendment. Alderman Murphy explained that the Louisiana Rural Water Association requested the protection and provided a template for the law. The Board felt that because of the Town's small size some adjustments were warranted such as a reduction of the protective perimeter from 1000' to 300'. A local resident expressed his position that the emphasis should be placed on protection of the water supply and the Town's geographical size should have no bearing. Alderman Murphy moved to adopt the amendment to Instrument 2017-002, 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

Alderman Murphy moved to adopt as amended, INSTRUMENT 2017-002 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADDING "GROUND WATER PROTECTION" AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Alderman, Abstain:0

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2017-003 AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 470 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2016 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, ADJUSTMENT TO SECTIONS VI., VII., VIII., IX., X., XV., AND XIX. AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Alderman, Abstain:0

Mayor Lemons announced that June 20, 2017 is scheduled to hear discussion of the proposed roll forward of the millage. The Mayor read the published Public Notice in its entirety.

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Mayor asked for a motion to introduce Instrument 2017-004 explaining that details will be discussed at the next Public Committee Meeting. Alderman Berrigan made a motion to introduce 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 Murphy.

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report. The Mayor read the resolution reflecting that no problems were identified and no action is required. Alderman Murphy made a motion to adopt a RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS INFORMING THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AS OUTLINED IN THE MWPP AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. The vote was Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0 Absent:0 Alderman, Abstain:0

Mayor Lemons informed the Board of actions related to the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4). The MS4 protects local water bodies from polluted storm water runoff. Our last permit was issued in April 2013. The Town files an annual report and next year we will submit a new permit application.

## **OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Local resident George Long requested that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen focus attention on maintaining the integrity of the Harrison Avenue. artery into Town. Mr. Long expressed concern regarding the condition of the roadway. The Mayor assured Mr. Long that he shares his interest. Another resident reported on the progress of solar panel design and suggested that the Town consider these design alternatives when exploring the possibility of solar panel installation on the Town Hall.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper closed the meeting with the announcement of upcoming events. The Alderman repeated the important information regarding the June 14th Special Meeting to discuss the proposed utility rate increase and the June 20<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing to discuss the roll forward of the millage.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY 2017.**

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Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

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Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor