



These minutes are from the meetings of the Public Committees on February 7, 2017. Alderman Blich Welliver led the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper called the meeting to order. Mayor Lemons asked the Mayor Pro Tem to add a discussion of sewer inspection permit fees to the Infrastructure Committee meeting agenda. The Mayor Pro Tem asked if there were any questions or objections and after hearing none added the item to the agenda.

**GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Alderman Berrigan moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the January 2017 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Blich Welliver opened discussion of the process of changing meeting dates. The Alderman suggested a review of meeting dates for the upcoming year at the end of the preceding year. Ideally the review would take place in October or November to determine any conflicts and adjust accordingly. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper suggested a review of the 2017 calendar. Alderman Blich Welliver and Alderman Berrigan noted that the November Town Council Meeting would be problematic with its proximity to Thanksgiving. After discussion Alderman Berrigan moved to change the November Town Council Meeting to November 28<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Berrigan moved to open the committee as a whole, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Berrigan asked each member of the Board if they agreed with the Mayor's preferred November 28<sup>th</sup> date. Aldermen Murphy, Blich Welliver, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper and Berrigan all agreed with no one opposed, no one absent and no one abstaining. Alderman Berrigan moved to close the committee as a whole, with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Berrigan invited Mayor Lemons to open a discussion of the Safe Water Drinking Fee increase which would be passed to each user connected to the Town water system. The Mayor explained that the fee was mandated by the State Legislature and is payable to the Louisiana Department of Health. The resolution would allow for an increase to \$12.00 annually to be assessed in monthly payments of \$1.00. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper requested that residents receive notification prior to the assessment of the fee. Alderman Berrigan favorably recommended the resolution. A local resident addressed the Board requesting an opportunity to comment. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper advised that she would allow comments at the conclusion of the committee meeting. Town Attorney Edward Deano explained that the public must have an opportunity to comment prior to any vote or action, adding that the favorable recommendation constitutes action by the Board. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper responded with affirmation that meeting procedure would conform in the future. Residents asked why the delay in the discussion of the fee and for further explanation regarding water testing. Alderman Berrigan moved to favorably recommend the resolution to the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. Mayor Lemons then initiated discussion of the annexation of 30.2 acres by the Abita Meadows group into the corporate limits of the Town of Abita Springs. The Mayor directed attendee's attention to the maps on display at the entrance to Town Hall. Summary of key points included the value of the proposed annexation to the community from the perspective of business and infrastructure development, including the Harrison extension and roundabout plan. It was also noted that in an effort to minimize the impact of traffic on nearby residents the Abita Meadows group would not connect Hebert Rd to Hwy 36. Mayor Lemons mentioned that DOTD would hold a meeting on Thursday afternoon at Koop Drive to discuss proposed roundabouts in St. Tammany Parish. The Mayor asked the Aldermen and community members to attend the meeting to voice their support of a roundabout at Harrison and Hwy 59. Alderman Berrigan suggested that a comprehensive zoning review of the Harrison corridor be conducted. Alderman Berrigan made a motion to move the topic forward to the Town Council meeting, seconded with a favorable recommendation by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper. 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 January 2017 minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Mayor Lemons communicated information related to the agenda item addressing the appointment of the Director and alternate Director of the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority. The Mayor explained that he and Kathy Armand currently hold the positions and are willing to continue serving. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper suggested that a member of the infrastructure committee might be a more suitable candidate for alternate. Alderman Berrigan moved to open the meeting to the committee as a whole, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Alderman Murphy agreed to serve as alternate Director. Alderman Berrigan moved to close the committee as a whole

seconded by Alderman Murphy. Alderman Berrigan asked for public comment; hearing no comment Alderman Berrigan favorably recommended the resolution appointing the Mayor as Director and Alderman Murphy as Assistant Director, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Mayor Lemons then began a discussion of on-site sewerage treatment inspection fees. The Mayor presented a document outlining projected administrative costs associated with the inspection of private sewerage treatment systems including materials and labor. The Mayor stated that the majority of the Town's residents are connected to Town utilities and pay to ensure that the sewerage utility is compliant with all state and federal outfall regulations. He added that the substantially smaller number, approximately 18%, of those with private systems should also be responsible for the administrative costs to ensure their compliance. Alderman Berrigan made a motion to open the committee as a whole, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper affirmed her opposition to the fee. The Mayor Pro Tem declared that in her opinion, it is burdensome to ask residents that do not have an option to connect to the Town system to pay the administrative costs of the service in addition to the inspection fee. Alderman Berrigan moved to close the committee as a whole, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Alderman Murphy commented that presently he is not prepared to move forward with recommending the additional fee. Several local residents expressed their support of the ordinance and commended the Council for enacting the legislation, adding that the proposed minimal permit fee of \$20.00 every two years would not be difficult for most. Others commented that the taxpayer dollars of those connected to the system should not subsidize administrative costs for the inspection of the private systems. Alderman Murphy moved to close the meeting seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Alderman Blich Welliver moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and to accept the January 2017 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick Harper. Alderman Blich Welliver asked Mayor Lemons to address the topic of sanitary sewer rehabilitation funding. The Mayor detailed the parts of the proposed project including the rehabilitation of gravity main and service collection lines, the rehabilitation and upgrade of the lift stations, the extension of lines, and electronic utility mapping. Mayor Lemons advised that exploration of financing is currently underway. The foundation of any loan approval will likely come from an increase in utility rates. Local residents asked questions during the comment period. One question related to the possibility of the collection of increased infrastructure capacity fees from developers. The Mayor stated that any possible revenue source would be considered. 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 January 2017 minutes, seconded by Alderman Murphy. The Committee discussed progress at the Abita Rehabilitation Center and possible interest in the development of a grocery store within Town limits. Alderman Curtis moved to close the meeting, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017.

---

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

---

Greg Lemons, Mayor