

Town of Abita Springs, La.

TOWN CLERK
CLERK OF COURT
KATHY ARMAND

FINANCIAL CLERK
NIKI MENDOW

COUNCIL CLERK
LEANNE SCHAEFER

ATTORNEY
EDWARD DEANO

CERTIFIED BUILDING OFFICIAL
DAVID CHATELAIN

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
JOHNNY CLAY



MAYOR
GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN
PATRICIA FLAD EDMISTON
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

PATRICK BERRIGAN
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER
PAT PATTERSON
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

UTILITY MANAGER
DEBRA MACLEAN

UTILITY CLERK II
LINDA MEEKER

PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR
CINDY CHATELAIN

TOWN MARSHALL
JOE CANDILORA

The following minutes were taken from the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on May 20, 2014 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the rezoning of a portion of Hwy 435 to residential commercial overlay. The hearing was deferred until the June Town Council Meeting on a motion by Alderman Flad Edmiston, and seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick Harper. All were in favor.

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the exchange of a portion of 3rd St. for a servitude to service and maintain the Town's sewer lift station and sewer lines. The Mayor explained that the square footage of the area of the servitude exceeds the square footage of the area of the street. Local residents had several questions including the following: why was the exchange property-for-servitude versus property-for-property, is the servitude granted forever, and are the streets which are to be traded useful to the Town. Mayor Lemons and the Board responded that the property owner was not agreeable to a trade of property for property, that the streets were landlocked and were of no use to the Town, and Town Counselor, Edward Deano answered that the servitude was viable as long as it continued to be used without a ten year lapse. Alderman Flad Edmiston moved to close the Public Hearings, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. All Aldermen were in favor.

Mayor Lemons opened the Town Council Meeting. Alderman Flad Edmiston gave the Invocation and Alderman Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Alderman Patterson moved to accept the April 15, 2014 minutes, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. All Aldermen were in favor.

STPSO:

Sheriff's Office, Deputy O'Flynn noted that Lt. Escher was on vacation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire District 8 Chief Earl Gorrondano reported on the number of calls for the month and mentioned the fire vehicles now have the appropriate emblems rather than the prior generic identification.

TOWN MARSHAL:

Town Marshal Joe Candilora reviewed his monthly report including nine complaints. According to the Marshal, year to date complaints are on par with the same time as last year at twenty-two.

ENGINEERING PROJECT REPORT:

Town Engineer Jean Thibodeaux summarized the status of town projects. Mr. Thibodeaux advised the Villa's roads and drainage ditches are now up to standard and the next step is a meeting with the developer's attorney. Other topics addressed were the hurricane debris removal contract, smoke testing in the sewer system, walkways in the park, the grand opening of the new parking lot, and the Town Center Sidewalk Lighting project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the resolution opposing fracking and authorizing the Mayor to act as necessary and proper to oppose fracking activities which was adopted at the May 20th Special Town Council Meeting. Alderman Berrigan began by stating that the members of the Board stood behind the Mayor who has taken the lead in opposing fracking in St. Tammany Parish. He went on to add that the Board simply requests prior notification of action taken by the Mayor and invited residents to contact him directly if they have questions or concerns. Alderman Flad Edmiston explained the language of the amendment and also asked that residents inquire regarding the process versus arriving upon conclusions without first speaking to members of the Board. Alderman Patterson explained his desire to be able to communicate with the most up to date information and for everyone to work together. Alderman Flad Edmiston moved to amend the resolution supporting a prohibition on fracking and authorizing the mayor to take action as necessary to include that the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Abita Springs requests that it be notified prior to any formal action taken by the Mayor under the resolution. The amendment was seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to defer consideration of INSTRUMENT 2013- 012, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE PART OF HWY. 435 TO RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL OVERLAY, seconded by Alderman Flad Edmiston. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0. A local resident questioned the process related to this matter. Alderman Berrigan explained that the petitioner is asking that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation be overridden adding that he and Alderman Flad Edmiston will attend the next meeting of the Commissioners to get more information prior to rendering a decision.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to amend INSTRUMENT 2014-001, AN ORDINANCE TO EXCHANGE PART OF 3RD ST FOR A SERVITUDE TO SERVICE AND MAINTAIN THE TOWN'S SEWER LIFT STATION AND SEWER LINES seconded by Alderman Patterson. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0. Alderman Patterson moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2014-001 as amended, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 1 Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AN ACT OF DONATION. Mayor Lemons communicated the offered property donation is a street which has been tied up in succession. The details have been worked out and the paperwork is in order to move forward. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

Mayor Lemons asked for an introduction of INSTRUMENT 2014-002, amending the 2013 budget. Alderman Bitch Welliver moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2014-002, seconded by Alderman Flad Edmiston.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Local residents asked questions related to the Town's water supply and drainage ditches. Alderman Flad Edmiston announced smoke testing in the sewer system and noted upcoming events including the Cajun Dance and Bike Festival.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20th DAY OF MAY 2014.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor