

# Town of Abita Springs, La.

TOWN CLERK  
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**KATHY ARMAND**

FINANCIAL CLERK  
**NIKI MENDOW**

COUNCIL CLERK  
**LEANNE SCHAEFER**

ATTORNEY  
**EDWARD DEANO**

CERTIFIED BUILDING OFFICIAL  
**DAVID CHATELAIN**

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
**JOHNNY CLAY**

PUBLIC WORKS CLERK  
**REE STANSBURY**



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 MARSHALL  
**JOE CANDILORA**

The following minutes were taken from the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on January 20, 2015 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Alderman Berrigan gave the Invocation and Alderman Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lemons sadly related the news that long-time resident, former Alderman, and civic leader, Calvin Cognevich passed away early that day. The Mayor expressed his feelings of loss stating that Mr. Cognevich will be missed by many.

The Mayor began with a review of accomplishments made over the past two years by the new administration. His address touched on several topics including the relocation of the Mayor's Office to the front of the building, substantial reductions in key expenses, the renovation of Town Hall, a renewed focus on Economic Development, recovery of funds from FEMA and recordation of Town annexations allowing for the collection of previously unrealized ad valorem taxes, the Town's recertification as Tree City, and presentation by AARP of the 2014 "Great Places to Live..." award.

Mayor Lemons then introduced and welcomed the new St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Department Liaison, Sgt. Alan Williams. The Mayor thanked prior Town liaison now Parish Liaison Lt Fred Escher for his service.

Aldermen Berrigan, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Murphy were present. Alderman Blitch Welliver and Alderman Curtis were absent

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the October 2014 Financial Report, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. All present were in favor. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the December Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. All present were in favor.

## **STPSO:**

Lt. Escher thanked the Town and the Mayor and stated that he enjoyed his time with everyone. He went on to express his appreciation that he is able to retain his office in Town Hall and said that he is confident that Sgt. Williams will do a good job in his new position. Following Lt Escher's comments, Sgt. Williams addressed meeting participants and attendees. The Sergeant invited everyone to contact him with their concerns and gave a brief report of calls and citations.

### **FIRE DISTRICT 8:**

No representative attended and no report was made.

### **TOWN MARSHAL:**

Marshal Candilora reported there were no complaints for the period. He also thanked Lt. Escher and all of the deputies for their service. The Marshal informed everyone that recent Marshal Office activities include night patrols to determine street lighting and street sign deficiencies.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Town Engineer Jean Thibodeaux reported that the Street Improvement Overlay Committee is making good progress. Also noted was the status of the sidewalk lighting project and the receipt of bids on the playground handicap access project. Mr. Thibodeaux mentioned that there is a grant available for additional school sidewalks which the Town is researching and that the Resolution in support of the grant application will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Lemons opened discussion related to the introduction of Instrument 2015-002, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REVOCATION AND SALE OR EXCHANGE OF A PORTION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF WALKER ST EAST OF CAROLINE ST. The Mayor explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended the Town Engineer look into drainage problems in the area and called on Mr. Thibodeaux to address the topic. Mr. Thibodeaux described two phases of drainage improvements. The first phase could be implemented "today" using Town rights of way on Walker, Caroline, and Minkler Streets. The second phase would be contingent upon the Walker St. revocation and the Town obtaining additional rights of way. Local resident, and involved property owner, Roddis Wheeler, along with other residents from the area requested additional details regarding the plan. Mr. Thibodeaux responded with technical data related to drainage in the area. The Mayor explained that in order for the revocation request to move forward the adjacent property owners would decide whether they are interested in purchasing or exchanging the revoked land and if so they would then put up money to cover expenses. Meeting attendee and Town property owner, Ray Pasqua, asked for information related to revocation options. Town Attorney, Edward Deano, addressed the topic advising there is a state provision that allows for revocation and the Town sells or exchanges the property to interested adjoining property owners. Alderman Berrigan moved to introduce **INSTRUMENT 2015-002, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REVOCATION AND SALE OR EXCHANGE OF A PORTION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF WALKER ST., EAST OF CAROLINE ST.**, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Alderman Berrigan moved to defer adoption of the introduced instrument until such time as the survey and appraisal documents are available, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Vote was: Yeas 3, Aldermen Berrigan, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Murphy, Nays 0, Abstain: 0, Absent 2, Aldermen Kilpatrick-Harper, Blitch Welliver and Curtis.

Alderman Berrigan moved to adopt each resolution independently **APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF 1. THE TOWN CLERK - KATHY ARMAND, 2. TOWN MARSHAL - JOE CANDILORA, 3. TOWN ATTORNEY - EDWARD DEANO, 4. PLANNING & ZONING BOARD COMMISSIONERS - BOB BRANSON, MARK HOSCH, JIM ROBERTSON, KELI SANDERS, AND DAN UNDERWOOD, 5. HISTORIC BOARD COMMISSIONERS - RON BLITCH, LYNNE CONGEMI, BRYAN GOWLAND, THAD MANCIL, AND ANDRE MONNOT, 6. ALTERNATE MAGISTRATES - EDWARD J. DEANO, JR. , CRAIG HART, MICHAEL MONTALBANO, AND BRIAN TRAINOR, AND 7. TOWN PROSECUTORS - JUSTIN MARQUEZ, MIKE MONTALBANO, LAURIE PENNISON, AND BRIAN TRAINOR**, each one seconded by Alderman Murphy. Vote was: Yeas 3, Aldermen Berrigan, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Murphy, Nays 0, Abstain: 0, Absent 2, Aldermen Kilpatrick-Harper, Blitch Welliver and Curtis.

Mayor Lemons explained the Public Committee meeting structure and the proposed addition of an Economic Development Committee to the "Standing Committees. Alderman Berrigan introduced **INSTRUMENT 2015-001 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CODE SECTION 2-102 (B)**, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

**OPEN-ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Local resident, Stuart Eastman, announced that the Green Party rented the Town Hall for a gathering on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to 5:30pm.

The Mayor then invited Ray Pasqua to address the Board. Mr. Pasqua informed the Board that a prior commitment was made by former Mayor Gowland to overlay Palmer St. and asked the Mayor if he would honor this commitment. Mayor Lemons responded that the Street Overlay Committee is responsible for this type of decision. Mr. Pasqua added that it is his position that Town restrictions have made it difficult to sell his property. The Mayor reminded Mr. Pasqua that he is in the Historic District and all those properties located in the District are bound by the same requirements. Mr. Pasqua concluded by asserting the restrictive guidelines were not in place when he purchased the property.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper reviewed upcoming events including Bingo, the Farmer's Market, the Push Mow parade on February 7th, the Abita Springs Elementary School parade on February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Cajun Dance on February 21<sup>st</sup>, Earth Day Festival on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Opry on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the All-Town Garage Sale on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Busker Festival on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20th DAY OF JANUARY 2015.

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Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Town Council Minutes 01-15

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Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor