

# 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 meetings of the Public Committees on December 2, 2014.

Mayor Lemons called the Public Committee meeting to order. Alderman Blitch Welliver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lemons made announcements including training topics which will be covered in the upcoming months to include ethics, the open meeting law, the sunshine law, procedures and information regarding our water, sewer, and gas systems. The Mayor also noted that the swearing in ceremony for newly elected officials will be held prior to the Public Committee Meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with refreshments following the meeting.

**GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Mayor Pro Tem Flad Edmiston was absent. Alderman Berrigan opened the Governmental Committee meeting and moved to accept the November 2014 Governmental Committee Meeting minutes.

- Alderman Berrigan opened discussion of the Town's ambulance service. Alderman Blitch Welliver requested general information including an update on contract negotiations. The Mayor informed Board members that the contract is executed by the Parish President and that the process is moving forward. Mayor Lemons added that he has been communicating with Parish Councilman Stefancik. The contract requires that response times in Abita Springs are not to exceed 15 minutes. Discussions with Fire Chief Gorrondona revealed that currently actual response time in Abita Springs averages 5-8 minutes.
- Mayor Lemons revisited the subject of expanding the number of public committees to include Economic Development and Parks and Cemeteries. Alderman Welliver offered her support of a change with the understanding that whatever is decided must be well organized and properly structured. Alderman Patterson suggested each chairman target 3 goals. Public comments included interest in focusing on tourism and culture; other comments noted the necessity of improving the Town sewer system. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper expressed that she is not interested in creating more committees unless it will facilitate better results, but that she is open to the idea. Town Attorney, Mr. Edward Deano noted that the ordinance change is a good opportunity for a detailed review. After additional discussion, Alderman Berrigan summarized the consensus opinion that there should be four committees and to allow current language prohibiting the Mayor Pro Tem from chairmanship to remain unchanged.
- Alderman Berrigan opened the next discussion to the "Committee of the Whole." The discussion focused on Historic Commission procedures and the appeal process. Alderman Patterson noted that he understands appeals go to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Court. He stated that appeals should first go to the council. Mr. Deano informed the Board that Town ordinance does in fact direct appeals to the council. Mayor Lemons further explained that appeals must be submitted in writing within ten days of the date of the decision. Alderman Berrigan stated that a 2/3 majority would be required to overturn a decision by the Commission. He went on to point out that of more concern is that currently there is no oversight of establishment of Historic Guidelines. Historic Commissioner, Mr. Ron Blitch, asked what had prompted the discussion underway. Alderman Patterson responded with a specific example wherein a local resident was unaware that he had recourse through appeal. Mr. Blitch reported the cited example related to a violation, adding that the resident had not appeared before the Commission and had proceeded with renovations without proper approval; therefore, there was no basis for appeal. Alderman Berrigan after reviewing sections of the code as it relates to the Historic Commission noted that Commission members while appointed by the Mayor require approval by the Board. Ms. Linda Hawkins of the Abita Coalition for Sustainable Growth, stated that considering the discussion underway she would like to address Historic Commission Rules, Procedures, and

Regulations. Ms. Hawkins advised her concern over the clarity of the guidelines and the lack of details as to whether certain sections were current, applicable, or had been amended. Ms. Hawkins asked for clarification as to what is and is not relevant. Mr. Deano agreed, questioning whether all of the ordinances were codified.

Alderman Berrigan moved to close the Governmental Committee Meeting.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** Alderman Patterson moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and accept the November 2014 Infrastructure Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

Alderman Patterson moved to close the Infrastructure Committee Meeting, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the November 2014 Finance Committee Meeting minutes.

Alderman Welliver reported the status of the request for proposals for Town Auditor is moving forward and there has been a positive response.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to close the Finance Committee Meeting.

Mayor Lemons urged Alderman Patterson and Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper to move quickly to set the date for the Street Overlay Committee Meeting. The members of the Committee will include Chairman Pat Patterson, Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper, and local residents Bryan Gowland, Danny Curtis, and Cheryl Nakabayas. Town Clerk, Kathy Armand announced the date of the Christmas Tree Lighting and it was noted that the Abita River Chili Cook Off will donate this year's tree.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to close the meeting of the Public Committees, seconded by Alderman Welliver.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 2nd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014.

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Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

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Greg Lemons, Mayor