

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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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 June 17, 2014 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion for rezoning of a portion of Hwy 435 to Residential Commercial Overlay. The hearing was deferred until the July Town Council Meeting on a motion by Alderman Berrigan, and seconded by Alderman Welliver. All present were in favor.

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2014-002, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2013 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO 434. The Mayor explained the amendment was necessary to adjust line items which varied from original projections by more than 5% and gave examples including changes to grant and cemetery income.

Alderman Patterson moved to close the Public Hearings, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. All present were in favor.

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

Present were Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Alderman Flad Edmiston was absent. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the May 20, 2014 minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. All present were in favor.

STPSO:

Lt Escher gave a report of calls and citations. The Lieutenant related calls in Town limits including possession of stolen property and a simple battery. Also noted because of its close proximity to Town, was a robbery occurring on Mill Rd.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

District 8 Chief Earl Gorrondano reported the number of calls for the month is higher than average at 56. The Chief stated the district is waiting on two ladders which would assist in achieving a class 3 rating for FD#8.

TOWN MARSHAL:

Joe Candilora reviewed his monthly report including five complaints. According to the Marshal, the complaints included a couple of high grass problems and reminded everyone that grass cannot exceed 12 inches.

ENGINEERING PROJECT REPORT:

Town Engineer Jean Thibodeaux summarized the status of town projects. Mr. Thibodeaux advised that the Town Center Sidewalk Lighting Project design meetings are underway. Also noted was progress toward the Town's acceptance of the donation of The Villas' streets and rights of way. Mr. Thibodeaux mentioned that he inspected the impact of recent heavy rains on Town streets and drainage. He observed the area at Sanders and Leonard to be problematic with this rainstorm. Other topics addressed were the hurricane debris removal contract and smoke testing in the sewer system.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alderman Patterson moved to defer consideration of INSTRUMENT 2013- 012, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE PART OF HWY. 435 TO RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL OVERLAY, seconded by Alderman Welliver. Vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 1 Alderman Flad Edmiston. Abstain: 0.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to amend INSTRUMENT 2014-002, amending Ordinance 434 ESTABLISHING THE 2013 BUDGET, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 1 Alderman Flad Edmiston. Abstain: 0. Alderman Welliver moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2014-002 as amended, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 1 Alderman Flad Edmiston. Abstain: 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the 2014 millage yielding to the Town Clerk, Kathy Armand. Ms. Armand announced the procedure of hearing and voting on the resolution to levy the millage(s) on the 2014 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS advising the resolution will be presented at the July 15, 2014 Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Lemons opened agenda resolution selecting the Town's Official Journal. Alderman Berrigan moved to adopt the Resolution SELECTING THE FARMER AS THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS' OFFICIAL JOURNAL, seconded by Alderman Patterson. Vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 1 Alderman Flad Edmiston. Abstain: 0.

Mayor Lemons asked for an introduction of INSTRUMENT 2014-003, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF THE WEST ONE-HALF RIGHT-OF-WAY OF CARNATION STREET FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH LOUISIANA HIGHWAY 36 TO INDEPENDENCE STREET Alderman Patterson moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2014-003, seconded by Alderman Welliver.

Mayor Lemons opened discussion on negotiation of a franchise agreement with Washington St. Tammany Electric Cooperative. The Mayor expressed his concerns related to the term of the contract and asked the Aldermen to review the presented information for discussion at the upcoming Public Committee Meeting.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kathy Armand thanked local resident John Preble for another successful Bike Festival and announced upcoming events including Bingo, the Cajun Dance, the Farmer's Market, the Mayor's Meet and Greet, a Celebrity Barbecue and Griller with the Mayor, and the Concert Movie Series in the Park featuring Ferris Bueller's Day Off and Music by Carlo Ditta & Friends on June 21st.

Mayor Lemons presented Aldermen with a spreadsheet reflecting Public Work Orders and summarized the process whereby citizens contact Town Hall to inform them of problems. The Mayor advised residents that they should contact Public Works Clerk Ree Stansbury with Public Works related issues.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17th DAY OF JUNE 2014.