

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN
PATRICIA FLAD EDMISTON
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

PATRICK BERRIGAN
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER
PAT PATTERSON
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

UTILITY MANAGER
DEBRA MACLEAN

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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 October 21, 2014 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order at 6pm.

The Mayor introduced State District Court Judge and candidate for re-election, Dawn Amacker who briefly spoke regarding her qualifications for office.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INCURRING OF DEBT AND ISSUANCE OF \$500,000.00 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2014 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS. The Mayor reviewed with members of the Board the purpose of the Bond namely street improvements. Alderman Flad Edmiston moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. All were present and in favor.

Alderman Patterson gave the invocation and Alderman Berrigan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson were present.

Mayor Lemons read his proclamation declaring the week of October 23rd through October 30th "Red Ribbon Week" in recognition of the sacrifices of others in the fight against drug related criminal activity and to create an awareness of drug dangers.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the September 16, 2014 minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. All present were in favor. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to accept the July and August 2014 Financials, seconded by Alderman Flad Edmiston. All were present and in favor.

STPSO:

Lt Escher gave a brief report of calls and citations and asked that residents please contact the Sheriff's office if they observe disorderly conduct in the Park.

TOWN MARSHAL:

Marshal Candilora was not present at the meeting. Lt Escher read from the Marshal's report. The Lt. noted that after much effort on the part of the Marshal, an abandoned vehicle which was parked on 12th St for quite some time was finally removed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

District 8 Chief Earl Gorrondano reported the number of calls for the month of September. The Chief then requested the Mayor and Board support him in his efforts to ensure the residents of our community receive timely emergency ambulance service pointing out that the contract with Acadian has expired. The expiration of the contract which provided for a maximum of a ten minute response time could potentially result in a doubling of the response time. The Chief added that this would be a life threatening increase and again asked for everyone's assistance. The Mayor and members of the Board committed their support.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Town Engineer Jean Thibodeaux was not present. Mayor Lemons reviewed notes from Mr. Thibodeaux's report summarizing the status of town projects including a projected review by the Louisiana Department of Transportation of the Town Center Sidewalk Lighting Project which is tentatively scheduled for December. The Mayor also noted that Mr. Thibodeaux is working on a design for handicap access in the park playground. Mayor Lemons advised the Board and others in attendance that he has asked Mr. Thibodeaux to participate as a member of the Street Improvement Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alderman Flad Edmiston moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INCURRING OF DEBT AND ISSUANCE OF \$500,000.00 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2014 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS...", seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays : 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS BOARD OF ALDERMEN EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT OF **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3** (ACT 871 OF THE 2014 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE) A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES IN THE SALE OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTY, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Vote was: Yeas: 5 Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays : 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0

Discussion opened of A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS BOARD OF ALDERMEN EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT OF **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 10** (ACT 436 OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE), A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BLIGHTED PROPERTY. A local resident expressed his opposition to the resolution stating that his position is that the larger issue of property owners' rights should supersede the rights of neighbors' to find a quicker resolution to blighted property in their neighborhoods. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to defer consideration of the motion, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Vote was: Yeas: 3 Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, and Kilpatrick-Harper, Nays : 1 Alderman Flad Edmiston, Absent: 0, Abstain: 1 Alderman Patterson.

Alderman Patterson moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2014-004, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO WASHINGTON ST-TAMMANY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.("COOPERATIVE"), ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, FOR A PERIOD OF 12 YEARS WITH AN AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF 10 YEARS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES, ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES AND/OR TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN, THROUGH AND ACROSS THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, LOUISIANA ("MUNICIPALITY"), AND FOR THE USE OF THE STREETS, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC PLACES OF SAID MUNICIPALITY, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, FOR THE GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY, FIXING THE TERMS, CONSIDERATIONS AND LIMITATIONS THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT BY COOPERATIVE (ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS) OF A SUM EQUAL TO FOUR PERCENT (4%) OF THE AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY SAID COOPERATIVE FOR THE SALE AND/OR DELIVERY OF KILOWATT HOURS OF ELECTRIC ENERGY AT RETAIL FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES BASED ON RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL NET RATES (UNBUNDLED RATES IN THE EVENT OF DEREGULATION) BILLED FOR SERVICE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF SAID MUNICIPALITY (EXCLUSIVE OF TAXES AND ALL GOVERNMENTAL FEES AND IMPOSITIONS SHOWN ON SUCH BILLS), AS SAID LIMITS MAY NOW OR HEREAFTER LAWFULLY EXIST, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, which was seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver.

Alderman Flad Edmiston moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2014-006, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2015 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Alderman Flad Edmiston noted the budget reflects a savings of \$87,000.00 in insurance costs obtained through the diligent efforts of the administration.

Alderman Patterson moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2014-007, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLIC STREETS AND DRAINAGE AREAS; TO ACCEPT THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON INTO THE ABITA SPRINGS MAINTENANCE SYSTEM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND THEREFORE TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alderman Flad Edmiston made announcements of upcoming events and mentioned the cancellation of Bingo on October 31st and the November 4th Public Committee Meeting. She then encouraged everyone to vote in the November election.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 21st DAY OF OCTOBER 2014.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor

Town Council Minutes 11-14