

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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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 Public Committees on March 11, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Edmiston called the Public Committee Meeting to order; Alderman Welliver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Alderman Berrigan opened the Governmental Committee. Alderman Berrigan moved to accept the December Governmental Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Edmiston.

1. Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the cemetery fees and regulations. Aldermen agreed to favorably recommend a resolution wherein the price of a cemetery plot would increase from \$1000.00 to \$1200.00 with the effective date postponed to allow citizens time to purchase a plot prior to the increase. Additional recommended changes to cemetery regulations included instituting a transfer fee for transfers requiring document review to be determined by the clerk which will not exceed \$150.00, the permitting of funeral homes and an annual \$100.00 permit fee, increases in allowable monument size with etching restricted to the face of the monument, and a requirement that funeral homes are responsible for leveling and families are responsible for clearing of the plot after burial. The cemetery with the St. John St. entry will be named Abita Cemetery #1, and the cemetery with the Eleventh St. entrance will be named Abita Cemetery #2. The number of burials in Abita Cemetery #2 will be limited to one casket and one cremation receptacle or two cremation receptacles in each plot. Mayor Lemons also presented his consideration of a plan to construct a columbarium in Abita Cemetery #1.
2. Alderman Berrigan opened discussion of the Twelfth St condemned property. Mayor Lemons advised that he is in possession of a certified copy of an engineer's report stating that the slab at 22114 Twelfth St. is fit for construction. Discussion included status of progress of the demolition and reference to the fact that if the house is demolished and the debris is removed the Council's objective will have been accomplished.

Alderman Berrigan moved to close the Governmental Committee, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Edmiston.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting.

1. Mayor Lemons explained that before the Council was a recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve an exchange of a piece of property for a servitude. Alderman Edmiston made inquiry as the nature of the trade asking the value of exchanging property for servitude rather than property for property. Alderman Berrigan responded that the square footage of the servitude is larger than the square footage of the property for which it will be traded and that we currently have a lift station on a property without a servitude. Consensus of the Council was that it was in the best interest of the Town to move forward with the exchange and that since the advantages in securing the servitude for the property on which the Town currently has sewer lines, a lift station, and a gas rectifier are so great appraisal costs should be borne by the Town.
2. Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the MWPP resolution which acknowledges receipt and review by the aldermen of the 2013 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report. Clerk of the Council Leanne Schaefer summarized the favorable report and advised that the report serves to ensure everyone is informed regarding any potential problems with the system.

3. Mayor Lemons introduced Town Public Works Director Johnny Clay. Mr. Clay began a presentation of the Town's water system and covered points including the number and location of wells, chlorination requirements, water lines, and monitoring.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper motioned to close the Infrastructure Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Welliver motioned to open the Finance Committee Meeting. Alderman Welliver motioned to accept the minutes from the December Finance Committee Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Edmiston.

1. Alderman Welliver turned attention to the November 2013 Compilation Report. Alderman Edmiston noted that she anticipates the review of the report should be completed prior to the next meeting.

Local resident, Linda Hawkins raised the question of property tax exemptions and asked the Council to consider the issue and possible creative ways to increase revenue.

Alderman Welliver motioned to close the Finance Committee Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Edmiston.

Alderman Berrigan motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Public Committees, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2014.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor