

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

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 MARSHAL
JOE CANDILORA

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on March 15, 2016 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

Alderman Blitch Welliver gave the invocation; the pledge of allegiance was led by Alderman Curtis.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Lemons recognized Forest McQueen as Employee of the Month. The Mayor mentioned that Mr. McQueen has developed into an exemplary employee.

Mayor Lemons then introduced the Abita Springs Elementary School Principal Rebecca Stogner and Abita Springs Middle School Principal Edward Strohmeyer. The principals were each presented with a \$500.00 check for their schools donated from the proceeds of last year's July 4th celebration food sales. Alderman Dan Curtis, one of the organizers of the event, presented the checks.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the February 16, 2016 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. All were in favor. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to approve the November 2015 Financial Report, seconded by Alderman Murphy. All were in favor.

STPSO:

Lt. Williams gave a brief report of calls. The Lieutenant reminded everyone to keep their vehicles locked and reported that area residents continue to experience a small number of auto burglaries.

FIRE DISTRICT 8:

Chief Glenn addressed the Council, reporting calls for the month of February. Monthly reports to the District included nine fires. The Chief added that only one of the nine was a structure fire in our district.

TOWN MARSHAL:

Marshal Candilora presented his monthly report of code violations. Problems with roaming dogs persisted during the month of February. The Marshal advised that his efforts to address the issue continue.

TOWN ENGINEER:

Mayor Lemons reported that Principal Engineering Inc. has been selected as the engineering firm in charge of upcoming sewer infrastructure projects. Engineer Jean Thibodeaux will continue to work on some of the Town's smaller projects along with those already underway.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no "OLD BUSINESS" to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons reviewed details of the proposed resolution AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE, AUTHORIZE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN DITCH WITCH FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS. The contract amount is \$119,092.95 divided into sixty payments. The Mayor explained the machine allows the Public Works Department to dig and lay utility lines without breaking up the asphalt streets. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alderman Curtis. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

Mayor Lemons invited local resident Dennis Ledet to address the Board. Mr. Ledet expressed that he and his neighbors are concerned over late night activity in the cemetery. Mr. Ledet asked the Board to consider enacting an ordinance restricting the hours of visitation to the cemetery. Mayor Lemons and Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper advised Mr. Ledet that while they appreciate his concern they are reluctant to make it illegal for residents to visit the graves of their loved ones during evening hours. The Mayor added that there are currently state laws in place which will address criminal activity such as potential vandalism and other mischief. He asked Lt. Williams to continue patrols and encouraged residents to report any suspicious activity.

Mr. Ray Pasqua was expected to address the Board but left the meeting prior to his scheduled agenda placement. Mayor Lemons stated that Mr. Pasqua has failed to participate when scheduled to appear on two prior occasions. The Mayor added that Mr. Pasqua would not be included on the agenda in the future.

OPEN-ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper mentioned upcoming Town events including among others, the Opry, En Plein Air, the Cajun Dance, the Women's Center Annual Gala, Busker Festival and the Ann O'Brien Craft Festival. Alderman Berrigan announced that the Recreation District #11 gym construction is underway. He added that it is hoped that the gym will be ready for basketball in the fall of this year.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Murphy.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 15th DAY OF MARCH 2016.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor