

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 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on July 15, 2014 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order at 6pm.

The Mayor introduced District Attorney candidate, Roy Burns. Mr. Burns summarized his background.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Lemons asked for an opening of the DISCUSSION OF A RESOLUTION LEVYING THE 2014 TAX MILLAGES ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper motioned to open the discussion and Alderman Patterson seconded. Mayor Lemons summarized the distribution of the mills including the purposes for which the money is used. The Mayor called for public comment however no comment was offered. Alderman Patterson moved to close the hearing, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

Mayor Lemons opened discussion 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. The Mayor explained Carnation St. is an unopened street near Abita Lumber. After annexation the plan is to sell the property to Abita Lumber. Alderman Patterson moved to close the Public Hearings, seconded by Alderman Welliver. All present were in favor.

Mayor Lemons opened the Town Council Meeting. Alderman Berrigan gave the Invocation and Alderman Flad Edmiston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson.

Mayor Lemons expressed special appreciation to the PTA, Danny Curtis, the Abita Opry, and other sponsors of the 4th of July celebration. Mr. Curtis responded that there were many who made the celebration possible and they hope to be able to do it again next year.

Mayor Lemons introduced Sarah Yrle from Laporte, CPAs and Business Advisors. Ms. Yrle stated the audit was clean and reviewed key components. She reported that they found no material weakness or significant compliance findings.

Alderman Berrigan moved to accept the June 17, 2014 minutes, seconded by Alderman Flad Edmiston. All present were in favor.

STPSO:

Lt Escher gave a report of calls and citations. The Lieutenant reported an act of criminal mischief at the Park Water Feature and asked residents to be vigilant and report suspicious activity.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

District 8 Chief Earl Gorrondano reported the number of calls for the month of June was down compared to the same time last year. The Chief stated the district has achieved a class 3 rating and advised that the District Hurricane Plan has been updated and is available for review.

TOWN MARSHAL:

Joe Candilora reviewed his monthly report including four complaints. The Marshal mentioned a complainant reported a dog jumped over a fence and exhibited threatening behavior. The resident/owner no longer resides at the premises and no further action was required.

ENGINEERING PROJECT REPORT:

Town Engineer, Jean Thibodeaux summarized the status of town projects. Mr. Thibodeaux advised that in spite of the rain St. Andrews Village is moving forward with clearing. Town Center Sidewalk Lighting Project design meetings are also progressing. Other topics addressed were the hurricane debris removal contract, Southwind drainage issues, and the Villas dedication. Alderman Patterson asked for a timeline regarding the Town Center Sidewalk Lighting Project. Mr. Thibodeaux responded that within eighteen months we should be contracted and nearly complete. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper asked for more details regarding the Villas. Mr. Thibodeaux outlined the areas which would be accepted and those which would not. Mayor Lemons recapped by stating the Town will not accept the retention pond or the flow through drainage system that is located between the homes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alderman Welliver moved to adopt the RESOLUTION LEVYING THE 2014 TAX MILLAGES ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, seconded by Alderman Flad Edmiston. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt 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, seconded by Alderman Patterson. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Lemons directed the Aldermen's attention to the First Quarter 2014 Financial Report prepared by the Finance Clerk, Niki Mendow. Alderman Flad Edmiston commented that with Ms Mendow now preparing the report the Town will experience an accounting expense reduction.

OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Lemons stated Mr. Ray Pasqua requested to speak to the Council and would be allowed five minutes for his presentation. Mr. Pasqua informed the Mayor that he would not be addressing the Council.

Alderman Flad Edmiston made announcements about upcoming events including the Friends of the Park Concert Series in the Park on Saturday and a film about fracking entitled "Gasland" to be held at Town Hall on July 29th at 6:30, free and open to the public.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 15th DAY OF JULY 2014.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk
Town Council Minutes 7-14

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor