

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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MAYOR
GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

PATRICK BERRIGAN
DANIEL J. CURTIS
RYAN MURPHY
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

UTILITY MANAGER
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TOWN MARSHALL
JOE CANDILORA

The following minutes were taken from the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on April 21, 2015 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order at 6pm. Following the invocation by Alderman Murphy and the pledge of allegiance by Alderman Blitch Welliver, Mayor Lemons began with announcements. Mayor Lemons expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the volunteers and the Museum Committee for their efforts coordinating the En Plein Air Art Show and the Busker Festival. Mayor Lemons also updated attendees regarding the status of anti-fracking efforts, noting that thus far efforts to block fracking in St. Tammany through court challenges have been unfavorable. Other legal and legislative activities are underway and communication with the St. Tammany Parish delegation continues.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present.

STPSO:

Lieutenant Williams introduced local resident and Sheriff Department Official, Captain Will Hart. Lt. Williams then gave a brief report of activities including the investigation of two identity theft incidents.

FIRE DISTRICT 8:

Brandon Wolfe summarized monthly calls and noted that Station 2 received their new engine. Mr. Wolfe also described the nature of pending grants and their status including one, which would provide resources for hiring additional firefighters.

TOWN MARSHAL:

Marshal Candilora gave a brief report of monthly calls with an average year to date of two calls per month. The Marshal reported that complaints included a notice of violation regarding flood management and another call involving animal rescue services.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

The mayor updated residents on several projects including the street overlay project, handicap access to the park playground funded by the Friends of the Park, development of a wetlands interpretive area behind the playground, debris clearing and initiation of construction of a cemetery parking area, preparation of presentation material for the Harrison Rd Extension project, and completion of the engineering and design phase of the sidewalk lighting project.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to consider.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ♦ Mayor Lemons reviewed the content and announced the public hearing date of May 19, 2015, for adoption of a **RESOLUTION LEVYING THE SAME TAX MILLAGE RATES IN 2015 AS THE 2014 RATES ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS**.
- ♦ Mayor Lemons opened discussion of the Abita Grows Initiative efforts to secure grant funding for two separate projects. Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, and Kilpatrick-Harper had several questions related to the relationship between Abita Springs, the Abita Farmer's Market, and the Abita Grows Initiative, as well as current accounting of income and expenditures, including grant income. Additional questions related to participation of Mike Norman as coordinator of the Farmer's Market and director of the Abita Grows Initiative and the handling of the EBT purchases at the Market. Mr. Norman addressed the Board to answer questions including one posed by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper regarding an already approved grant issued through Wholesome Wave to the Abita Farmer's Market in the amount of \$30,000.00. Mr. Norman explained that the aforementioned grant funds have not yet been received. Alderman Berrigan emphasized the need for proper oversight and organization in the early stages so that as the programs develop and grow everything is in place for proper management. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper thanked Mr. Norman for his efforts and expressed her reluctance to make a decision to support the resolutions with so many unresolved questions. Alderman Berrigan moved to table the **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION BY THE ABITA GROWS INITIATIVE TO THE USDA FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FARMER'S MARKET PROMOTION COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM**, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.
- ♦ Alderman Berrigan in connection with the foregoing discussion also moved to table the related **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION BY THE ABITA GROWS INITIATIVE TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.
- ♦ Mayor Lemons commended Fire District 8 commissioners Glynn Passman and Jay Hawkins for their service. Alderman Curtis and Alderman Murphy expressed their pleasure at serving with Mr. Passman and Mr. Hawkins on the Commission. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt the **RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF GLYNN PASSMAN AS FIRE DISTRICT 8 COMMISSIONER**, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Vote was: Yeas: 3, Aldermen Berrigan, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 2 Aldermen Curtis and Murphy.
- ♦ Alderman Blitch Welliver then moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF JAY HAWKINS AS FIRE DISTRICT 8 COMMISSIONER**, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Vote was: Yeas: 3, Aldermen Berrigan, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 2 Aldermen Curtis and Murphy.
- ♦ Mayor Lemons communicated the Town's activities in pursuit of a grant to fund construction of sidewalks leading to recreation trails and asked for a **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FHWA RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FOR LOUISIANA**. Alderman Berrigan moved to adopt the grant approval resolution, seconded by Alderman Murphy. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.
- ♦ **INSTRUMENT 2015-003 AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 454 ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2014 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014, ADJUSTMENT TO SECTIONS VII.**

AND XIX was introduced by Alderman Blitch Welliver and seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. Mayor Lemons explained the amendment ordinance is required to reflect negative changes to the budget greater than 5% of projections. The Mayor went on to say that in addition to expenditures in excess of 5%, income also exceeded expectations.

- ♦ Mayor Lemons directed the Board's attention to the presented "Compliance Questionnaire" and the accompanying resolution accepting the document. The Mayor noted that the acceptance resolution is required by the state and must be presented to the auditor. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt the **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**, and was seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.
- ♦ Alderman Murphy moved to adopt **A RESOLUTION INFORMING THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AS OUTLINED IN THE ABITA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION REPORT**. The resolution was seconded by Alderman Curtis. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

OPEN-ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper reviewed upcoming events including the Cajun Dance, a question and answer forum related to plans to open a recovery center at the old Artesia site, the Men's Club meeting, the Ladies Progressive Club, the Senior Olympics, the Opry, and a Master Gardener presentation at the local library.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the March 17, 2015 Town Council meeting minutes, seconded By Alderman Blitch Welliver. Vote was: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver. Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0.

Local resident, Mr. Ray Pasqua addressed the Board regarding the development of his property. Alderman Berrigan communicated the pointlessness of continued appearances before the Board regarding the same matter and recommended he seek the advice of an attorney. Mr. Pasqua was further informed that developmental plans are properly addressed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 21st DAY OF APRIL 2015.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor