

Town of Abita Springs, La.



The following minutes were taken from the regular monthly meetings of the Public Committees on February 3, 2015.

Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper called the meeting to order.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE: Alderman Berrigan moved to open the Governmental Committee meeting and to accept the January 2015 Governmental Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

- Discussion of the revocation of the unopened portion of Walker St., east of Caroline St. (Instrument 2015-002) commenced. Mayor Lemons updated progress regarding drainage improvements to the Walker-Caroline St. area. Local residents, Mr. and Mrs. Bauer, and Mr. Garvey asked for additional details about the plan. The Mayor provided copies of the improved drainage plan prepared by Town Engineer, Jean Thibodeaux. Mr. Garvey stated that to his knowledge Walker St. has not experienced drainage or flooding problems and expressed his concern over the depth of the proposed ditch. The Mayor pointed out that the street revocation and drainage improvements are separate issues. Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper noted that over the past ten years street revocations have been considered approximately 12 times. Local resident, Ms. Linda Hawkins asked for more information related to the sale or exchange. The Mayor responded that the additional details will be available pending completion of the appraisal and survey.

Alderman Berrigan moved to close the Governmental Committee Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: Alderman Murphy moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and accept the January 2015 Infrastructure Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

- Alderman Murphy recapped highlights from the Street Improvement and Overlay Committee meeting and addressed a question from one of the residents regarding prioritization of streets to be repaired. Alderman Murphy reminded everyone that the repair and overlay budget is \$500,000.00 and while it is a lot of money, it can go rather quickly when undertaking street projects. He assured residents the committee is doing its best to use the funds wisely and efficiently.
- Alderman Murphy yielded the floor to the Mayor to discuss the Tree Ordinance. Mayor Lemons noted that after a review of the current ordinance he finds much of the code is workable. The Mayor referred to the section of the code which allows the Town to hire a tree inspector to make tree removal decisions when the health of the tree is questionable. Mayor Lemons recommended that the Town contract with an arborist who is not a tree cutter and suggested the possibility of using the same inspector that Mandeville uses, Ms. Maggie Gleason. Alderman Berrigan commented that the code as it relates to trees is cumbersome compared to surrounding municipalities and would like to see it simplified. Mr. John Colley, a member of the Tree Board expressed his feeling and the sentiment of other Tree Board members that the board should logically play a part in the tree removal authorization

process. Mayor Lemons concluded with his recommendation to move forward with selection of a tree inspector. Alderman Murphy offered the possibility of considering Abita Springs' residents as possible candidates for the tree inspector position and agreed the tree code could use a review and fine tuning.

Alderman Murphy motioned to close the Infrastructure Committee meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the January 2015 Finance Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

- Mayor Lemons directed attention to the presented resolution supporting a grant application to the Louisiana Department of Transportation for sidewalk improvements providing "Safe Routes to School." Alderman Blitch Welliver favorably recommended the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to close the Finance Committee meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper.

Mayor Lemons introduced Public Works Director, Johnny Clay, and the start of a training presentation on the Town's water system. Mr. Clay covered the number of wells, testing, and chlorination among other topics.

At the conclusion of the training presentations Mayor Pro Tem Kilpatrick-Harper moved to close the meeting of the Public Committees, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015.

Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

Greg Lemons, Mayor