



These minutes are from the Town of Abita Springs Public Committee Meetings on July 2, 2019.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** 1.) The Town is working with Geographic Computer Technologies (GCT) to create a comprehensive, utility based, Geographic Information System (GIS) and a web-based viewer to access the data. The project has been reviewed and is near completion. 2.) The Town is still negotiating with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. The Mayor noted that the most recent proposal was rejected explaining that the terms provided less value for more money.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Contois moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the June 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 1.) Jay Hawkins presented the April and May Financial reports. Mr. Hawkins reported on the debt service and the \$483,000.00 set aside as a reserve for the sewer rehabilitation loan. Mr. Hawkins discussed the emergency fund and the goal of reaching a balance of at least \$500,000.00. 2.) Ms. Contois opened discussion of the authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of General Obligation Bonds. Mayor Curtis explained that if approved by the voters, that the millage would remain the same at 5mils. He added that more detailed information would be presented at upcoming meetings. Ms. Contois moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

**GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Saussy moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the June 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy 1.) Mr. Saussy opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2019-006, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-215(a) BY ADDING THERETO TO PROVIDE FOR AND REGULATE THE USE OF BED AND BREAKFASTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Ms. Contois suggested that the Bed and Breakfasts language be restored to the code subject to future amendment. Mr. Saussy favorably moved the Instrument forward to the July Town Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy. 2.) Mr. Saussy opened discussion of Instrument 2019-008 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-205 BY ADDING THERETO THE DEFINITION OF OWNER AND SHORT-TERM RENTALS AND TO ADD SECTION 9-231 TO PROVIDE FOR AND REGULATE THE USE OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Mr. Saussy made a motion to open the discussion to the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Mr. Murphy. Public comment included questions regarding Planning and Zoning recommendations including and related to reducing the proposed number of permits, limiting the rental to one residence, the need for both bed and breakfast and short-term rental regulation. A local resident suggested that the inclusion of Brook Forest in the ordinance was ill-conceived and another asked why the ordinance was necessary. Mr. Saussy answered, stating that presently short-term rentals are completely unregulated. Mr. Murphy added that doing nothing is not the answer. Mr. Murphy explained that the evening's discussion would determine whether the Committee of the Whole supported the introduction of the ordinance at the July Town Council meeting. Mr. Saussy made a motion to move the instrument forward, seconded by Mr. Murphy. The vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Contois, Patterson, Murphy and Saussy Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Alderwoman Randolph. 3.) Discussion of INSTRUMENT 2019-007, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-215.1 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO THE BROOK FOREST ZONING DISTRICT AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Tiffany Hawkins identified herself as an attorney hired by a majority of Brook Forest residents to represent their interests and opposition to the repeal of the Brook Forest ordinance. Ms. Hawkins urged the Board to defer action on the matter. She stated "My clients believe that their property interests have been taken from them without just compensation." Ms. Hawkins asked for an explanation of the impetus for the action. The Mayor and the Board expressed their desire for equity and continuity among residential districts. Other residents, including Planning and Zoning Commissioner Barbara Jackson voiced support of the repeal. Brook Forest resident Carol Richards objected to the statements related to support of the repeal and went on to question the Mayor regarding his familial relationship to the Flood Plain Manager, Suzanne Sumpter. Ms. Sumpter took exception to Ms. Richards' assertion that the relationship precludes her ability to remain objective. Mr. Saussy made a motion to move the Instrument forward for

introduction, seconded by Mr. Murphy. The vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Contois, Patterson, Murphy and Saussy  
Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Alderwoman Randolph. Mr. Saussy moved to close the Governmental Committee  
Meeting, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Patterson moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and to  
accept the June 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Saussy. Mr. Patterson moved to close the meeting, seconded by  
Mr. Saussy. Mr. Saussy moved to close the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Mr. Murphy. All present were  
in favor.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Mr. Murphy requested that Mr. Saussy serve as Economic  
Committee Chair in Ms. Randolph's absence. Mr. Saussy moved to open the Economic Development Committee  
Meeting and to accept the June 2019 minutes, seconded by Ms. Contois. With no new business to discuss, Mr.  
Saussy moved to close the meeting, seconded by Ms. Contois.

Ms. Contois made a motion to close the committee meetings, seconded by Mr. Patterson.

MEETING ADJOURNED  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 2nd DAY OF JULY 2019.

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Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

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Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor