



These minutes are from the Town of Abita Springs Public Committee Meetings on May 7, 2019.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Curtis announced that May has been declared as Bike Month in Abita Springs.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ms. Contois moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the April 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 1.) Jay Hawkins presented the March Financial Report for review. 2.) The Board was informed by staff that an instrument amending the 2018 Budget would be forthcoming. 3.) Ms. Contois made a motion to favorably recommend a RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2018 COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 4.) Ms. Contois favorably recommended a A RESOLUTION LEVYING THE FOLLOWING MILLAGES ON THE 2019 TAX ROLL ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION BY THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS: GENERAL ALIMONY AT 7.86 MILS, PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS & STREET LIGHTS AT 3.00 MILS, AND STREET BONDS AT 5.00 MILS. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy. 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 April 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 1.) Mr. Saussy made a motion to favorably recommend Instrument 2019-004 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS RELATED TO THE RESUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY INTO MORE THAN TEN LOTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BUILDING PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY, BY ANY ABITA SPRINGS TOWN OFFICIAL, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion to move the instrument forward. 2.) Mayor Curtis explained that the Town has entered into an agreement with Villavaso & Associates, L.L.C. (V&A.) V&A is to provide consultation regarding town planning activities, ordinances, and procedures. 3.) Mr. Saussy opened the discussion of the regulation of short-term rentals. Ms. Contois stated that she has reviewed the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission. She added that the Town must determine its priorities in moving forward. Mr. Saussy encouraged more public participation. Mr. Patterson suggested that the Town consider legislation enacted by comparable small communities. Mr. Murphy stressed the importance of balance and mentioned that some members of the community have expressed strong opposition to short-term rentals. A local resident asserted that the information presented to the Board has not been made available to the public. Discussion regarding Brook Forest zoning ensued. Mr. Patterson inquired as to why the Town has found themselves in the middle of issues ordinarily enforced through restrictive covenants. Dan Underwood asked Town Attorney Edward Deano about his opinion related to Brook Forest. Mr. Deano declined to offer a public response. Local residents continued to provide input related to short-term rentals and bed and breakfasts. It was noted that the regulation process is a “delicate dance” and that all should have an opportunity to participate. 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 April 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Saussy. Mr. Patterson announced that a review of gas connection fees is underway. The objective is to determine whether there is room to reduce fees thereby potentially increasing the natural gas customer base. Mr. Patterson moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Saussy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ms. Randolph moved to open the Economic Development Committee Meeting and to accept the April 2019 minutes, seconded by Ms. Contois. Ms. Randolph reported on the status of the Fall Fest. Ms. Randolph moved to close the meeting, seconded by Ms. Contois.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 7th DAY OF MAY 2019.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor