



These minutes are from the Town of Abita Springs' meetings of the Public Committees on February 5, 2019.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Curtis addressed the topic of the Town's contract with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office (STPSO) for law enforcement services. The Mayor stated that he is interested in pursuing negotiations with the STPSO to reach an agreement which is favorable to both parties. He added that among other things, he would like to see the Town's liaison officer exercise authority over the deputies assigned to the Town. Mayor Curtis reviewed activities related to repairs and improvements to the Town Hall and Museum. These include the replacement of rotten floor joists and flooring, damaged plumbing fixtures, and electrical upgrades. Also mentioned was the formation of a Farmer's Market Committee to work with management and the administration to improve the market. The Mayor concluded the announcements section with information regarding the Maintenance Barn. The Mayor circulated photos of the barn and described his plan to move forward to improve inventory control and organization. Ms. Randolph asked if there is a plan to monitor productivity in the Public Works Department. The Mayor responded affirmatively saying that one scheduled measure is to equip town vehicles with fleet GPS tracking systems.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ms. Contois moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the January 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Mayor Curtis reported that Jay Hawkins has been appointed as a consultant to the Town. Mr. Hawkins explained that in his new role, he would work to track, forecast, and plan for expenditures and follow revenue. He went on to describe reporting formats that he and Niki Mendow are developing. Alderman Contois advocated for inclusiveness. Ms. Contois added that along with austerity measures, she is interested in thoughtful planning regarding economic development, generation of sales tax, and proper zoning. 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 January 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. Mr. Saussy opened discussion of electronic utility payment fees. Mr. Murphy detailed the different options available for bill pay. It was suggested that the town should incentivize online payment by absorbing fees.

Mr. Saussy opened discussion of amending corner side yard setbacks on dedicated unopened street right of ways and read from Section 9-223 of the Town of Abita Springs Code of Ordinances - Yards and accessory buildings in residential districts (a) (3.) b., relative to corner lot side yard setbacks. It was noted that side yard setbacks are 20' except that on a corner lots the corner side setback is 30'. Discussion of Planning and Zoning authority to grant variances followed. Town Attorney Edward Deano suggested the possibility of creating a Board of Adjustments to handle the appellate process. He added that it is preferable to deal with amendment of the ordinance rather than issuing repeated variances. Mayor Curtis suggested that the Board consider an amendment to the Zoning Code reducing corner side lot setbacks to 20' on lots located on dedicated unopened street right of ways measuring less than 60'. Mr. Saussy made a motion to provide for the drafting of the amendment and to move it forward to the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Saussy next opened discussion of the prohibition on discharging fireworks in the Town limits. The item was placed on the agenda by Mr. Patterson who was unable to attend. Mr. Saussy moved to defer the item to the next Public Committee meeting to allow Mr. Patterson the opportunity to participate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy. Mr. Saussy moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: Mayor Curtis acting on behalf of Mr. Patterson (who was absent) moved to open the Infrastructure Committee meeting and to accept the January 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Saussy. Mayor Curtis opened discussion of the appointment of the Director and Alternate Director to the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority. After consideration, it was decided that the Board would move to appoint Mayor Curtis as Director and Mr.

Saussy as the Alternate Director. Mayor Curtis so moved, seconded by Mr. Saussy. Mayor Curtis 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 January 2019 minutes, seconded by Ms. Contois. Ms. Randolph announced that plans are underway to organize a Fall Fest on November 2nd at the Trailhead. Residents expressed concern regarding public safety, traffic and parking. Ms. Randolph assured attendees that all aspects of the event would be carefully considered and professionally planned.

Mayor Curtis mentioned that interest has been shown in property across from Abita Lumber. The prospective business owners would like to open a specialty mechanic shop and car impound lot. The Mayor explained that the operation should not be confused with a junkyard; the stored cars would be mobile and stored on a short-term basis. Ms. Randolph moved to close the meeting, seconded by Ms. Contois.

Ms. Randolph made a motion to close the meetings, seconded by Mr. Saussy.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor