



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Abita Springs Town Hall. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Council Members, Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy and Templet were present. Mr. Saussy made a motion to approve the of the April 4th meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Patterson. All were in favor.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS: Events Coordinator Angie Hahn announced that the Town is continuing to accept donations for its Fourth of July celebration and encouraged residents and local businesses to support the event.

The Board then considered a proposal to reschedule the June 16 Town Council meeting to June 23. The change would provide additional time to complete the draft audit report and planning and zoning code amendments, while also ensuring the Town Attorney could attend the meeting.

Mr. Saussy moved to approve the date change, and Mr. Boudreaux seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Danette Jenkins reported that the water tower project remains on schedule. Interior blasting is nearly complete, and exterior restoration is expected to continue for another three weeks.

She also reported that a camera inspection of the Town's water well revealed significant damage requiring major repairs, including installation of a liner and replacement of the well screen. The repairs are estimated to cost approximately \$400,000 and are expected to take three to four months to complete.

In addition, the gas line extension to the Abita East development is progressing as planned and is expected to be completed before service is needed by future residents.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Mayor Curtis opened discussion on Instrument 2026-05-01, an ordinance amending the Town's operating budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025. Alderman Patterson moved to introduce the ordinance, and Alderman Templet seconded the motion. Following the introduction, Finance Director Michelle Cunningham presented the proposed budget amendments, explaining that adjustments were necessary to reflect differences between budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures. She highlighted several factors affecting the budget, including donated property, lower-than-anticipated grant reimbursements, gas sales revenues, utility maintenance expenses, and debt service payments. Ms. Cunningham noted that, despite these adjustments, most funds remained generally in line with budget expectations.

2.) Ms. Cunningham then presented the February and March 2026 financial reports. She reported that most funds were tracking close to budget expectations throughout the first quarter of the year. General Fund revenues were ahead of schedule due to early collections of taxes and business licenses, while Utility Fund expenditures were higher than anticipated because of water system repairs and seasonal gas costs. She also reviewed the Police, Infrastructure, Public Works, Recreation, Cemetery, and Debt Service Funds, noting that revenues and expenditures generally remained on target. During discussion, staff highlighted several upcoming projects to be funded through shared sales tax revenues, including repairs to Packet Place and Abita Springs Drive and the purchase of street maintenance equipment.3.) Alderman Patterson moved to adopt a resolution accepting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire, and Alderman Templet seconded the motion. Aldermen Patterson and Templet voted in favor, while Aldermen Boudreaux and Saussy abstained. With Alderman Contois absent, the vote resulted in a tie. Mayor Curtis cast the deciding vote in favor of the resolution, and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Planning and Zoning Director, Kristin Tortorich, opened the “Discussion of the Amendment of the Zoning Map and the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Ordinance Consistent with the Master Plan, the Process Moving Forward, and Other Related Matters.” During the discussion, Town officials announced that the public comment period had been extended through June 5th and encouraged residents and Aldermen to continue submitting feedback. Much of the discussion focused on proposed mixed-use zoning near North, Hickory and Maple Streets, parking requirements, home occupations, conditional uses, and concerns about how future development could affect residential neighborhoods. Aldermen emphasized the need to carefully review the ordinance language before adoption, while staff noted that the revised code is intended to address inconsistencies in the current code and can be amended as needed in the future. Public comments reflected differing views, with some urging additional review and others encouraging the Town to move forward with a vote after years of discussion.

OPEN/ADJOURNMENT: During the public comment period, residents urged the Town to proceed with the zoning update without further delay, expressing concern that continued revisions could stall completion. Questions were raised about permitted uses in mixed-use districts, with staff referring residents to the draft zoning ordinance for details. Additional comments addressed funding for upcoming water system repairs, traffic enforcement revenues, and an announcement from Sandra Slifer of Keep Abita Beautiful regarding a community shredding and recycling event. Additionally, an update on the Opry was provided, noting ongoing coordination to address seating and safety concerns while ensuring compliance with applicable codes.

Mr. Saussy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Patterson. All present were in favor.

Leanne Schaefer, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor