



These minutes are from the Town of Abita Springs Public Committee Meetings on January 7, 2020.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Contois moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and accept the December 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 1.) Jay Hawkins presented the November Financial report. 2.) Town Clerk Janet Dufrene informed the Board that an ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020 of the Town of Abita Springs, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; designating the date, denomination and place of payment thereof in principal and interest; providing for the acceptance of offers for the purchase of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith would be presented to the Board for introduction at the next Town Council Meeting. Ms. Contois moved to favorably recommend the instrument seconded by Mr. Murphy. Ms. Contois moved to close the committee meeting seconded by Mr. Murphy.

**GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Saussy moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the December 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 1.) Mr. Saussy opened discussion of Instrument 2019-017, (introduced at the December 15, 2019 Town Council Meeting) AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO AMEND AND REORDAIN SECTION 9-715 BY ADDING THERETO SUBSECTION (d) RELATIVE TO FINES LEVIED FOR VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 9 CHAPTER 7, TREE REMOVAL AND TIMBER HARVESTING, TO PROVIDE THAT ANY FINES SHALL RUN WITH THE LAND UPON WHICH VIOLATIONS OCCURRED, THAT SUCH FINES MAY BE RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT OF ST TAMMANY PARISH AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Local resident Stewart Eastman mentioned his experience with liens and noted that the Town should consider the cost of filing versus the amount of the fine. Town Attorney Edward Deano pointed out that the ordinance is permissive, and that discretion based on expense would be allowed. Mr. Saussy favorably recommended the Instrument seconded by Mr. Murphy. 3.) Mr. Saussy opened discussion of Instrument 2019-018 (introduced at the December 15, 2019 Town Council Meeting) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN SECTIONS 3-511, 6-110 (c.), 6-111 (a.) AND (b.), 6-206, 6-207, 9-218.6 (a), 6-310 (c.), 6-311, 9-224, 9-411 (a) (b.) and (c.), 9-511, 9-603 (4), 9-712, 11-108 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN FEES LEVIED BY THE TOWN, TO PROVIDE FOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAYOR TO SET SUCH FEES, AND FOR THE PUBLISHING OF A FEE SCHEDULE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Ms. Randolph stated that line 114 of the instrument referenced the Board rather than the Mayor as the controlling authority regarding the establishment of sewer capacity fees. The discussion progressed to include an explanation related to the purpose of granting the Mayor the authority to establish fees that being administrative experience and expediency to ensure that the Town covers its costs. Mr. Saussy favorably recommended the proposed amendment of line 114 changing Board of Aldermen to the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Murphy. Mr. Saussy favorably recommended Instrument 2019-018, with amendment, to the Town Council Meeting seconded by Mr. Murphy. 3.) Mr. Saussy opened discussion of Instrument 2019-019 introduced on December 15, 2019, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND AND REORDAIN SECTION 9-804 ADDING THERETO SUBSECTION (5) RELATIVE TO THE EXAMINATION AND RECOMMENDATION BY A CONSULTANT RELATIVE TO DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH VARIOUS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Mr. Saussy favorably recommended adoption of the Instrument as presented, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 4. & 5.) The Committee begin deliberations over the Planning Commission's recommendations to revoke portions of North and Pine Streets. Members of the public voiced opposition to the recommendation reading the criteria from the Town of Abita Springs Code of Ordinances which allows for a revocation of publically owned property. Local residents specifically disagreed with the Commission's assertion that the property serves no useful purpose. Public comment included the position that while the property might not be suitable or necessary as a location for a street, it had not been established that it serves no other useful purpose now or in the future. Hancock Whitney Bank Trustee, John Cannizarro representing the Clifton Family Conservatorship, addressed the Board explaining the family's desire to maintain certain adjacent property in its natural state. He added that structures on the property encroached upon Pine St. and created a hardship. Local resident Clayton Borne offered his insight noting that the Board should not consider hardships of a petitioner's own making. Ms. Liz Hall also spoke in opposition to the revocation. Ms. Hall responding to Planning Commission Member Eric Templet stated that the Commission's desire not to establish a precedent does not in itself mean that it will not. Mr. Deano

contributed, adding that the Commission might show how the reasons for their decision(s) might be distinguished from other cases. Mr. Saussy and Ms. Contois expressed that they could not support the revocations. Mr. Saussy made a motion to close the Governmental Committee, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Patterson moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and to accept the December 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Saussy. With no new business to discuss, 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 December 2019 minutes, seconded by Ms. Contois. 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 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2020.

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Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

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Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor