



The following minutes were taken at the regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on February 19, 2019, at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Mayor Curtis called to open Hearing 1.), A DISCUSSION OF INSTRUMENT 2019-001, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO MAKE CLERICAL AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 9-305(d), 9-307(b), 9-307(e), AND TO REPEAL SECTION 9-307.1 E) OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, FOLLOWED BY HEARING 2.), A DISCUSSION OF INSTRUMENT 2019-002, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, TO AMEND THE ABITA SPRINGS DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR THE HISTORIC COMMISSION; TO DELETE CHAPTER 2 – THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR’S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION AND TAX INCENTIVES AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Residents were invited to comment. Local resident Stewart Eastman voiced his objection regarding the regulation of color in the district and that it is his opinion that enforcement of the guidelines is arbitrary. Historic Commission Chairman Ron Blich objected to Mr. Eastman’s characterization of the Board adding that his comments were not factual. Town Attorney Edward Deano summarized the points of the presented ordinances. He noted that primarily the amendments addressed a change in historic commission authority outside of the district and removal of reference to Department of Interior Rehabilitation Standards.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Curtis updated attendees regarding improvements to the Town Hall and Museum. The Mayor advised that rotten floor support joists, subflooring and wood floor has been replaced in the Town Hall. He added that electrical and plumbing repairs have been made at the Museum.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Contois, Patterson, Murphy, Randolph, and Saussy were present. Mr. Patterson moved to accept the January 22, 2019 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Randolph. Ms. Contois moved to accept the 2018 third quarter financial report seconded by Mr. Murphy.

OLD BUSINESS: Town Attorney Edward Deano explained that for the sake of clarity, INSTRUMENT 2019-001 should be amended to include the words “building or structure” (following the word historic) and to delete repetitive closing statements on lines 54 and 56. Mr. Patterson moved to accept the suggested amendments, seconded by Ms. Randolph. The vote was: Yeas:5, Council Members Contois, Murphy, Patterson, Randolph, and Saussy, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. Mr. Patterson moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2019-001 AS AMENDED, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO MAKE CLERICAL AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 9-305(d), 9-307(b), 9-307(e), AND TO REPEAL SECTION 9-307.1 E) OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Ms. Randolph. The vote was: Yeas:5, Council Members Contois, Murphy, Patterson, Randolph, and Saussy, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. 2.) Mr. Saussy moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2019-002, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, TO AMEND THE ABITA SPRINGS DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR THE HISTORIC COMMISSION; TO DELETE CHAPTER 2 – THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR’S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION AND TAX INCENTIVES AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Ms. Contois. The vote was: Yeas:5, Council Members Contois, Murphy, Patterson, Randolph, and Saussy, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Mayor Curtis informed attendees that Town Clerk Kathy Armand would not be remaining in her position and presented Janet Dufrene as his appointment as Town Clerk along with Michael Slemmer as Town Marshal and Edward Deano of Deano and Deano as Town Attorney. Mr. Patterson made a motion to approve the Mayor’s appointments, seconded by Mr. Saussy. The vote was: Yeas:5, Council Members Contois,

Murphy, Patterson, Randolph, and Saussy, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. 2.) Mayor Curtis opened discussion of A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ACCOUNT WITH THE LOUISIANA ASSET MANAGEMENT POOL (LAMP); A SAFE AND PRUDENT CASH MANAGEMENT TOOL, SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN LOUISIANA. The Mayor explained that the investment account is conservative but allows the Town to realize a return, currently around 2.49%. Jay Hawkins, acting in his capacity as a consultant for the Town, encouraged the Board to approve the resolution in support of investing in the pool. Residents and board members returned to the question of risk. Mr. Hawkins answered, stating the Pool has Standard and Poor's highest rating. Mr. Murphy made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Patterson. The vote was: Yeas:5, Council Members Contois, Murphy, Patterson, Randolph, and Saussy, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0. 3.) Mayor Curtis opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2019-003. The Mayor explained the amendment would reduce the side setback on certain corner lots from 30' to 20'. Mr. Murphy offered that the discussion opens a larger conversation regarding Town ownership of dedicated unopened street right of ways. Ms. Contois expressed her desire to keep the focus on the topic at hand, that being the setbacks. She offered information related to setback regulations in other municipalities. Ms. Contois reported that a 30' setback is larger than those of the research sample. She added that surrounding municipalities establish side-yard setbacks ranging from 8' to 20'. Mr. Patterson moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2019-003 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN TO AMEND THE ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 9-223. (a), (3), b., YARDS AND ACCESSORY BUILDINGS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, RELATED TO CORNER LOT YARD SETBACKS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Ms. Randolph. 4.) Mayor Curtis opened discussion of a RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AND AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION AUTHORITY AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 10-B OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950. The Mayor asked the Board to confirm his appointment of Mr. Patterson as director and Mr. Saussy as alternate director. Ms. Contois moved to adopt the resolution confirming the appointments, seconded by Ms. Randolph. The vote was: Yeas:5, Council Members Contois, Murphy, Patterson, Randolph, and Saussy, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

Mayor Curtis directed residents to the website for fire, law enforcement, and engineering reports. The Mayor summarized points from the engineering report.

During the "Open" section community members expressed support of changing corner lot side-yard setbacks to a minimum of 20'. Council Members Saussy and Patterson communicated support of the amendment.

Alderman Patterson moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Saussy.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor