

Town of Abita Springs



**MAYOR
DANIEL J. CURTIS**

The following minutes were taken at the regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on May 19, 2020 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order. As a result of the Executive Order of Governor John Bel Edwards related to the COVID 19 pandemic, the meetings were broadcast live on the Town of Abita Springs You Tube Channel. Mayor Curtis read the agenda in full and invited the public to participate by emailing comments through the link posted on the Town's webpage.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Mayor opened the public hearing discussion of Instrument 2020-005 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO EXTEND A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF ANY PERMITS BY THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF ANY LOTS WHICH ARE PART OF A RESUBDIVISION OF LAND IN THE AREA COMPRISING THE FORMER BROOK FOREST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. Public comments were read aloud during the OLD BUSINESS section of the meeting.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1.) Mayor Curtis reported on the passing of local resident and volunteer Peter Soules noting that the Soules Family selflessly contributed to the Town for many years. 2.) Consultant James Purpera has been hired to assist the Town in efforts to obtain a Capital Outlay Grant to add capacity to the sewer plant. 3.) The Mayor reviewed Phase 1 re-opening regulations related to procedures. 4.) The Farmers Market is now open with limited participants and in compliance with COVID 19 regulations. 5.) Recycling pick-up will resume on Monday, June 1.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Contois, Murphy, Patterson, and Saussy were present. Ms. Randolph arrived later. Mr. Patterson moved to accept the February 18, 2020 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Contois. The vote was: Yeas: 4, Aldermen Contois, Murphy, Patterson, and Saussy. Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1, Alderman Randolph. Mr. Murphy moved to accept the January, February, and March Financial Reports seconded by Mr. Saussy. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: 1.) Mr. Patterson made a motion to adopt Instrument 2020-005 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; TO EXTEND A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF ANY PERMITS BY THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF ANY LOTS WHICH ARE PART OF A RESUBDIVISION OF LAND IN THE AREA COMPRISING THE FORMER BROOK FOREST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, seconded by Mr. Saussy. Town Clerk Janet Dufrene read submitted public comments. Comments included the following statements from Brook Forest resident Donna Caire. She said she would like the Board to "1.) *Extend the moratorium on the issuance of any permits by the town of Abita Springs for the improvement or development of any lots which are part of a resubdivision of and in the area comprising the former Brook Forest Residential District.* 2.) *Advise us on the proper procedure of how to create a residential district that is acceptable to the town of Abita Springs.*" Upon conclusion of the reading aloud of public comments, the vote was taken and resulted in the following: Yeas: 5, Aldermen Contois, Murphy, Patterson, Randolph and Saussy. Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Ms. Dufrene reviewed information related to the Adjusted Maximum Millage provided by the St. Tammany Parish Assessor. The General Alimony Millage was adjusted from 7.86 to 7.42 and the Parks, Playground and Lighting Millage was adjusted from 3.0 to 2.83. **2.)** Mr. Patterson made a motion to introduce Instrument 2020-006 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #492 ADJUSTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2019 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019, seconded by Ms. Contois.

Other topics included maintenance of the splash pad, the design and authority related to whom may change the town seal, and whether “Car Medics”, located on Hwy 59, is subject to Historic Commission oversight. Marshal Bonnet reported on law enforcement activities in Town.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 19th DAY OF MAY 2020.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor