



The following minutes were recorded at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at 6:00 p.m. on March 25, 2025, at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Curtis announced that Fall Fest will proceed as planned. He then provided an overview of the administrative responsibilities handled by Town Hall staff.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Boudreaux, Contois, Saussy, Patterson, and Templet were present. Mr. Patterson moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saussy and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Curtis publicly thanked the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) and the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) for their presentation on town procedures. He noted the value of the meeting and invited comments from the Board. Mr. Boudreaux expressed appreciation for the discussion on internal controls. Mr. Patterson highlighted the clarification of the separation between legislative and executive roles and emphasized a desire for more effective collaboration. Ms. Contois advocated for open communication and public dialogue, stating that while cooperation isn't a legal requirement, it's essential for functional governance. Mr. Saussy thanked Ms. Contois for collaborating to bring in the LLA. He believed the session was helpful for all attendees and would contribute to progress. He also clarified budget concerns addressed by the LMA. Mr. Templet agreed with the comments of his colleagues and found the meeting insightful. Mayor Curtis acknowledged the community's engagement.

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Curtis invited Alderman Saussy to present his position on INSTRUMENT 2025-003: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO CREATE A STANDARD OF PROCEDURE FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S ACCESS TO ALL FINANCIAL RECORDS. Mr. Saussy supported the ordinance, stating it would provide an additional layer of oversight through read-only access to financial records. He agreed that this access could be provided via a designated workstation at Town Hall. Ms. Contois shared her conversation with Richard Williams, Deputy Director of the LMA, who indicated that such an ordinance should not be necessary, as financial information should be made available upon request. The administration raised concerns regarding confidentiality of certain records and the feasibility of adding additional user access. Mr. Saussy reaffirmed his commitment to cooperation and said that as long as the necessary documents were provided, he would not be inclined to argue the process. Local resident Stewart Eastman commented that the ordinance lacked clarity and that its formatting was problematic.

Mayor Curtis then opened discussion on INSTRUMENT 2025-004: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO ALLOW A PUBLICLY ELECTED ALDERMAN TO INTRODUCE AN ORDINANCE FOR CONSIDERATION AT A PUBLIC MEETING. All Aldermen participated in the discussion, concluding that the meeting format should be revised to ensure thorough public dialogue before Board action. Mr. Deano emphasized the value of previous Public Committee

Meetings, where legislative direction was more clearly determined. The Board agreed to revisit and revise the Council Rules of Procedure.

The Board also discussed the LLA's guidance concerning the adoption of a 2024 budget amendment after the fiscal year had ended. It was noted that during the March 18th training session, it was clarified that the amendment was unnecessary. Based on this, Mr. Patterson moved to table INSTRUMENT 2025-006: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ORDINANCE #540, ESTABLISHING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, WITH ADJUSTMENTS TO SECTIONS V, VII, IX, XI, XII, XV, AND THE ADDITION OF SECTIONS XIX AND XX, AND RELATED MATTERS. The motion was seconded by Mr. Templet. The vote was as follows: YEAS: 5, Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet, NAYS: 0, ABSTAIN: 0, ABSENT: 0

OPEN DISCUSSION / ADJOURNMENT: Residents made public comments regarding the potential adoption of a Home Rule Charter and the upcoming vote on matters related to the St. Tammany Parish Libraries.

Mr. Saussy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Patterson. All were in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor