



The following minutes were taken at the meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on March 5, 2024, at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Curtis announced upcoming events including the Gumbo Cook-Off, the Whole Town Garage Sale, the Busker Festival, and the Autism Event. Town Marshal Ricky Bonnet reported monthly law enforcement statistics. Town Engineer John Catalanotto reported on the Wastewater Treatment Plant – Arrow Wood Interconnection Project, the Town Center Lighting Project, the Level Burvant Streets Overlay and Safe Streets for All. Local resident Rhonda Scorsone suggested that the town should not accept the lowest bid on the Arrow Wood Interconnection Project. It was explained by the Town Engineer, that Louisiana State Law requires the project be publicly bid and compels acceptance of the lowest responsive and responsible bid. Mayor Curtis introduced local CPA Patrick Gros. Mr. Gros summarized his extensive experience in forensic accounting, adding that he has testified as an expert in over sixty court cases. Ms. Scorsone challenged Mr. Gros asking about his relationship with the mayor. Mr. Gros responded that he did the mayor's taxes over ten years ago and that he has no recollection of speaking to him since.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet were present. Mr. Patterson made a motion to move "New Business" before "Old Business" on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Templet. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Patterson moved to accept the February 6, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Boudreaux. All were in favor. The January Financials were presented for review.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Curtis opened discussion of A Resolution of the Town of Abita Springs Board of Aldermen to Accept an Act of Donation. Violet and John Tipple proposed to donate a piece of land on which a servitude of passage (13th St.) had been established, along with the adjacent drainage path. Alderman Templet made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alderman Boudreaux. The vote was, Yeas 5, Aldermen Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet. Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0. The next item on the agenda for discussion was the Town's Infrastructure Capacity and Impact Fees. It was noted that it had been quite some time since the fees were established and that it was time for a review. The Board agreed and it was suggested that the Administration work with the Town Engineer to assess whether the fees were appropriate.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Saussy read a prepared statement relating to the embezzlement of funds by two town employees and the need for an independent forensic audit. Mr. Saussy asked how the Board could be expected to have confidence in the financial reports and the budget under the current circumstances. Mr. Templet suggested patience and reiterated that the formal investigation was still underway and that no action should be pursued which would jeopardize that investigation.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 5TH DAY OF MARCH 2024.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor