

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman Meeting
July 5, 2022

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton
Alderman Jeanne Gentry
Alderman Vaughn Barnett
Alderman Jimmy Moore

Mayor Norton called the Town meeting to order at 7:02pm

Mayor Norton read the Public Charge.

Mayor Norton asked the Board for a motion to accept the June 6, 2022 Town meeting minutes. Alderman Gentry made a motion to accept the minutes; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton asked the Board for a motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2022 Budget meeting. Alderman Gentry made a motion to accept; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Agenda

Laura Boosinger – Executive Director of the Madison County Arts Council
Rob Pulleyn, Capital Campaign Chair, and owner of Marshal High

Ms. Boosinger thanked the Board for allowing the Bluff Festival to start at 10:00am. She let the Board know that they will be asking for the amendment again in the future.

The Arts Council is making plans to renovate their building in Downtown Marshall. The building was built around 1914. It was a livery, most recently it was the old Library.

Mr. Pulleyn wanted to let everyone know that although the Arts Center is located in Marshall, it is for the entire county. He said Ms. Boosinger is dedicated to having as many activities, such as Bluff, over the entire county. Goal is to bring programs to the county and to develop small business; people who have a craft.

The Council is wanting to take the building and convert it to an Art Center for the whole County. One floor would be devoted to education for kids K-12, and, also, for adults. There is a Junior Appalachian Program (JAM), a drama program for kids. They are wanting to start having more craft classes for adults. There will be meeting rooms available so people in the community and non-profits will have a place to meet. The second floor will be a gallery.

Currently, they are in a quiet phase, trying to get to people who can make a significant donation so that when they go public, they can announce how much has already been raised. Currently they have raised \$500,000. The goal is to raise \$3,000,000.

Glenda Dolbeare

Asked the Board if there was a dog leash law in the Town of Hot Springs. Mayor Norton told Ms. Dolbeare there is a leash law. Ms. Dolbeare said she would like to have this information be reiterated or known. She

lives on a block with a lot of nightly rentals. The people renting the properties are letting their dogs run unleashed. It is her opinion that dogs should not be allowed to run the neighborhoods unleashed.

Ms. Dolbeare suggested that through the water billings or the tourism association could notify the nightly rental owners to remind their renters that dogs must be on leash when outside. Mayor Norton responded that we could provide Johnny Cassey, with the News-Record & Sentinel, with a copy of our leash law so he could print the information. Mr. Cassey responded that he would. Ms. Dolbeare mentioned that the information was also good for the Town's employees.

Public Comment

Lisa Hicks

Events Committee had started having events, then Covid hit. Although Covid is still around, but people getting out more. The Committee would like to start having events again. The Committee would like to ask Mark Snelson and the Board of Education if they could use school property for events. The school probably has liability coverage since they have ball games they have. School is secure and there is parking available. Mayor Norton suggested the Committee speak with Lisa Gahagan.

The Community Center is not in good shape. The Committee would like to get an electrician, a roofer, and the community volunteers to fix up the Center. Fund raiser could help purchase the needed supplies. Alderman Gentry said the Town is looking into grants to renovate the center. Mayor Norton also mentioned the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to assist with the grants.

The Town has no flowers to help brighten things up. We used to have flowers on the bridge and throughout the business area. Lisa knows someone who could make the arrangements that would go on the bridge. Mayor Norton said she could be at City Hall before the Zoning meeting; Alderman Gentry and Alderman Moore could also be at City Hall before the Zoning meeting, and they could discuss the subject.

Donald Barnett

He has property on Henderson Drive. For safety purposed, Mr. Barnett asks that the Town's 20mph speed limit be extended from Lance Ave. on 209. He said that the current speed limit of 35mph is not enforced. Mayor Norton said the Board would contact the Department of Transportation to see if the speed limit could be lowered from 35mph to 20mph.

Departments

Laura Holloway

Ms. Holloway provided information regarding the delinquent 2021 Real taxes. Also provided is information on the delinquent 2021 Personal Property taxes and a list of total delinquent taxes: from 2011 to current; Real and Personal. Ms. Holloway is wanting to work with Town's attorney and Debt Setoff. Debt Setoff requires information that is difficult to obtain. Ms. Holloway is trying to find a company that will provide full information without an extra charge. Ms. Holloway spoke with Debt Setoff, and they advised the Town would receive the full amount due for taxes, water & sewer, and tickets written by the Police Department. How Debt Setoff makes money is they charge to person an additional amount over what the Town is due. Debt Setoff keeps the overage and sends the Town what they are due.

As of close of business we were at 97.94% collected. On July 1, 2022, we were at 97.99% collected.

Alderman Moore said that I had listed a deceased person on the listings provided. Ms. Holloway explained that the reason deceased people show up on the delinquent listings is because she has to use the names that are on the county tax rolls.

Board

Mayor Norton

Mayor Norton provided information regarding ACH Direct Deposit. The Direct Deposit option costs less than it did several years ago. Direct Deposit would help the Town save money and the employees would not have to deposit their check in their account. Question was asked as to what would happen if an employee would not want this option. Mayor Norton will ask the bank. Checks would not have to be printed or signed, but the amounts would still have to be approved before the money is released. The amounts would have to be approved and released before noon in order for it to hit the employees' account on the same day.

Mayor Norton asked the Board for a motion to accept to move forward with the direct deposit authorization for the employee payroll. Alderman Moore made the motion to approve; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Alderman Gentry

Jeremy Trantham had asked that she mention the cage that was previously discussed regarding the Silvermine pump. Maintenance is needing to find someone to build the cage so the electrical pole would be blocked. Maintenance had spoken with Keith Rice; Mr. Rice quoted \$1,000 for the project. The electrical work is on hold until the cage is in place. Concrete barriers will not be purchased as the electrical will be raised up away from the water. This project would be under ARP.

Previously, when we have delinquent water/sewer bills, we have sent out several reminder letters. The Board has decided to not send out the multiple reminders. The actual bill indicates the due date, so everyone knows when the bill is due. Alderman Gentry asked the Board for suggestions in order to create a policy. She asked if one (1) reminder notice would be what the Board suggested. Alderman Moore said that is what he would suggest. He also suggested that the letters are not hand delivered. Mayor Norton said we will need Ron Moore, Town's Attorney, to prepare a policy. Alderman Barnett wants Attorney Moore to be asked if the notice needs to be sent by certified mail – so that the person cannot say they did not receive the letter. Mayor Norton will get with Attorney Moore and the topic will be discussed at the August 1st meeting.

Alderman Moore

Alderman Moore said the Town cleaned the streets and sidewalks a couple of years ago and notified the Town's people that the one cleaning was paid by the Town. If the Town had to clear shrubs and trees from the streets and sidewalks the property owner would be charged a fee. The sidewalks and trees are getting out of hand again. He asks that letters be sent out reminding property owners they need to cut the shrubs and trees back or the Town will cut them, and they will be charged. Mayor Norton asked that a list be made; the Town Clerk create a letter; the Board will review the letter and then be sent out.

The permits that are issued for music and other things, we need to think about the ones who owe back taxes or water bills. If anyone owes the Town, Alderman Moore asks that permits are not issued until the taxes or water bills are paid. Mayor Norton will check with Attorney Moore about this.

Public Question

Charlotte Lackey

Asked if the mail, mailed from Hot Springs, must be sent through South Carolina, and then come back to Hot Springs. She cited the water bills as an example. Alderman Barnett told Ms. Lackey that the mail has to go to South Carolina and come back.

Ms. Lackey wanted to know what the Board's reaction was, to the newspaper article, stating that Hot Springs being one of the 10 Best Places to Move in the United States to raise a family. Mayor Norton advised she was pleased to know that people think Hot Springs was a good place to raise a family as she raised her children here. Ms. Lackey commented that she wondered where the Town could put all the people. ☺

Since there is no other business to discuss, Alderman Gentry made a motion to adjourn, Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

✓
Approved _____
Abigail Norton

Mayor Abigail Norton

8-1-2022

Date

Other