

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 16, 2022

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton	Alderman Jimmy Moore
Alderman Jeanne Gentry	Police Chief David Shelton
Alderman Vaughn Barnett	Attorney Ron Moore (via phone)

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Mayor Norton

Asked for a motion that the February minutes be approved. Alderman Gentry made the motion; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Public Comment

SaraJo Litwak

Asked for the town to place a port-a-potty at her station. She said she would provide a space. Someone on the board will check with the Welcome Center to see if they would be okay with the port-a-potty being moved to SaraJo's Station.

Public Agenda

Bruce Bender

The State has grant money to put in electrical charging stations for electrical cars. GPS systems steer traveler to areas that can accommodate the electrical car's energy. Bruce would like to keep Hot Springs on the GPS map to direct cars to our town to be able to re-charge their cars. People can visit the local businesses while their car is being charged.

Alderman Moore explained similar discussions have been presented to the Board before. The Town does not have a place to put the charges.

Alderman Gentry asked if the parking stations could be placed on private property. Bruce said they could be; however, the funding is significantly lower.

SaraJo said she would check to see if charging station may be placed on the gas station's property.

Chief Shelton expressed concern that the charging stations would draw undesired attention. He has seen where a gas-powered vehicle would park at the charging station, open their gas tank and act as if they were charging the car. He would like to see camera go into the area where the charging stations were placed. SaraJo said the gas station has cameras for safety purposes.

Mayor Abby Norton

The spa is wanting the caboose moved or a fence placed around it. If we fence, the fence must be the green the spa currently has on the property. Spa would require the caboose to be painted, by professional painters. We can fence/paint, sell the caboose. Alderman Gentry made the motion to sell the caboose; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Norton indicated we would have to advertise for bids. Attorney Moore indicated we would need to list a minimum bid amount in the advertisement. Spa management has advised they

received a \$20,000 offer to buy the caboose. We will do some research to find out at what prices cabooses are selling.

The Fire Department is wanting to use a food vendor for the 4th of July, this year. They don't have many people to help anymore. Is using a food vendor okay with everyone? Alderman Gentry said the food vendor and signage would have to be on private property.

Mayor provided the Board with a copy of a flow chart of the sewer outflow readings. The chart shows usage of, over, 80,000 gallons and has been much higher. Town is only allowed 64,000 gallons. Because of the high outflow numbers, a sewer moratorium is needed.

Smoke test was performed, the company will come back again on April 19th & 20th. Greg Hicks explained where and what the smoke test found. One of the issues was on Serpentine; this will be fixed March 17, 2022. There is another issue near the meal sight. Maintenance will go out and check on this, too. Once Maintenance caps the known problems, we can recheck the readings.

Mayor Norton asked for a motion to propose a 6-month sewer moratorium to apply to requests for new sewer connections. If there is already a sewer connection on the property, it can be connected. Alderman Gentry made a motion; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

The Welcome Center has presented a proposal, with a bid from Always Plumbing, to rerun the water and sewer line. A vent will be placed into the roof. The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) will be paying for this work. The Board need to approve. Alderman Gentry made a motion to approve; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Lisa Gahagen contacted the Mayor Norton. Ms. Gahagen said the school's maintenance supervisor is wanting a water cut off tool for the water meter at the school. School maintenance does not live in Hot Springs and there are multiple people who live in town who could turn the water off in a timely manner. The Board, unanimously, denied this request.

The State DOT contacted Mayor Norton and asked if the Board would be interested in maintaining the Appalachian Trail steps. The DOT would be responsible for any liability. DOT would pay the town. The Board, unanimously, voted no.

Board and Staff Comment

Alderman Gentry

Needs to re-budget some items. Water & Sewer Enterprise fund, increasing to \$25,000. Increase from appropriations from previous years' budgets. Alderman Moore made the motion to approve; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Has 2 budget ordinances: 1) AIA water; (2) AIA wastewater grants ... to put money in budgets. Alderman Moore made the motion to approve; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Received two (2) bids to clean windows, blinds, and deep dusting. The bids are comparable: First team has 3 people. and they estimate it would take 6 hours; charge \$600. The second team has 2 people estimated time is 8 hours at \$30 per hour. Both teams came highly recommended. Alderman Moore mentioned that Chief Shelton, or someone, would have to be in the police office while it was being cleaned. Mayor Norton asked for a motion to have the second team come in and clean; Alderman Gentry made the motion, Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

The Town's noise ordinances need to be updated. The 2014 ordinance added the police to make the decision as to whether the noise was too loud.

A suggestion of purchasing a decibel meter was brought up. Another suggestion of no amplified music Sunday through Thursday. Amplified music could be played, outdoors, on Friday and Saturday until 9:00 pm. Or, amplified music must be inside, acoustic music could be played outside. Chief Shelton brought up that some business owners feel as though they should be able to play as loud as they want because they have paid for a permit. If he were to have to go to court, over a citation, the court would want to know how the noise was measured.

Ben Houser has looked at noise ordinances in other areas. His suggestion was to get the decibel meter and get the training. Perhaps, then, the town could charge more for the permit. Chief Shelton feels that the business owners should be made aware, up front, what the level of music is expected. He has previously had to write citations. Attorney Moore said we imposed Civil Fines: 1st offense is this much; 2nd offense is this much; and so on. We should continue with the Civil Fines.

Mayor Norton brought up that the Town is in a valley and depending on the wind and weather affects the sound of the music. We need to be fair to business owners, but we also need to be respectful to the Town's citizens. Keith Gentry mentioned that we need to be specific with the term 'inside'. Mayor Norton asked the Board to think about the topic of outside, amplified music and be ready to discuss during April 2022 meeting.

Greg Hicks said Maintenance needs a new cut off saw. He will get some prices. Alderman Gentry said the Board has approved the buggy; she just needs to work with the accountant to get the budget straight.

Ben Houser

Karen Kiehna is getting close to getting the Zoning Ordinance completed. One small change he is requesting, Under the Special Use section, is that eight (8) copies of the paperwork be received so everyone has one: Each Board member; the attorney; and the Town.

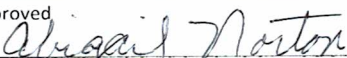
Laura Holloway

Had tax question to present but referred to Alderman Gentry.

Alderman Gentry said we are going to write off personal property taxes that are less than \$50 for business no longer in business. Said the County released the personal property taxes and they told us to go ahead and do the same.

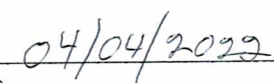
Since there is no other business to discuss, Alderman Barnett made a motion to adjourn, Alderman Gentry seconded the motion; all were in agreement.

Approved

✓


Mayor Abigail Norton

Date



Other