

Town of Hot Spring
Board of
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 7, 2022

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton
Jeanne Gentry
Vaughn Barnett
Jimmy Moore
Ron Moore, Attorney ... by phone

Mayor Norton called meeting to order at 7:00pm

Mayor Norton requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2021 meeting. Alderman Gentry made the motion. Alderman Barnett seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Norton requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting. Alderman Gentry made the motion. Alderman Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Norton Update to the Zoning Ordinance. State had made updates to their required language. Only change we made was to be within the State's language requirements. Mayor Norton requested a motion to approve the zoning ordinance. Alderman Gentry made the motion. Alderman Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Grant Project Ordinance. This project is the main wastewater plant modification. This will be coming out of the ARP funds. Mayor Norton asked for a motion to approve and move forward. Alderman Gentry made the motion. Alderman Barnett seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Money Received from the State. We must have something to the state, by 02/15/22, letting them know of our plans for the money. If county does not give some assistance in building a new sewer plant, what does the board want to do with the state funds - it would do a lot of repairs. We have to do Spring Creek bridge, underneath, at the Tavern and Post Office Pump. We are having a newer flow meter put on as the current one is not repairable. Mayor Norton is going to the county commissioner's meeting on Tuesday, 02/04/2022. Hopefully, we will know if the county will provide funds, by end of this week or early next week. If we are not able to get a clear answer regarding the county funds, we may have to call an emergency meeting to determine what we will take care of with the state funds.

Mayor Norton has a call scheduled with the Department of Transportation. They are wanting to talk about the possibility of the Town taking over the maintenance of the

Appalachian Trail steps, at the bridge. She is in hopes they are wanting to exchange: the town maintaining care of the trail's steps; and they are burying a waterline under the river. Currently the town has a worn out, unusable, waterline hanging on the bridge. By maintaining the trail's steps, we will have to keep leaves, dirt, snow, and ice off the steps. We would not be responsible for the wear and tear of the steps. Attorney Moore mentioned with that type of an agreement the Town could be assuming the responsibility for any liability injuries. Mayor Norton said the state does not have a crew to keep the steps maintained. Attorney Moore suggested the state salt the steps as they are salting the roads. Mayor Norton asked Attorney Moore if he would like to join her in the DOT phone meeting.

Board is concerned about accepting liability for the Appalachian Trail steps. Jeremy Trantham added that for the town to bury a water line underwater it would cost around \$450.00 per foot. Alderman Barnett brought up that the town is responsible for the Appalachian Trail sidewalk. Several years ago, the sidewalk was chipped, and Town had to cover the repair expenses. Chief Shelton suggested signage for the trail steps: use at own risk. Alderman Gentry advised that since the trail is not town property, she is not certain the town's insurance would cover a liability claim. Attorney Moore recommended we determine who is liable and have that put in writing.

Quote for Paving Parking Lot. Mayor Norton has received a quote to pave the public parking area. She would like to request money from TDA. Ben Houser mentioned there were water lines underneath the parking lot, so we would want/need to rethink paving the lot. Jeremy Trantham suggested we put in gravel, extra gravel to have it look nice. Alderman Moore agrees the gravel would be best, for now. Alderman Gentry asked Mr. Trantham to obtain gravel estimates. He said he thinks 8 – 10 loads would probably make it look good. Tim Arnette said we could use railroad ties to designate the parking spaces; otherwise, people would be parking every which way.

Public Comment:

Ike Lassiter suggested one- or two-handed rails for the Appalachian Trail steps.

Agenda:

Scott Cauthen: Following up from a couple of months ago regarding the water at his home, on Serpentine. It was found the home has 3/4" galvanized pipe. Alderman Barnett asked if a pressure gauge was placed on the line. Alderman Moore stated there was 80# pressure on the line. Scott said he has plenty of pressure, flow is his concern. Jeremy Trantham asked Scott if he wanted more volume instead of pressure. Scott said he was wanting more volume. He also indicated he is getting 2 gallons of water per minute. He is looking for something around 6 gallons per minute. Alderman Moore asked if he had broken into the line. Alderman Moore explained that with the old, galvanized pipes, one would be lucky to get a pen through the line. Alderman Moore indicated Mr. Cauthen is getting two sources of water and 80lbs of pressure, where 40lbs of pressure is typical in the area. Mr. Trantham said he would get together with Mr. Cauthen and look at things again. Mayor Norton asked if Maintenance would do a flow

test this week. Mr. Trantham didn't think that would be a problem

Board & Staff Topics

Alderman Gentry Replacing Blinds in Town Hall and Police Chief's office. Instead of replacing, will have a cleaner come in and do a deep clean: blinds, windows, and windowsills. Blinds are custom made and expensive; they are in decent shape, just dirty. Alderman Gentry asked for a motion to hire a cleaner. Alderman Moore reminded all that the replacement was previously voted on and approved. Since replacement was approved, he didn't think another vote would be needed to have the shades cleaned. Alderman Gentry asked Board if it would be okay to clean instead of replacing. All were in favor.

It is James & James' recommendation that we work on Silvermine & Cathole. The Maintenance crew is spending a lot of time clearing out the lines due to people putting things through the sewer that doesn't belong in a sewer. Alderman Gentry asked Jeremy Trantham to talk about the proposal for pumps. Mr. Trantham advised the pumps are call The Shark. It has teeth that will chop up the odd things they have found in the sewer lines. For each pump, the parts and installation is \$10,000. Alderman Gentry asked that ARP money be used if they do agree on this. Alderman Gentry made a motion to hire James & James to take care of the 2 pumps, using ARP funds. Alderman Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Jeremy Trantham has obtained proposals for new fencing for a couple of the pump stations. Due to heavy rain and flooding, the Silvermine and Post Office stations fencing is continuously knocked down. Concern for Silvermine station, is when we have another heavy rain and river floods, it will take fence down again. Mr. Trantham had some information on a previous suggestion regarding big concrete blocks being set on the side that faces the river. His thought is we could use 10 – 12 of the concrete blocks. The blocks he has priced are used and are less expensive than the new blocks. Mayor Norton brought up that the water flow could pick up the blocks, take them into the pump, and tear up the pump. Alderman Gentry suggested we should check with engineer to find out what we could do to keep the blocks from being forced into the pump. Mr. Trantham also advised the Board that we have a sewer inspection coming up. It is scheduled for February 22nd.

Alderman Gentry advised CNT paving will come in and do as much as we can afford. For safety reasons, Serpentine needs to be fixed; Stamey & Spring Hill will have patches; as well as Meadows Lane (in 3 places), and Bridge Street at the manholes. Berry Wills and something in front of the Iron Horse will be worked on and the speed bumps will be set on Jackson. CNT will do this by the ton instead of by per project. It is estimated that less than a ton of paving material would be needed to complete these projects. This is all being paid by Powell. Alderman Gentry asked Mr. Trantham to make arrangements to schedule to have this done.

Alderman Gentry advised Board that Laura Holloway is working to learn who everyone is, and she will start working on collections again. Alderman Gentry will let the board know what we are doing as we move along.

