

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman Meeting
August 1, 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 July 5, 2022 Town meeting minutes as well as the Town of Hot Springs Comprehensive Plan. Alderman Moore made a motion to accept the minutes; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Agenda

No one was on this evening's agenda.

Public Comment

Ike Lassiter

Mr. Lassiter said a public park was brought up several years ago. He still has the plans and wanted to bring it up again. The park would be a place for kids to play, the locals and visitors to go and feel safe. It is felt that the money to create could be obtained (grants & donations). Most challenging is a location.

Brad Guth, Economic Director, Development Services Director of Madison County

He just wanted to stop in and say hello. He wanted the Town to know he is available to work with the small businesses.

Departments

Zoning

Lisa Hicks

Ms. Hicks said there was not Zoning business to present this evening. However, she had an update to present regarding the Events Committee. After last meeting, Ms. Hicks spoke with Lisa Gahagan. Ms. Gahagan approved the use of the Elementary school grounds for events such as a Harvest Fest, 4th of July, Labor Day events, etc... Question was asked if Ms. Hicks also confirmed use of inside gym. Ms. Hicks said didn't ask about using the inside of the gym,

but she would certainly get back with Ms. Gahagan and ask. Ms. Hick will report decision in September's meeting.

Someone mentioned how pretty the flowers placed on the bridge looked. Ms. Hicks said she'd ask Greg Hicks to work with Steve Shelton to see if something could be made to stay on the bridge. It was brought up that Newport, TN has flower baskets on their bridge. They also have a water dripping system strung down the sides of the bridge. Ms. Hicks said she'd keep whatever flowers we can put on the bridge watered, but a drip system would be nice.

The Events Committee is planning a Fall Festival and a Christmas Parade, this year. Mayor Norton asked Ms. Hicks to get with Chief David Shelton to pick at date for the Christmas Parade. Ms. Hicks said the Town of Marshall will be holding a Christmas Pageant on one Saturday in December, but that will be in the evening. They will also have a Christmas Parade on yet another Saturday. Ms. Hicks thinks that the first Saturday, after Thanksgiving, would be a good time; a lot of people are in town for Thanksgiving and generally stay the weekend. Ms. Hicks said she will try to arrange for the Town of Hot Springs' Christmas Parade to be held on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Alderman Moore said if we could get approval to use the inside of the elementary school's gym, perhaps Mark Snelson could DJ a dance. Alderman Moore said Mr. Snelson used to DJ dances in years past.

Ms. Hicks said the Event's Committee wanted to bring back fun in the 4th of July events. The Committee was thinking about the bed races. Could they now be held on South Andrews Drive; perhaps from the Manufacture's gate down to the old EMS driveway. The Committee is wanting to plan events in which families can come to town and stay all day.

Board

Mayor Abby Norton

James & James and Hawkins chemical charges. Tablets are available and are less expensive than the liquid A-Zone. Mayor Norton is wanting James & James to get a quote for the tables.

Alderman Jimmy Moore questioned the notation of the alcohol and bacteria from the Brewery. Mayor Norton said she will ask James & James will do some pretreatment testing. Alderman Moore said the testing needs to make sure no alcohol is flowing into the system, Alderman Barnett asked that they make sure no bacteria is coming getting into the system, too.

Alderman Moore asked is James & James will be getting an extra blower. Alderman Gentry said we have planned for an extra blower to be put in. The blower has been not yet been ordered. The blower cost will come out of the \$1m appropriation.

Mayor Norton will get with James & James to have them get quotes for sodium bicarbonate from a couple of companies.

Mayor Norton said the Town is looking at purchasing a 1996 pumper tanker, for the Fire Department, with 33,581 miles, 4x4, \$70,000. Received a quote from First Horizon: interest 3.49% fixed rate for 5-year term. 3.53% fixed rate for a 7-year term. They require a document preparation fee, no more than \$1,500, to be prepared by bank attorney. Second quote is from Civic

Federal Credit Union. Their rate for 7 year is 3.5% with no document preparation fee. There is no prepayment penalty. West Buncombe County, as well as other Fire Departments use Civic Federal Credit Union. The Credit Union knows how to handle municipality requirements/needs. Mayor Norton asked the Board which financial facility they prefer to be used on the purchase of the pumper tank. Alderman Moore recommended the use and made a motion to approve the Civic Federal Credit Union, Alderman Barnett seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mayor Norton has an amendment to the budget ordinance to increase the Fire Department capital outlay by \$70,000. This will also increase the proceeds by \$70,000. She needs a motion to approve the amendment to the budget. Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve; Alderman seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Alderman Jeanne Gentry

Alderman Gentry will get with the Town's accountant to take \$15,000 from last year's budget, that was not used, and move it to this year's budget. The paving company did not finish their work. We don't want to use the current year's budget to pay for what should have been done before June 30, 2022. The accountant will have to draw up the move. We paid the \$29,000 for patching at the Man Hole and on Serpentine, but the patching on Serpentine has not been done. Alderman Moore said all the lines drawn on the roads have already faded off. Alderman Gentry said the company hired for the 2021 – 2022 work still needs to finish patching and speed bumps. She asks the Board that we look for a different company for the 2022 – 2023 budget year's work.

Alderman Gentry spoke with Mayor Norton regarding the Community Center (CC). One thought is that the money from the sale of the caboos could be used in the repair of the (CC). She recalls putting \$10,000 into the renovation of the CC, with the caboos money we would have almost \$20,000. Lisa Hicks reminded the Board that the Events Committee thought was to find volunteers, experts in their craft, to have work on the CC. Lisa also suggested we contact the Appalachian Conservancy as, in the past, the Town has used the CC for the Hiker pancake breakfasts. Mayor Norton said we could try to obtain grant money, but we'd have to have an engineer's report for some grants; this could take up to two years to be awarded grant money. Alderman Moore and Barnett suggest that we start at the roof and work down. Alderman Gentry we've had money in the budget, for the past three years, money set aside in the CC budget that we did not use. Hopefully we can reappropriate that money and use for a mini-split in the CC.

Alderman Barnett asked Alderman Gentry about the old jail rental. There is 1 more year left on the lease. Alderman Moore asked about the repairs that were to have been made on the old jail. It was supposed to have been renovated according to the contract. No one knows of any renovative work that has been done.

Regarding Zoning, Alderman Gentry asks that they come up with a plan for parking. Alderman Gentry said Gary Goss, owner of the Iron Horse, had contacted someone from the railroad who said we could use railroad property to park on, but no documentation was ever received. Alderman Moore mentioned that the Town has had similar problems in the past; someone at the railroad will agree some property could be used for parking, but when it gets to a final answer from yet another railroad worker, the request to park on railroad property is declined.

Alderman Jimmy Moore

Alderman Moore said there are 65 property owners with overgrowth on/over the streets. The town went through, cut the trees & brush back, and sent out letters telling the property owners that was the only time the town was going to pay to have the trees & brush cut back. Alderman Moore said the letter told the property owner that the Town would charge them if they had to cut the foliage back again. Almost two years later, we have 65 properties that need the trees & brush cut back again. We could charge for the cutting, but question was asked how we are going to make people pay for the cuttings. Alderman Barnett said that he had been told, by the State, that if a property owner's tree or brush blocks the view of a stop sign/road sign is responsible. Alderman Moore's concern is that the signs are the Town's and the Town has to tell people to cut the trees/brush so that it doesn't obstruct the view of the traffic signs.

Mayor Norton will get with the Town's Attorney to draft a letter to be sent out to the 65 people who have trees obstructing the traffic signs as well as intersections. Mayor Norton mentioned that the area of Henderson Drive and Lance need to be cut. Alderman Moore advised that the area was cut in the spring of this year.


Alderman Moore said he found that the state owns the property where the monument was. He isn't sure who needs to contact which state department, but we need something in writing indicating we can take care of the area and replace the stolen monument. Mayor Norton said she will start with the state DOT.

7:43pm Alderman Gentry made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss tax collections and zoning matters; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

7:51pm Alderman Gentry made a motion to return from Executive Session; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton announced that the Board was in Executive Session to discuss tax collections. There will be two properties in which the owners will be taken to court for collection.

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

Approved 
Abigail Norton
Mayor Abigail Norton

8-1-22
Date

Other