

Town of Hot Springs  
Board of Alderman  
Regular Meeting  
September 6, 2022

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton  
Alderman Jeanne Gentry  
Alderman Vaughn Barnett  
Alderman Jimmy Moore  
Clerk Nancy Thomas

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 7:00 and read the Public Charge.

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to approve the minutes and financial statements.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

**Lisa Hicks** gave the Board an update on the Event Committee plans. She shared their plans to have a Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting, and Dance. They plan to have more than one tree this year, and they will decorate them prior to Parade Day. There will be a photo opportunity with Santa, a residential and business "Best Decoration" contest, and craft vendors. They plan to have Bingo at the Lions Club building on December 1. The Committee also plan to purchase a new Nativity Scene for display and asked if they can store it afterwards at the Fire Department property, as it was very heavy.

They will be asking businesses to enter a float in the parade.

She also stated that she had compiled a funds request for the TDA.

Mayor Norton said to give her the list, and she would reach out to the TDA.

Alderman Gentry said to be sure to let Police Chief Shelton know the plans for the Parade so he can arrange for everything necessary to close the road during that time.

The Board discussed with Ms. Hicks how much money they were asking the TDA for and agreed on \$4,000.00.

They discussed new lights for the light poles on Bridge Street, and the security cameras that could monitor the Nativity Scene.

The Board agreed this all sounded good.

Mayor Norton asked Ms. Hicks to get with her later to work on an application for the TDA requesting funds.

Lisa Hicks, representing the Zoning Board, asked about enforcing the Parking Area rules, adding she had been told disabled cars were there, and some people had been spending the night there. Police Chief Shelton said he patrolled that lot regularly. He had one towed, and there were only two cars in the lot the last time he checked.

The Board discussed moving the stage from the lot to make room for a few more parking spaces, but due to its condition and age, which may be problematic.

Zoning.....cont.

The Board discussed possible additional parking on Walnut Street, Mountain Heights, and Springs Street, and the issue of cars parking on the Street; some with no tags. Alderman Gentry said Mr. Gary Goss had told her a property agent from Norfolk Southern Railroad gave him permission to park on Andrews Avenue. Aldermen Barnett and Moore said they had reached out to NSRR more than once, and they are adamant that there will be no parking next to the tracks because that could inhibit their employees from access. The Board concluded that NSRR may have told Mr. Goss that they did not care if they parked on the Road on Andrews Ave., but the Town will not allow parking there. Alderman Gentry said they had even discussed that with Town Attorney Moore, and he confirmed there is no parking allowed on the street headed to the plant.

Ms. Hicks asked if parking at the Clinic could be an option when they were closed. Alderman Gentry said no; that was private property. The Board agreed parking is and always was an issue, and with so many Air B&B's, it has gotten worse. Aside from asking people to remove disable and un-tagged vehicles, there is no simple solution. The Board agreed to table the matter at this time.

Resident Glenda Dolbeare asked if the TDA may buy a new stage for Hot Springs. Mayor Norton said she could ask.

Mayor Norton said Gail Dufek requested to use the Community Center every third Monday for food distribution. She said there is no heat and air in the building, but would the Board be willing to allow it and see how it went.

Mr. Hicks asked about parking in that situation.

Alderman Gentry said the Brewery was closed on Mondays, so it should be ok. She added the distribution would take place outside, but they could use the facilities if they needed to, or in case it was raining, the building would suffice even without heat or air.

Mayor Norton then told the Board there was a grant, up to \$50,000 for small towns, offered by T Mobile, taking applications. She said Stacey Geyer had talked to her about it, and voiced interest in applying if it was ok with the Board.

The Board said she could apply.

Alderman Moore said he was still working on the Plaque Replacement for the Monument. He will continue to look into it and added someone in the office should contact the DOT and see if they had any suggestions as well.

Alderman Moore said he was told C&T Paving is going to come and fix the speed bumps, but they did not give a date.

Maintenance Employee Greg Hicks said Scott Ricker can make an attachment for their equipment that will better enable them to cut brush away from the streets. The Board agreed it would be good to have, and asked Mr. Hicks to get a price and bring it to the BOA as soon as he could.

Mayor Norton said the Office needs a Printer/Fax/Scan all in one, and she would get pricing from Applied Solutions and Amazon.

Alderman Gentry said the Railroad Items that were in the caboose belonged to Fred Moore, who was deceased. The Board asked if the items were donated or loaned to the Town. It was **agreed to ask Mr. Moore's granddaughter if she would like to have them.**

Phillip Solomon was not present but told Mayor Norton they were planning to have a "Art Crawl" and asked if they could display some art at Town Hall for that event. The Board discussed it but said hanging anything on the back wall was not an option. Other means of display may be possible, but that would need to be discussed with Mr. Solomon.

Alderman Gentry said there were some overdue water bills that had to be taken care of. Account holders had received a notice in the mail and were given a disconnection date. Alderman Moore agreed some accounts had gone too long without payment and disconnection is there only choice in some matters.

Alderman Gentry said she would like to have a renovation committee started to investigate grants and options to renovate the Community Center. She added she would discuss available funds with the Town's accountant and see if they could use the \$8,600.00 received from the Caboose sale to go to the Community Center. Mayor Norton said some funds could be re-appropriated, and they could ask for volunteers to help.

Alderman Gentry said Tax Collector Laura Holloway wants to take a "Government Fundamentals" class. It was a three-day class conducted remotely and would cost \$185.00.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to allow Ms. Holloway to take the class at a cost of \$185.00.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**



Alderman Gentry said the Town must have a backup pump at the Red Bridge location or be fined. She said they needed to order the pump, and after a budget amendment was made and approved, they could pay for it.

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to order the back up pump.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

The Board discussed two cabins being built on River Road across from the church on the cliff. They agreed to discuss it with the Town Attorney, but believed, if the County approved the location, they would have to allow water service.

Alderman Gentry said the Town must update their Sewer Policy.

Alderman Gentry asked Mayor Norton to remind Fire Chief Norton to re-imburse the town for a generator and fireworks. She said she would.

Alderman Gentry asked Police Chief Shelton if he wished to continue using LP Police, a system helpful in contacting people via Social Security numbers. She added Tax Collector Ms. Holloway did want to keep it. They will first check the budget, then:

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to allow payment to keep the service of LP Police.  
Seconded the motion.**

The lease for the old EMS building will expire on September 30. (Walters)

The Board discussed whether the old pump that was at the Post Office be re-wired. It was replaced by a new pump.

The Board discussed a mess James and James was responsible for regarding the Chlorination Pump. James and James is letting the Town use one of their pumps until they got their new one. Engineer Keith Webb approved the arrangement. The Board discussed paying so much for the pump that failed, and the felt the company that sold the Town the pump did not do right by the Town.

Alderman Moore said work had to be done on Boys Home Road and Henderson Drive. He said a man offered to do the work. He said Mr. Evans had an agreement with the town to maintain these roads. Mr. Hicks said Mr. Evans has done some work on Boys Home Road but had not maintained it twice a year as agreed. They felt Mr. Barnes would do the work. No motion was made at this time.

As there was no other business,

Alderman Moore made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Approved ✓

Date 10-3-22

Abigail Norton

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