

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman Meeting
March 6, 2023

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton	Police Chief David Shelton
Alderman Jeanne Gentry	Maintenance Department – Jeremy Trantham
Alderman Vaughn Barnett	Tax Department – Laura Holloway
Attorney Ron Moore	Zoning Committee – Amy Kashuba

Mayor Norton called the Town meeting to order at 6:00pm

Mayor Norton asked all mute cell phones. Mayor also asked that no one have side conversations as it is hard to hear what is needed for documenting the meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ike Lassiter

Friends of the Library will sponsor a presentation, on March 28, 2023, with authors Josh & Amber Adams Niven. The couple are from Marshall. They have written a book about the Appalachian Trail.

Trail Fest will be from April 21st to 23rd. There will be something new; there will be a schedule for the Hikers to pick up so they will know what events are going on, where and when. On Friday evening, there will be a book presentation regarding all of the shelters and lean tos on the trail. Saturday, from 10:00am until 5:00pm, there will be music and games for the hikers at the motel. Starting at 5:00pm, there will be the duck race. All proceeds of the event will benefit the Group Home. Saturday evening, there will be a free meal for the hikers. Sunday morning, there will be a pancake breakfast.

DEPARTMENTS

Jeremy Trantham

Mr. Trantham said the lights in the Police Chief's office are up and working.

The speed bumps are in the process of being painted. Between fixing water leaks and the rain, not all of the speed bumps have been painted. But, once weather conditions and emergencies allow, Maintenance will continue painting the speed bumps.

The buggy has been fixed, so Maintenance will pick it up on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

From February's meeting, Chief Shelton was going to check into crosswalk signs with blinking lights. But Maintenance hasn't heard anything on the signs.

Dan Meyers

Mr. Meyers announced that the Fire Department has two new members in the last month. There will possibly be one or two more next month. The Fire Department has received a stock of road

signs for replacement [from people stealing or damaging the prior sign]. The Department will get the signs up within the next month or two.

Laura Holloway

Ms. Holloway reported that the Town has collected 90.23% of the 2022 real taxes. This is where we were at the end of last April in collecting the 2021 real taxes. Ms. Holloway said she felt that the letter she sent out, in February, was helpful in getting more taxes paid.

David Shelton

Street cameras are up and working.

Mayor Norton asked Chief Shelton if he had found out anything about flashing signs to put up [for the crosswalk at the tracks]. Chief Shelton said Nancy [Town Clerk] was looking for signs, but he had found some – they are more expensive than he had thought. He suggested possibly getting refurbished signs; however, he doesn't know if we would get a warranty with a refurbished sign. A traffic mirror is around \$100. Chief Shelton will get back with Nancy to see where she is on ordering the signs. The solar signs are, around, \$1,400.00. Alderman Barnett asked if the State wouldn't put signs up. Chief Shelton said State wouldn't do anything since there was already a sign up and the digital sign. He said he'd keep looking. Mayor Norton mentioned that if we do put mirrors up, we need to make sure the sun doesn't them. Chief Shelton said the sun might hit the mirrors in the morning, but shouldn't hit in the afternoon as they would be facing the Marshall side.

BUSINESS

Mayor Norton

The meeting time was changed to 6:00pm through the winter months. She asks the Board if they want to continue with the 6:00pm as regular meeting time or move back to 7:00pm. Alderman Gentry said she'd like to keep the 6:00pm meeting time. Mayor Norton asked for a motion to keep the meeting time at 6:00pm; Alderman Barnett made the motion; Alderman Gentry seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Ike Lassiter has asked if the Town could loan the folding chairs from Town Hall and the Community Center for use during the Trail Fest. Alderman Gentry said the Board has, in the past, made the decision to not loan any more items out – they seem to disappear. Mayor told Mr. Lassiter to check with Fairview Church or the Baptist Church. Alderman Gentry said the Fairview Church may have up to fifty chairs. Mr. Lassiter said the Lions Club may also have some chairs that could be borrowed. Alderman Gentry explained that if we loan to one group, the Town would have to loan to others.

On April 20-21, 2023 The Construction Professionals Network Institute (CPNI) will be in town. They volunteer in towns and assist with community plans. They give the town ideas as to what can be done and grant information. Mayor Norton is looking into Pine Hall and Chestnut Hall a place to meet. Cost for the meeting hall would be \$200.00, total, for both days. Mayor Norton asked Alderman Gentry if we had money in the budget to rent the hall. Alderman Gentry said she didn't see why we could not pay the \$200.00 for the meeting hall.

Mayor Norton told the Board she had been looking for the lot survey for the Welcome Center lot. At this time, she has not located the survey. Mayor Norton asked Mr. Ron Moore [Town's Attorney] if he could locate the survey. Mr. Moore said we may not be able to locate the survey if it hadn't been

recorded. He asked how long it had been since the survey. Alderman Gentry indicated it was probably late 1980s. Alderman Barnett agrees the last survey was in the 1980s. Mr. Moore asked what the issue was for the need to locate the survey. Mayor Norton advised the Town would be receiving the Appalachian Walnut Shelter. Alderman Barnett said he spoke with Phil and told him the land goes to the street wall; however, the south parking lot belongs to the telephone company [Frontier Communications]. Mr. Moore asked if the lot was numbered or meets bounds by degrees? Mayor Norton said she was in the process of locating the deed. Alderman Barnett told the Board that the phone company, at the time, gave the property to the Town. Mayor Norton asked Ms. Holloway to check the Tax Map for the Welcome Center property. Alderman Barnett told the board that he purchased his house [next to the Welcome Center] in 1983; at that time, the phone company owned the land where the Welcome Center is and where the Frontier office is.

Mayor Norton asked for a motion to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes. Alderman Gentry made a motion to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton brought up last month's topic of the Community Center regarding some money we had to start with repairs. She asked the Board if we wanted to post a bid for the roof. Alderman Gentry said she had contacted McGill regarding a structural engineer for the roof. She hasn't heard back; she will follow up on that.

Alderman Gentry

Alderman Gentry made a motion to go into executive session for personnel. Mayor Norton asked for a second [to the motion]. Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Board went into Executive Session at 6:18. Board returned from Executive Session at 6:32. Mayor Norton requested a motion to return to Regular Session; Alderman Gentry made a motion; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Executive Session Decisions

Mayor Norton announced that the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. She asked for a motion to retain a temporary part-time employee. Alderman Barnett made a motion; Alderman Gentry seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton asked for a motion for a pay increase for three personnel for the rest of the fiscal year. Alderman Gentry made a motion; Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Alderman Gentry made a motion to approve to create policy for any returned checks. And once a check is returned, future payments must be made with cash or money order. Ms. Holloway confirmed that cash or money order will be required after just one returned check [not after a second returned check]. The return check fee will be \$35.00. Ms. Holloway will create a policy and the Board will review in the April 3, 2023 meeting. Alderman Barnett asked if people could pay with a credit [debit] card. Ms. Holloway explained that the Town can not accept credit cards at this time. Mr. Moore mentioned that if the Town did accept cards, the Town would have to pay a percentage to the card company. Alderman Gentry said the Town had taken a pole, at some point, and found that people don't want to pay the extra fee to use a credit card. Ms. Holloway told the Board that the Town Hall receives many calls from people wanting to pay over the phone. Alderman Gentry said the Board can revisit the matter, but it would have to be budgeted – even if the payor pays the card extra fees. Mayor Norton said the Town's bank had provided some information regarding charges; she said we could revisit the information.

Since there is no other business to discuss, Alderman Gentry made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Norton asked for a second motion; Alderman Barnett made the second motion; all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

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Approved
Abigail Norton

Mayor Abigail Norton

4-4-2023

Date

Other