

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton	Alderman Jimmy Moore
Alderman Jeanne Gentry	Ron Moore, Town Attorney
Alderman Vaughn Barnett	Police Chief David Shelton

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

### Public Comment

There were no Public Comments

### Departments

#### Maintenance

#### Jeremy Trantham

Cat Hole has been completed as well as Silvermine. Waiting on the moving of the electric at Silvermine. They have one estimate.

Pumps are working great. They pumped through the flood, knee deep water, and the pumps ran the entire time.

Post Office 2<sup>nd</sup> pump is in, but not yet working; waiting on some parts to come in.

They are read/waiting for the blower for the main plant. We have received a couple different prices. Needing to get together to determine the best way to go.

Has received some odor complaints. Partly because time of year, heat, and not enough air. When the e2nd blower is up and running, plan is to run both blowers during the day. At night will alternate old blower one night off, one night on, but keep the new blower going each night.

Mayor Norton said we didn't have to wait on McGill to purchase the blower, we can use ARP funds. Alderman Gentry told Board we have not received James & James May and June 2022 bills at this time. We will see what we can do after the bills are received.

Mayor Norton asked Mr. Trantham if he had heard from McGill regarding the housing authority. Mr. Trantham said he had received pricing for sand and gravel; \$42,000. James and James price was \$100,000 complete.

Mr. Trantham notified the Board that the building they had built is finished. All the chemicals are in building. This should satisfy the state inspectors' concern.

Alderman Moore asked about the pavement that was to have been done in March of this year. Mr. Trantham said he had continued to call C & T Paving to get a commitment out of them. Alderman Moore said we are going to have to get another bid. Mr. Trantham will

reach out to C & T Paving to let him know we are having to move forward and ask if he wanted the job or not.

## **Tax Collections**

### **Laura Holloway**

There is a new owner of a property on River Drive that went to foreclosure. In June of 2020 the new owner purchased property from the bank. The prior owner is being charged for 2020 and 2021 taxes. Ms. Holloway asked the Board to approve removing taxes from the prior owner and charge the new owner. Alderman Gentry made a motion to approve; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

A mobile home, in Silvermine, burned between January 2, 2020 and December 31, 2020. The County has removed the 2021 personal property tax on the mobile home. Ms. Holloway asks that we do the same. Alderman Moore made the motion to approve; Alderman Barnette seconded the motion; all were in favor.

In May's meeting Ms. Holloway requested that a \$5 advertising fee be imposed to each name who will be put in the newspaper as delinquent taxpayers. Ms. Holloway said she has contacted the Town's attorney and was told the General Statutes allows the Town to do so. Ms. Holloway asked that the Town start applying the \$5.00 per name advertised. Alderman Gentry made a motion to approve; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

To let the Board know, the charge for this year's advertisement is \$135.00. the 20 names we are advertising only brings back \$125.00.

Ms. Holloway let the Board know that collection of the 2021 Real Property tax is not at 97.02%.

## **Board**

### **Mayor Abby Norton**

An application for live music was received and it needs to be presented to the Board for approval. The music will be in a residential location. The Mag House is grandfathered in with the Town's most recent Noise Ordinance. The application just needs to go before the Board. Alderman Gentry made a motion to approve the application; Alderman Moore seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton will contact TDA on June 7, 2022 regarding the new sewer tap and new sewer line, for the Welcome Center. Cost is expected to be around \$2,800 to \$3,000. Mayor Norton will ask TDA to consider this amount for the Town's Welcome Center.

Mayor Norton advised the Board that we currently have no closed bids on the Caboose. However, people have until June 10<sup>th</sup> to submit their bids.

## **Hot Springs Tourist Association (HSTA)**

### **Terry Thirion**

She is on the signage committee for HSTA. Said the members are not familiar with what's allowed regarding signs for the Town. Alderman Gentry told Ms. Thirion that Zoning is over signs in the community. Alderman Gentry also told Ms. Thirion that she is welcome

to come into Town Hall and look at the Zoning Ordinances. Mayor Norton let everyone know that the Zoning Ordinances are now online and can be viewed there, too.

Ms. Thirion advised her committee mentioned putting something on the monument in front of the Laughing Heart Lodge. The committee thought they could put something on the bottom of the monument saying, "Welcome to Hot Springs". Alderman Gentry explained that no one can find out who owns that piece of property where the monument sits. The Town doesn't have any type of deed to the property. We can't do anything with the property. Mayor Norton asked Attorney Ron Moore if he would, please, find out who owns the property. Attorney Moore said he would try.

Ms. Thirion said the signage committee was thinking about different Town artists put a piece of their work on the monument, on a rotation basis – nothing permanent. It is felt that would promote the Hot Springs artists. Alderman Moore said he'd rather see the monument put back the way it was and not change the monument. He suggested a separate sign be used by the committee. Alderman Gentry explained the heartfelt meaning of the monument and plaque for people who grew up here. Alderman Barnett said the monument and plaque had been here, in tow, for 100 years. Attorney Moore asked if we had archives here that would give us a clue as to who may own the land with the monument.

Jeremy Trantham brought up that the Paint Rock sign was in the maintenance shop. The post is being worked on. It was brought up that perhaps this sign be placed on the other side of 25/70 as it has been hit more than once. Concern was expressed that if the post and Point Rock sign was placed on the other side of 25/70 it would have to be moved again when the new bridge comes in.

## **Board**

### **Alderman Gentry**

Proposed budget for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 has been submitted for consideration. Alderman Gentry read the proposed budget. Property tax rate will remain at \$.48 cents per \$100.00 valuation. A copy of the proposed budget will be available for review in the Town Hall, during normal business hours, for the next two weeks.

Water bills have a proposed increase amount of \$1.25, per week, for residents and \$1.50, per week, for businesses. Overage for residence would remain the same. Overages for businesses would now be \$15.00 per 1,000 gallons. We have the lowest rates in the county, and we have the most visitors. We also bill every two months where other towns in the county bill water/sewer every month. New rates for residents is \$85.00, every two months, and \$104.00 for businesses, every two months. Even with the raised rates we are still below other towns in the County.

Budget meeting is on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 6:00pm.

The Town has received American Recovery Act funds from the State. Budgets will be amended. This will be discussed at the June 28<sup>th</sup> budget meeting. Regarding the Amendment #4 of the Budget Ordinance, Alderman Moore made the motion to approve Sections #2 and #3 and wait until the budget meeting to review Sections #1 and #4. Alderman Barnett seconded the motion; all were in favor.

## Mayor Norton

Mayor Norton received a call from Representative Pless' assistant. There are new state appropriations being brought before the senate. Mayor Norton has requested \$5,000,000.00 to continue work on the sewer issues. She had requested \$2,500,000.00 from the County to upgrade and improve the sewer, but the County is waiting to see if we get grant money in which McGill had applied for us. Alderman Moore and Alderman Barnett expressed concern that the County received money to split between the Towns and the grant money shouldn't be a factor in us receiving the money to use in either water or sewer

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

*yes*  
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Approved, *Abigail Norton*  
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Mayor Abigail Norton

*7-5-2022*  
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Date  
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Other