

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
May 7, 2018

Present:

Mayor Sidney Harrison
Alderman Jeanne Gentry
Alderman Vaughn Barnett
Alderman Jimmy Moore
Town Attorney Ron Moore
Tax Collector Clara Ramsey
Clerk Nancy Thomas

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed guests.

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

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Agenda

Mayor Harrison introduced **Stacey Geyer** as the administrator at the Welcome Center, adding the Welcome Center was doing very well and the improvements on the bathrooms and other projects were most impressive.

Ms. Geyer asked the Board to approve placing a bench in front of the Welcome Center. She said HSTA would pay for the bench, and perhaps the Maintenance Employees could help with placing it. She also told the Board they bought a television for the center. Ms. Geyer said it may be a month or so before they got the bench, but she would like a go ahead from the Board.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the HSTA purchase and placement of a bench in front of the Welcome Center.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Public Comment

Ike Lassiter commented he thought imposing Festival Fees was a good idea, and the Town should consider the number of people attending the events and the cost to the Town. He added people worked hard at Trail Fest picking up trash and cleaning up.

Mayor Harrison said there were many details to consider, and it may take some time to put a Fee Schedule together.

Terry Baker said Boys Home Road was in need of some serious attention.

Mayor Harrison said it has been a while.

Alderman Barnett said the ditches have not been cleaned out in a while.

Mayor Harrison asked Alderman Barnett to handle that, and Alderman Barnett agreed he would just as soon as Maintenance got the pumps all straightened out.

Ashley Edwards introduced herself as an employee of the Home Trust Bank in Weaverville. She knew of the bank closing in Hot Springs, and wanted to let everyone know the Home Trust Bank was there is anyone needed them.

Mayor Harrison said there were no firms talking about moving a bank into Hot Springs yet. He said the building was for sale, and he feared the next buyer would not be a financial institution.

Jonathan Woods asked who owns the building, and Mayor Harrison and Alderman Gentry replied Capital Bank owns the building.

Town Business

Police Chief David Shelton told the Board his air conditioning unit in the Police Department quit working.

Alderman Moore made the motion to approve the purchase of a new air conditioning unit for the Police Department.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion, adding there were funds in the budget to allow the purchase.

Mayor Harrison said he would like to change the name from "Board of Alderman" to "Town Council". He said the meaning of "Board of Alderman" was "Old Men". He asked if some research could be done to determine how that change could take place.

Attorney Moore said he would look into it.

Alderman Moore said he had been approached by Meals on Wheels asking for volunteers to provide meals for children up to 18 years of age during the time school was out. He also mentioned a "backpack program" to provide meals, and lastly they asked if they could use the Community Center. Alderman Gentry said it was a great program. She had experience with them in the past, and commented there was a lot to do. She said she has seen a lot of work go into the program, only to end up having to throw away food because the children didn't show up. Alderman Gentry said a factor may also be the possibility of leasing the building, and with that being undecided at this time, they could not commit the use of the Center to anyone.

Alderman Moore said they would have their own staff. Alderman Gentry said there was a lot of paperwork. She asked if the School (cafeteria) or the Senior Center had been asked and if they didn't want to be involved.

Mayor Harrison said the Forest Service used the Town's property on Serpentine as their Fire Station during the Deer Park Fire, and the Town will receive payment for that.

Alderman Moore said he checked into Porta John rentals for the Town. He said Griffin Services will rent the town two units at \$100.00 per month. They will service the units every Friday. The Board decided to ask Hot Springs Tourism Association if they will pay half of that expense. They agreed it was something the town really needs.

Stacey Geyer said she would ask HSTA at their next meeting.

Alderman Moore made the motion to pay \$50.00 per month for two portable john units, contingent upon HSTA paying the other \$50.00
Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.

Alderman Barnett explained the need for the Maintenance Department to purchase an electric hoist. He said the expense would be around \$160.00.

Alderman Barnett made the motion to approve the purchase of an electric hoist with remote control.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Alderman Gentry talked about a non-profit organization, coupled with Feast Asheville, that proposed endowing a Community Garden at the Hot Springs Elementary School. They will facilitate operations of the Community Garden, and hopefully bring the children and community together. The garden will be organic. The Town of Hot Springs will have no responsibilities or liabilities. The Principal at Hot Springs Elementary School asked for a letter of support.

Alderman Gentry said she personally had no problem with the project as long as the Town had no responsibility.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve a letter of support for the Community Garden at the school.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Alderman Gentry discussed loaning tables and chairs from the Community Center. She said over the years, some tables and chairs have not been returned, and therefore she suggests no longer lending out the tables and/or chairs.

Alderman Moore asked if they could impose a deposit for the tables or chairs, and Alderman Gentry said they would have to keep a log book with how many tables and chairs were taken. She still recommended making an amendment to the Community Center Policy to state the tables and chairs were not going to be loaned out anymore.

Mayor Harrison pointed out the chairs and tables were used for some activities held at the Welcome Center or Library.

Stacey Geyer said they did borrow the chairs and tables a few times a year, but she would keep a log of the number taken in the future.

The Board agreed to amend the policy, and only lend out the tables and chairs for events connected to the Town, and just to the Welcome Center or Library.

Alderman Gentry said the Town has always had a problem with the sewer pumps due to people flushing items into the system that will not dissolve. She said the Silvermine and Cathole area were the worst. She added the Maintenance Department worked three out of seven days on the sewer pumps to resolve these problems caused by baby wipes and rubber bands. Alderman Gentry added the expense to the Town would sometimes run \$400.00 to \$800.00 per week, which is major. She suggested contacting Paul Eggers from the News Record and Sentinel, and have him put some pictures in the paper of the baby wipes and rubber bands clogging up the sewer pumps in hopes it will raise awareness

to this very serious issue. It may also explain the need to increase revenue in the water and sewer fund by increasing water rates. Alderman Gentry said the Maintenance Employees can sometimes pin point the origin of the rubber bands and baby wipes, but other times they can only pin point the area and not the specific household.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to submit pictures to the News Record and Sentinel in hopes of raising awareness.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Alderman Gentry said the Board will be having a Budget Workshop Meeting on June 4, at 5:00. She said the Meeting will be posted in the paper. The Town Accountant will be present at the meeting, and this will be the time for all departments to let the Board know of any expenditure requests.

Mayor Harrison confirmed the Budget Workshop Meeting will be on June 4 at 5:00 followed by the regular meeting at 7:00, and this will be advertised in the paper.

Mayor Harrison gave an update that the Forest Service rented the Town property for six days, and they will pay for this service. He added Fire Chief Josh Norton and Fireman Tony Mosley worked together on site during this time.

Mayor Harrison then gave an update that the Madison County Board of Elections used the Community Center for early voting.

Mayor Harrison said a surveyor, working hand in hand with McGill and Associates, will be at the Forest Service property within two weeks. He said everything was in order to move forward, and they can soon start accepting bids for repairs. He said the Town is responsible for repairs on all three buildings on the property, and they must start looking into starting the process.

Alderman Gentry said it was Government money loaned to the Town to make the repairs, so all bids accepted must be from someone licensed and insured.

Mayor Harrison said the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss Music Permits, the Zoning Board, and an employee schedule change.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to go into Executive Session.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All were in favor. 7:35

Alderman Gentry made the motion to return to regular session.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

All were in favor. 8:10

Mayor Harrison said in Executive Session, the Board discussed the Live Music Ordinance, a schedule change for an employee, and the Zoning Board.

Alderman Gentry said about the permits; business owners are responsible for paying for their music permit, and for any fines imposed if Police Chief Shelton is called due to breaking the noise ordinance. She added each business will receive a letter with a copy of the permit application and the noise ordinance. The noise ordinance is still current.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve a schedule change for Tax Collector Clara Ramsey.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

The schedule change extends hours Monday through Thursday, giving Ms. Ramsey Fridays off. This schedule may be utilized by the Clerk on alternate weeks if agreed upon by both employees. Her weekly hours are unchanged.

Alderman Gentry said the Board has talked for months about the Zoning/Planning Board, and she has asked for term date information from Libby Staude. She said appointments will be finalized at the June meeting.

Alderman Gentry said Lease details for the building on Andrews, "Jail House Java" will be hashed out at the June meeting as well.

As there was no other business at this time,

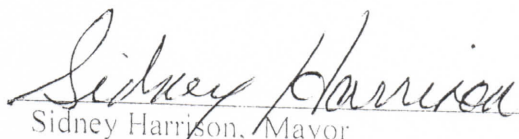
Alderman Barnett made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Approved 

Date 06/05/2018


Sidney Harrison, Mayor

Other _____