

Town of Hot Springs  
Board of Alderman  
Regular Meeting  
August 3, 2020

*Board of Alderman Meeting via ZOOM due to COVID-19 pandemic.*

Present:

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

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

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

**Alderman Moore seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

No requests were made to be on the agenda.

Mayor Norton said the VFD made some changes in the VFIS insurance policy, resulting in a refund of \$1,056.00. The changes were due to unnecessary double coverage with the Town's IRFF policy, and the VFIS policy.

Stacey Geyer had contacted Mayor Norton asking if the AT banners could be put back up throughout Town. She also asked if there were any funds to upgrade the Community Center.

The Board agreed to put up the banners that were still in good shape.

The Board agreed there are no funds to put into the Community Center at this time. Alderman Gentry suggested the TDA take on the project if they had the funds and desire to do so.

Alderman Gentry said Maintenance Supervisor should talk to Richard Varnes about disconnecting water at a trailer on his property. It was not clear if Mr. Varnes wanted the water permanently disconnected or turned off temporarily. A temporary disconnection could be made under the trailer itself, but a permanent disconnected will require notifying about 40 residents on Lance Avenue that water service will be interrupted. Alderman Gentry said Mr. Hicks needs to clarify what needs to be done before the Town uses materials and man hours unnecessarily.

Mayor Norton shared copies of the "Termination of Lease" for the Andrews Avenue property once used by EMS, that was drawn up by Attorney Moore.

Mayor Norton said the Town must submit a plan to the County for COVID related expenses. The Board discussed acceptable expenses that could possibly qualify for reimbursement. These expenses would include the porta potties, hand washing stations and PPE such as masks and gloves. Also acceptable would be equipment to conduct ZOOM meetings, as the public cannot attend in person, but must have access. The planned expenses must be submitted by September 1, and funds used before January 1.

Mayor Norton said they will need some prices for the needed equipment and materials.

Julie Hochwender, speaking for the Event Committee, said she was aware they have to wait on a decision from the Governor if any events would be allowed, but she said they are anxious to make plans for a Christmas Parade, and will be meeting next month to start discussing them.

Alderman Gentry said there is not an air conditioning unit in the building on Andrews Avenue, and if the Town rents the building, the renters will have to install their own unit there.

Mayor Norton said a Surveyor from Weaverville has already shown interest in renting the building and would pay \$400.00 per month for it.

Alderman Gentry said \$400.00 was much less than a normal rental fee.

The Board discussed the square footage of the property, and how much of it would be rented. The Maintenance and Police Department will be using three of the bays.

The Board discussing utilizing some of the space for public parking. Mayor Norton asked Attorney Moore is the town could charge for parking. Attorney Moore said yes, but signage about towing and the town not being responsible for any damage or theft were important.

Alderman Barnett said there was a water leak at the Forest Service property, and they needed to find it.

Mayor Norton asked for a motion to go into closed session. 8:00

*They made no motion but did go into closed session.*

Alderman Gentry made the motion to return to regular session. 8:20

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

Lisa Hicks attended the meeting (with mask) and asked the Board if they could do anything at all about the flooding in her yard. She said before the State re-routed water run-off, there was not a problem, but after the State re-routed water run-off, her yard and neighboring yards have serious flooding now.

Alderman Gentry said she would talk to Karen Kiehna about it, because Karen would know who to contact with the issue. She added Karen was familiar with the area in question because they had visited it years ago. It was agreed they would talk to Ms. Kiehna and go from there.

Mayor Norton asked Attorney Moore if the Town was obligated to honor the bid for the Chevy Blazer.

Attorney Moore said because of the wording in the ad, he thought they were.

**Alderman Moore made the motion to accept the bid for the Blazer.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to adjourn.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

Approved                   ✓                  

Date           9/8/20          

          Abigail Norton          

Mayor Abigail Norton

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Other