

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2018

Present

Mayor: Sidney Harrison

Alderman: Vaughn Barnett

Alderman: Jimmy Moore

Alderman: Jeanne Gentry

Clerk: Nancy Thomas

Tax Collector: Clara Ramsey

Attorney: Ron Moore

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.

A citizen voiced concern about the July 4th celebration and the Harley Rally being held on the same weekend. Mayor Harrison asked Fire Chief Josh Norton to confirm that the fireworks would not be held on the same weekend. Fire Chief Norton confirmed that the fireworks will not be held the weekend of the Harley Rally.

Agenda:

Ron and Sandy West, representing the Hot Springs Resort and Spa, made a request that the Resort be allowed to obtain a golf carting permit. They said it would be good for the Town and good public relations with the venues that come to the Resort. A representative of the Wild Goose festival, a vast venue at the Resort, requested they be able to transport event goers via golf cart, to restaurants and other places in Hot Springs. Heather Hicks, the event coordinator at the Resort and Spa, added she has not been able to generate a contract with the Wild Goose people without the help from Hot Springs to allow golf carts in Town.

Alderman Gentry asked why they just wanted golf carts, and couldn't they transport guests in a van or other vehicle.

Ms. West said it was easier to get in and out of a cart. Some of the guests couldn't walk a long distance.

Ms. West said guests attending the Wild Goose Festival came from Coast to Coast, and they didn't intend to run the roads with the carts, but just enable easy transportation. She thought it would be a positive step for Hot Springs in the green area also, good PR, and revenue for the Town.

Mayor Harrison said the carts would have to meet all the safety standards such as lights, signals, and brakes.

Alderman Gentry said Police Chief David Shelton was not at the meeting yet to give his input on the subject, and she thought the Board needed to research on the subject.

Fire Chief Norton suggested asking how the Town in Virginia that took people on the Hatfield and McCoy trail with golf carts regulated cart use. He asked if the carts could use the Red Bridge.

Alderman Barnett said the Red Bridge was for foot traffic only.

Alderman Gentry said the Town must follow legal protocol, and they must research it more, and have Town Attorney Ron Moore look into it as well. She said they could possibly have another meeting

to discuss the golf cart issue. She said the paper would be notified if a special meeting was necessary. Melanie Prater said the Tourism Association supported the use of golf carts as well.

Alderman Moore made the motion to table the subject until the next meeting.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Public Comment

Abby Norton asked if the Board would look at a water run-off issue at her property on River Drive, and clean out a ditch to prevent the running water from creating a dirt pile.

Alderman Gentry said a storm water inspector is coming to Hot Springs this week, and they will make sure he and Alderman Barnett visit the site and make a recommendation.

Scott Zalewski said he used to drive the electric Shuttle in Hot Springs when he had the Tour business. He said the shuttle met all specifications required, but it was difficult to get insurance for it.

Julie Hochwender said Henderson Drive needed to be re-graded. She said it was washing out very much. She also reminded the Board not to forget her lease.

Sherree Gladden asked the Board if they would approve her using the Community Center three times in March, for four hours each time, for her Wedding Party to practice for her wedding. She also requested using the Center August 24th for her wedding reception.

Alderman Gentry said the Board would discuss it and give her a decision and price at the next meeting.

Town Business

Fire Chief Josh Norton said the State Grants are now open for the Fire Departments, and asked the Board how many fire hydrants the Town wanted. He asked they figure high so there would be some wiggle room. He said when ordering the hydrants, they must also have the cut-offs. He said they would be about \$2,300.00 each.

Alderman Gentry said they really needed to look at the Budget, as the Water and Sewer Fund was critical. Fire Chief Norton said the deadline for the applications was March 1.

Fire Chief Norton said the Department has also submitted applications to two Federal Grants and are getting quotes for a truck. They are waiting to see if the grants will be awarded to them.

Police Chief David Shelton said if the weather permitted, the security cameras would be installed on Wednesday or Thursday.

Libby Staude said the planning board went back and put in schedules, fees, resolutions on drives, and made copies for the Board. When asked who had a key to the filing cabinet, she said Woody and Mr. Harrison have keys.

Alderman Gentry said the water and sewer infrastructure of Hot Springs was very old, and needs a lot of Maintenance. The Board agreed to purchase a jetter for Maintenance, but due to the financial situation in the Water and Sewer Fund at this time, she said they are going to wait until the next fiscal

year to purchase the jetter.

Alderman Gentry said there is still an issue with grease clogging up the sewer lines.

She said the Town has spent \$1,000.00 in just one month hiring professional services to unclog sewer lines.

Alderman Gentry said the situation must be looked at, and Karen Kiehna is experienced and qualified in this matter.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to hire Karen Kiehna with McGill and Associates to compose a "Grease Trap and Sewer Policy".

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to re-instate Dental and Vision Insurance to qualified employees. She said the expense would be \$29.50 monthly per employee for Dental II, (no ortho) and \$7.00 monthly per employee for Premier Plan Vision. She added if employee wants to upgrade the insurance plan, they can do so at their own expense.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Alderman Gentry shared with all that the Town's Audit results were here, and it states the Town continues to improve with the exception of low funds in the Water and Sewer Fund.

She added collections were good, but around 65 accounts were unpaid by due date last billing. After some letters and phone calls, however, most of the accounts are now current.

Alderman Gentry said tax collections have gone from 93% in the year 2015 to the current collection rate of 97%. The forum congratulated Tax Collector Clara Ramsey for this significant improvement.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to allow Clara Ramsey to proceed with foreclosure proceedings on Delinquent Tax Accounts owing from 300.00 to 1200.00, and proceed with taking some accounts to Small Claims Court.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Mayor Harrison updated everyone on progress at the Forest Service property. He said progress has been made clearing brush and moving debris from the property. There is more cutting to do, and contacting an appraiser and surveyor prior to sale of the house part of the property. Mayor Harrison said the inside of the house was in better shape than the outside, and it was a very structurally sound, fine house. Upgrades needed on the outside are cosmetic. He added a Real Estate firm will sell the property at

1 ½ %. Pam Hysong is still working on getting Hot Springs the funds for fixing up this property, and McGill and Associates will be handling the allocation plans.

Mayor Harrison asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss an open part time Maintenance position.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss part time position in the Maintenance Department.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

7:40

7:50

On returning from Executive Session, the Clerk was asked to place an ad in the Newspaper for one part time position in the Maintenance Department.

As there was no other business at this time,

Alderman Gentry made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

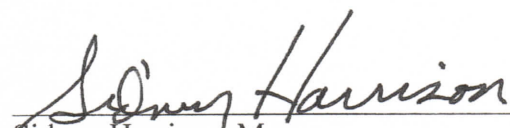
All were in favor.

Approved _____

✓

Date _____

March 05, 2018



Sidney Harrison, Mayor

Other