

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
September 5, 2017

Present:

Mayor: Sidney Harrison
Alderman: Jeanne Gentry
Alderman: Vaughn Barnett
Alderman: Jimmy Moore
Clerk: Nancy Thomas
Town Attorney: Ron Moore

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

Alderman Gentry made the motion to accept the minutes and financial statements.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Mayor Harrison said he had asked Fire Chief Josh Norton to address emergency notifications, but he was called out and had to leave. The issue will be addressed at another time.

Karen Kiehna addressed the Board first, discussing an Asset Management Plan, and the opportunity to apply for a grant to fund the assessment of the water system. She said there Hot Springs hit all five categories of eligibility of the State normal. Ms. Kiehna said there are two funding sources, and if the applications are successful, there will be no charge to the town..

Mayor Harrison asked the Board if they would make a motion to move forward with the application process, and approve Ms. Kiehna's offer to pursue the grants. He added the system would just get worse if they didn't start now.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to move forward with the grant applications.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Ms. Kiehna gave the Board two resolutions to sign; one for water and one for sewer. They were signed and returned to Ms. Kiehna.

Mayor Harrison gave an update on the purchase of the Forest Service property. He said the process will be approved in Raleigh, and the closing for the property should take place sometime this month.

Sheryl Williams, with the League of Women Voters, addressed the Board. She said League is a nationwide non-profit organization. She said they will be holding a forum on October 19 at the Hot Springs Community Center to give candidates an opportunity to meet people and share their goals if elected. The News Record and Sentinel will be there to cover the forum and place an article in the paper. Ms. Williams said there will be an opportunity for citizens to submit questions to the moderator, and refreshments will also be provided.

Libby Staude gave the Board a review of the last zoning meeting. She said they discussed YaYa's Tubing using the property at 2440 River Road as a put in. She said they talked to Chad Peek about this, and discussed Mr. Graham being non-compliant with being 25 ft. away from the center line of the road. She said they met on the 24th to discuss this, and Mr. Graham has not met state standards, and doesn't have what he should have. Ms. Staude said at this point it was out of their hands. Alderman Gentry asked if there was any new business. Ms. Staude said there was maybe one new application, and they had spent some money on a new file cabinet that locks. Alderman Gentry thanked Ms. Staude, and asked Mr. Woods if he had anything to add. He didn't.

Brad Edwards attended the meeting to present a proposal for security cameras in Hot Springs. He described where the cameras would be placed, and the clarity of the pictures. They would cover Andrews Avenue, Bridge Street, the Public Parking Area, and Police Chief David Shelton's office as well as City Hall.

Mayor Harrison said the pictures the cameras captured should enable Chief Shelton to see peoples faces. Mr. Edwards said they would, and have in fact his security cameras have been used to solve many crimes that took place at the Asheville Housing Authority.

Alderman Moore asked if they could add cameras to the system at a later date. Mr. Edwards said that depended on the system they installed.

Alderman Moore made the motion to allow Mr. Edwards to move forward with determining a cost to set up security cameras in Hot Springs, and bring back a quote.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Town Business

Mayor Harrison said he asked Town Attorney Ron Moore to write a letter to US Cellular asking if they had plans to improve cellular service in Hot Springs. *Copy attached*

He reminded everyone that the purchase of the Forest Service property was progressing.

He then told everyone that the water quality in Hot Springs was good, and apologized to anyone that didn't get a notice when the town had an issue with water service due to the main water line break and the pump going out. He added they are working on an emergency notification plan with Fire Chief Norton, but meanwhile if anyone had any questions they can call Town Hall.

Mayor Harrison informed everyone that the German Internment Camp Centennial event will be held on October 15, 16, and 17. There are many activities planned for that weekend, including an open house at Dorland Church where WW1 pictures will be displayed, a brass band, lectures, and wreaths will be placed on graves at Oddfellows cemetery. He said it will be a big event.

Alderman Gentry said Maintenance has requested five 15 Minute Parking signs plus the posts to place at the Post Office. The Board discussed how many signs should be sufficient, and if they could elaborate that the 15 Minute Parking would just be during the hours the Post Office was open, and people could park there longer after hours.

They agreed two signs should be sufficient, and the 15 minute limit would only apply until 5:00.

Alderman Moore made the motion to allow the purchase of two 15 Minute Parking signs.
Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

Julie Hochwender said she would like to make a correction in the minutes. She said the proposal to the Town to lease the old jail for a coffee shop was by her, and not the HSTA.

She reminded the Board she was still interested in leasing the building. The building needs extensive repairs which she would take care of, and would love to be able to get in and get started as soon as the Board approved her proposal. She added she had good plans, and would like permission to open a small section of the adjoining alley for outdoor seating, as it was not used for any traffic at all. She said they will sell coffee, pastries, and perhaps cold sandwiches.

Ms. Hochwender said the existing roof on the building was placed over the old roof, which was rotted and molded. She said she would replace that roof, and make all necessary repairs. She added she would pay \$250.00 per month rent on the building or donate 5% of their profits to the Town. She said they also wanted security cameras that would be helpful to the Police Department.

Mayor Harrison said there were some very old materials in the building that belonged to the Town, and he felt like they should wait until the Fire Department moved out of the building before they made any decisions.

Mayor Harrison asked the Board for a motion to go into closed session to discuss applications.

8:00

Alderman Gentry made the motion to go into closed session.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

8:31

Alderman Gentry made the motion to return to regular session.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

Mayor Harrison said the purpose of going into closed session was to discuss hiring maintenance workers. He said they decided to hire two people, one part time, and one on call to work his way up into a full time job, if they decide to accept those positions.

Paul Eggers, with the News Record, asked if the numbers of employees will remain the same.

Mayor Harrison said there will be two additional employees. He added the maintenance department had more work to do than they had workers.

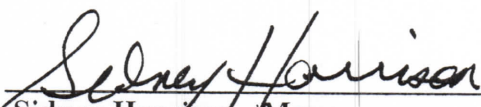
As there was no other business at this time,

Alderman Barnett made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.

Approved ✓

Date Oct. 2, 2017



Sidney Harrison, Mayor

Other