

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
November 6, 2017

Present:

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

Mayor Sidney 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 Moore seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Agenda

Jesse Zeller Davis presented and read a resolution proposal on climate action. The resolution was in support of the Paris Climate Accords.

The Board of Alderman read over the resolution.

Alderman Barnett asked if a survey had been done locally.

Alderman Gentry said she understood what the resolution was, and asked what Mr. Zeller Davis was expecting from Hot Springs.

Mr. Zeller Davis said he wanted Hot Springs to pass it.

Alderman Gentry said she didn't see anything in the resolution that required the town to do anything.

Attorney Moore asked Mr. Zeller Davis what he wanted the Board to adopt. Mr. Zeller Davis said he wanted the Board to agree that climate change was real, and if any local action needed to be made, they would make it.

Mayor Harrison suggested Attorney Moore write up a resolution and the board could vote on it at the next meeting.

Alderman Gentry asked what the town of Marshall did, and if they could see a copy of that. Mr. Zeller Davis said they passed a resolution similar to the one he presented Hot Springs.

Mayor Harrison thanked Mr. Zeller Davis for his presentation, and agreed more wind, solar, water, and perhaps nuclear power was needed. The Board did not pass or adopt a resolution at this time.

Wendy Stencil asked the Board if Holiday Vendors could set up inside the Welcome Center on the 2nd and 9th of December.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve Holiday Vendors setting up in the Welcome Center on December 2 and 9.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Julie Hochwender had two issues to present to the Board.

1. Ms. Hochwender described the "Light the Night" event she is working on for November 25th. She said she would love to see more vendors set up that evening, and business's remain open until 7:00. She said the countdown to the lighting will begin at 6:45 and the business's will be prompted to turn their lights on at 7:00. She asked if it would be possible to close part of the road by the post office for the vendors to set up, and said the road would not be completely blocked in case an emergency vehicle needed to get through. The barricades would be placed around 3:00 or 3:30 pm. After discussing the request, and considering several factors,

Alderman Moore made the motion to allow the partial closing of the side street next to the Post Office providing it is OK with the Postal employees.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.

2. Ms. Hochwender presented the Board with a contract for the old Fire Department building only, the future Jailhouse Java building. She said the contract didn't include the Community Center. (*contract attached*)

Public Comment

Kathryn Graeter asked the Board if there was any way to notify residents when water had to be cut off for repairs.

Alderman Moore said when there is a break, that is an unscheduled repair and there is no way of knowing when that was going to happen. When there is a planned turn off, Maintenance does try to notify everyone affected.

Mayor Harrison said they should designate someone to be called if a resident noticed a bad leak. He added the town has lost a lot of water due to broken water lines. The lines are very old and subject to not just leak, but split open over the entire top.

Police Chief David Shelton told the Board he met with Brad Edwards over the security cameras, and they are now waiting for placement poles at the Triangle and in the public parking area.

Alderman Moore said they needed to get to work on the cameras, and they need to find some 16 to 18 foot poles. Fire Chief Josh Norton said French Broad Electric may have some poles the town could get. Alderman Moore asked Alderman Barnett if they could get started on that project this week. Alderman Barnett said if there were no water leaks they could.

Fire Chief Josh Norton said he would like to know where any main water cut-offs were so his department can shut off water in an emergency to keep a large water leak from draining the tanks.

Alderman Barnett said they would take Fire Chief Norton and show him where all the main water cut-offs were.

Fire Chief Norton also asked the Board if the initial plans for the Forest Service property had changed, and if the Hot Springs Maintenance Department was going to get to use some of the bays instead of the Fire Department. The Board discussed at length the buildings on the Forest Service property, and the departments of Hot Springs that would be using them, including a bay for a PD patrol car.

Alderman Moore wanted the Board to agree that the Maintenance Department could stay on Andrews Avenue.

Fire Chief Norton agreed there would be room on Andrews Avenue, at the current EMS building, for the Maintenance vehicles, and one patrol car.

Mayor Harrison suggested the Board wait to make final decisions about the Forest Service property, as so much work has to be done first.

Alderman Moore asked what the problem was to decide that the Maintenance department will stay on Andrews Avenue.

The Board discussed getting the Forest Service property cleaned up and repaired first, then move on to which department would be moving into which building.

No final decisions were made, as the process is in the first stages. Mayor Harrison suggested the Board meet with EMS to determine exactly what they need at the Forest Service property, and how much it will cost.

Fire Chief Norton added the pine trees on the property would have to come down. He said it was cheaper for Duke/Progress to repair damages caused by trees than it was to trim and maintain them. He believed it would be better for the FD to remove them.

Mayor Harrison said again it was too early to vote on what they were going to do with the property.

Alderman Moore said he just wanted to vote on keeping the Maintenance Department on Andrews Avenue.

Alderman Gentry said she realized it may be as long as a year before any moving took place, but based on plans by the EMS and Fire Department, she proposed the plan would be for Maintenance to stay on Andrews Ave. at the current EMS building where they could have two bays, and there will be a third bay for one patrol car from the Police Department.

Mayor Harrison suggested the Board table the discussion, and he would talk to someone from EMS and an engineer. He added they were nowhere near the point of moving any department yet. He felt things were moving too fast, and the Board and each department had a lot to consider. He said he would talk to Mark Snelson also about the needs of EMS.

Attorney Moore suggested finding out what each department, in the order of hierarchy, will need and what it will cost, and go by that logical progression.

Moving on, Alderman Gentry made the motion to give employees a Christmas bonus. She proposed full time employees receive a \$300.00 bonus and part time will receive \$100.00.

Alderman Moore seconded the motion.

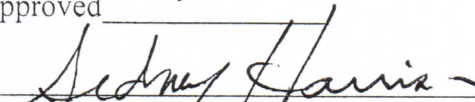
Attorney Moore presented the Board with the deed for the Forest Service property.

As there was no other business at this time,

Alderman Moore made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Gentry seconded the motion

Approved


Sidney Harrison, Mayor

Date 12-04-2017

Other