

# Town of Abita Springs

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**MAYOR  
GREG LEMONS**

ALDERMEN  
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER  
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

PATRICK BERRIGAN  
DANIEL J. CURTIS  
RYAN MURPHY  
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER

UTILITY MANAGER  
DEBRA MACLEAN

UTILITY CLERK II  
LINDA MEEKER

PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR  
CINDY CHATELAIN

TOWN MARSHAL  
MIKE SLEMMER

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on January 16, 2018 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Lemons reported that special employee recognition would take place quarterly rather than monthly. The Mayor explained that with the Town's small number of employees a quarterly presentation would be more appropriate. The next announcement was related to upcoming discussions regarding the millage. A timeline was presented to the Aldermen for their review. Mayor Lemons concluded the announcement section by informing attendees that consideration of the Quail Farm Trace would not take place by request of the developer.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Lemons opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2017-008 AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX CERTAIN LAND IN SECTIONS 5 AND 8, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY INTO THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE #313 AND #476 AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS (ABITA MEADOWS). He explained that the ordinance addresses necessary corrections to the legal description. Local resident, Stewart Eastman suggested that the density of the project is problematic and requested that the Aldermen reconsider the PUD ordinance. Mr. Eastman expressed that he supports an effort to amend the ordinance to better protect the community. He added that the current regulations should be improved with a more thoughtful approach to land use. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to close the hearing, seconded by Alderman Curtis. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

The second hearing, a discussion of INSTRUMENT 2017-009 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #481 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, RELATIVE TO THE APPROVAL OF A DEVELOPMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LONESOME DEVELOPMENT, LLC AND ABITA MEADOWS, LLC., AND THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS was opened by Mayor Lemons. The Mayor explained that just as in Instrument 2017-008, the legal description in the developmental agreement required correction. Mr. Eastman expressed concern regarding flood plain management. Alderman Murphy advised Mr. Eastman that Town Engineer Jean Thibodeaux is overseeing flood plain management and compliance. Alderman Murphy moved to close the hearing, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

**ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy and Blich Welliver were present. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to accept the December 12, and December 19, 2017 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Blich Welliver. All were in favor.

**REPORTS: STPSO:** Lt. Williams presented his monthly account of incidents. The Lieutenant reported that criminal activities during the month included the theft of property from three separate vehicles, an arrest for battery on a police officer and criminal trespass. He added that preparations for the upcoming Push-Mow parade are underway. **TOWN MARSHAL:** The Mayor reporting on behalf of the Town Marshal advised that the Town received four complaints during the preceding period. **FIRE DISTRICT #8:** Chief Glynn reported that the number of incidents remained mostly the same compared to last year. The Chief informed attendees that the municipality is currently being re-surveyed by the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) for its Public Fire Protection Classification, currently a Class 3. Local resident Lee Barrios asked for information regarding the regulation of fireworks within the municipality. Mr. Eastman answered that the code prohibits fireworks. **ENGINEERING:** Mayor Lemons reported on Town engineering projects including the sewer project currently in discovery, phase two. Other updates included the status of the following proposed projects:

- a. Harrison Avenue Extension: report to Regional Planning Commission expected mid-February
- b. Abita Meadows: the majority of construction plans are expected to be complete in three months
- c. Recreation Trails Sidewalks: environmental permits under review
- d. Railroad Avenue Drainage: contract awarded to Kort Construction, contract value \$45,250.00.

Mayor Lemons reviewed the Town's practice of creating written reports to address maintenance, public works, and garbage collection activities and complaints.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to AMEND INSTRUMENT 2017-008 AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX CERTAIN LAND IN SECTIONS 5 AND 8, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY INTO THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE #313 AND #476 AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS (ABITA MEADOWS), seconded by Alderman Murphy. The amendment states the zoning classification of the annexed property is a Planned Unit Development. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

Alderman Murphy moved to adopt as amended INSTRUMENT 2017-008 AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX CERTAIN LAND IN SECTIONS 5 AND 8, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY INTO THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS; AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE #313 AND #476 AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS (ABITA MEADOWS), seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

Alderman Murphy moved to adopt INSTRUMENT 2017-009 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #481 OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, RELATIVE TO THE APPROVAL OF A DEVELOPMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LONESOME DEVELOPMENT, LLC AND ABITA MEADOWS, LLC., AND THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, seconded by Alderman Blich Welliver. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blich Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Alderman Murphy moved to adopt a RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS

TO SIGN THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF RESUBDIVISION OF THE ABITA MEADOWS SUBDIVISION, seconded by Alderman Berrigan. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt a RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION AUTHORITY AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 10-B OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, seconded by Alderman Murphy. The vote was: Yeas:5 Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays:0, Abstain:0, Absent:0.

Mayor Lemons asked for a motion to introduce INSTRUMENT 2018-001 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 2-102(B) TO PROVIDE FOR RULES TO STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to introduce INSTRUMENT 2018-001, seconded by Alderman Curtis.

**OPEN/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Local resident Stewart Eastman addressed the Board regarding the possession of firearms. Mr. Eastman reported that Slidell passed legislation regarding the topic and suggested that the Town might benefit from a review of the law. Abita Oaks resident, Lee Barrios spoke on behalf of the Abita Oaks Homeowner's Association. Ms. Barrios explained that the organization has been working with Planning and Zoning to resolve a parking lot construction issue. She added that she hoped for progress toward a resolution and asked for the Council's participation. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper announced upcoming events.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Berrigan.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2018.

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Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

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Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor