



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

Phone/ Fax 479-621-5921

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2019

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Public forum: Kathy Henson talked to the council about concerns and issues she was having with the bike riders and bike events. Ald. Hansen asked that bikes be placed under parks on the agenda.

Council Roll Call – by Rec/Tres. Barnes

Present: Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

ALD: Kathy Miller, Kathy Hansen & Jordan Sullivan

Absent: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Ald. Jay King

Open: Position 3

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Edwin McClure

Zoning Official: Jim Mills

Guests

Kathy Henson

Declaration of quorum

Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

Ald. Hansen made a motion for consent of the agenda. Seconded by Ald. Miller. Roll call: Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Miller; yes and Ald. Sullivan; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

Ald. Sullivan made a motion to accept the July minutes as written. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Roll call: Ald. Sullivan; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes and Ald. Miller; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Financial statement

July 2019; Presented by Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes

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Staff Report – Rec/Tres. Barnes

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue
 - a. Monthly Report; July 2019; 45 Calls (EMS: 30, Fire: 8, Misc.: 2, MVA: 5, Roads: 0)
2. NEBCO EMS
 - a. None
3. Facebook & Website: Social Media Class - Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes informed council she may attend a class on Social Media and the 1st Amendment in Russellville on Friday, August 16th.
4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 0 New) as of July 31, 2019
 - a. None
5. Building Permits – as of July 31, 2019
 - a. Nancy Rechtfertig; 530 Courtney Lane: Add on to deck and awning

Committee Reports:

1. *Planning commission – Chairmen James Mills*
 - a. Zoning Book; Attorney McClure has the Zoning Book under review, he is updating and making it more consistent.
 - c. Next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2019
2. *Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen James Mills*
 - a. Next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2019
3. *Zoning and code enforcement – James Mills*
 - a. Update; Attorney McClure will send Chairmen Mills a letter template to send to any residence that are not in compliance.
4. *Inspections*
 - a. Committee meeting held July 22, 2019; Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes informed council a meeting was held, they are going to have another meeting to iron out any questions/differences.
5. *Streets – Ald. Sullivan*
 - a. Road damage due to flooding - Woods Lodge & Rader Road
 - i. Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes has informed Tim Gehring with Arkansas Department of Management, the town was ready for final inspection. Mr. Gehring is out of town and will contact us when he gets back to do the final inspection.
 - b. BC Inmates; Clean-up - Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes had the Benton County Inmates come and clean the trash off the streets inside the town limits.

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6. *Park – Ald. Hansen*
 - a. Steam Whistle Depot
 - i. Grant; No Update
 - ii. Apple Shed Sign/Dedication; A decision was made for the recipient to get the Apple Shed award. Ald. Hansen recommends not awarding this to the recipient at the Firemen’s BBQ and to have a special day set aside to present the Apple Shed award and do the Steam Whistle dedication all on the same day. This is being done due to council members unable to be at the Firemen’s BBQ.
 - iii. Tables & Benches were ordered and should be arriving at the beginning of September.
 - iv. Bikes; Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes read an email sent to the town from Matt Crafton concerning the complaints that have been made to the town concerning the biking events. Ald. Sullivan made a motion to pull support and to end any town sanctioned bike events. Seconded by Ald. Miller. Discussion; held concerning safety and residents’ complaints. Roll call: Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Miller; yes and Ald. Sullivan; yes, All approved. Motion carried. Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes will contact Matt Crafton to inform him what the council has decided.

7. *Impact Fees – Ald. Hansen*
 - a. Capitalization Policy; Committee meeting held July 17, 2019.

8. *Future of Avoca – Ald. Hansen*
 - a. Annexation; The town has not received any responses back from the letters that were sent out. Town Attorney McClure recommends we hire a consultation before going any further with any annexations.

9. *Farmers Market – Ald. Hansen*
 - a. Total of 18 Vendors

10. *Personnel – Ald. King*
 - a. Personnel Book & Job Descriptions; Mayor Whitehorn, Ald. King and Rec/Tres. Barnes are meeting next week to go over any changes to the Handbook. It will then go to the attorney, then to the council for final approval.
 - b. New Hire; Back ground checks; The council discussed having any new hire go through a background check before hiring.
 - c. Resignation of Council Member O’Dell; Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes read Mr. O’Dell’s resignation letter to council.

11. *Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); Avoca Heritage Trail*
 - a. Update; Acting Mayor & Rec/Tres. Barnes updated council on the status of the trail. The town is still waiting on ARDOT for approval. Ald. Sullivan reminded council the grant is a matching grant, that is reimbursed.

Old Business

1. Mobile Home; 425 Sheppard Road – Attorney McClure will proceed with informing the owner at 425 Sheppard Road, the mobile home needs to be removed due to Ordinance 107. Attorney McClure informed council, they cannot deny mobile homes inside the town limits, but can restrict them to certain areas. The Town of Avoca restricts them to zoning areas R2 only.

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New Business

1. None

Mayor for the Good of the Town

Mayor Whitehorn is meeting with Mr. McCarty concerning placing (2) two signs for the Trail of Tears on Wednesday August 21st

Announcements

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019
2. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2019
4. Nanette out; Clerks Institute Class, September 15 – 19, 2019
5. Firemen BBQ; Saturday, September 28, 2019

Adjournment:

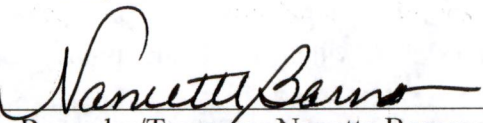
A motion was made by Ald. Sullivan and seconded by Ald. Hansen to adjourn meeting at 7:22 pm.
Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved 

Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest 

Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes