



**P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711**

**Phone/ Fax 479-621-5921**

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF AVOCA**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

**Call to order**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Whitehorn

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of silence**

**Public forum:** None

**Council Roll Call – by Rec/Tres. Barnes**

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

ALD: Jay King, Kathy Miller, Oscar Alvarenga, Kathy Hansen & Jordan Sullivan

**Staff**

Present: Town Attorney: Edwin McClure

Zoning Official: Jim Mills

**Guests**

Avoca Fire Chief Frankie Elliott

Avoca Assistant Fire Chief Jeromy Metcalf

NEBCO Board President Dean Adair

Kim Whitehorn

Jeannie Rollins

**Declaration of quorum**

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

**Consent of Agenda**

Ald. King made a motion for consent of agenda. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Miller; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Sullivan; yes, and Ald. King; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

**Consent of minutes for council meeting**

Ald. King made a motion to accept the October minutes as written. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Sullivan; yes, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Miller; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

**Financial statement**

October 2019; Financial statement presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the October Financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Sullivan; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Miller; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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**Staff Report – Rec/Tres. Barnes**

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue
  - a. Monthly Report; of September 30, 2019; 37 Calls (EMS: 24, Fire: 7, Misc.: 1, MVA: 1, Roads: 4)
  - b. Fire Chief Elliott and Assistant Fire Chief Metcalf, presented the 2020 budget for the Avoca Fire Department. He is asking the town to continue their financial support of \$7500.00 (seven thousand, five hundred dollars), to help with paid position of two firefighters.
  - c. Fire Chief Elliott asked the town to pay \$2500.00 (two thousand, five hundred dollars) to help with maintenance to the Community building.
2. NEBCO EMS
  - a. NEBCO Board President Dean Adair, came before the council and asked Avoca to continue the yearly support of \$2000.00 (two thousand dollars).
3. Facebook & Website
  - a. Council emails; Rec/Tres. Barnes informed the council; she had a resident who asked why they didn't have emails that can be used to contact the council members. Rec/Tres. Barnes asked council members if they would like a town email for each council member at a monthly fee of \$3.00 per council member. Council decided not to get email addresses and to continue to use their cell phones for contact.
4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 0 New) as of October 31, 2019
  - a. None
5. Building Permits – as of October 31, 2019
  - a. None

**Committee Reports:**

1. *Planning commission – Chairmen James Mills*
  - a. Zoning Book; Once Town Attorney McClure finishes his part of updating the Zoning book, it will go to Jeff Hawkins at the NW AR Regional Planning Commission for any recommendations he has before final approval.
  - b. Next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2019
2. *Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen James Mills*
  - a. Next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2019
3. *Zoning and code enforcement – James Mills*
  - a. Resignation of James Mills. Mayor Whitehorn informed council, he may have a replacement.
4. *Inspections*
  - a. Mayor Whitehorn informed council of the meeting held on October 15, 2019. A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to discuss using Benton County Risk Reduction for Building Inspections on new homes. Seconded by Ald. King. Roll call: Ald. Sullivan; no, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Miller; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, and Ald. Hansen; yes. Majority approved. Motion carried. Discussion; held concerning the pros and cons of building inspections. A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to table subject until the December meeting so, the new council members can read up on the subject. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. King; yes, Ald. Miller; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, and Ald. Sullivan; yes. All approved. Motion carried. Rec/Tres. Barnes will get all council members paper work showing services from the Benton County Risk Reduction.

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5. *Streets – Ald. Sullivan*

- a. Mayor Whitehorn is meeting with Jay Frasier; Administrator of Public Services with Benton County Road Department on November 13th concerning the culvert at the end of Woods Lodge Road.

6. *Park – Ald. Hansen*

- a. Sand Box; Council decided to place new sand in the sandbox and volleyball area.
- b. Fences: Council discussed different options concerning new fencing around the parks.

7. *Impact Fees – Ald. Hansen*

- a. Capitalization Policy; Rec/Tres. Barnes informed council she has started working on this project.

8. *Future of Avoca – Ald. Hansen*

- a. Annexation; Ald. Hansen updated the new council members about annexing property. She will contact a consultant for help on annexing. Ald. Hansen asked for another council member to help her with this project. Ald. Sullivan talked about the cons on annexation.

9. *Farmers Market – Ald. Hansen*

- a. Last day of season was October 26, 2019

10. *Personnel – Ald. King*

- a. Resolution 07-19 Personnel Book – Attorney McClure read Resolution No. 07-19 in its entirety. A motion was made by Ald. King to accept Resolution No. 07-19 on its first and final reading. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion: was held concerning, holiday pay, travel and drug testing. Roll call; Ald. King; yes, Ald. Miller: yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Hansen: yes and Ald. Sullivan: yes. All approved. Motion carried.
- b. Council Member; Leave of absence – Ald. Miller will be gone December 2019, January 2020 and February 2020 due to a family emergency, and will not be able to attend council meetings during that time.

**Old Business**

1. Property next to Town Hall Park – Mayor Whitehorn informed council the Town of Avoca has purchased the property connected to the town park on Old Wire Road. Ald. King mentioned using that property as a dog park. Mayor Whitehorn will have the fence moved to extend the park.

**New Business**

1. Budget – Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Rec/Tres Barnes asked council members to have estimated 2020 figures they will need for their committees to her before the budget meeting.
2. Banking; Rec/Tres. Barnes, Ald. Hansen, Ald. King and Mayor Whitehorn met with representatives with 1<sup>st</sup> Western Bank in Rogers.

**Mayor for the Good of the Town** – Mayor Whitehorn informed council, the town received a letter from Scott Bennett; the director of the Arkansas State Highway Department stating per our request, they canceled the TAP funds for the Avoca Heritage Trail project, and this will not prohibit us from applying and receiving funds from the program in the future.

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**Announcements**


1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2019
2. Avoca Country Christmas Parade for Saturday, December 7, 2019
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019
4. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019

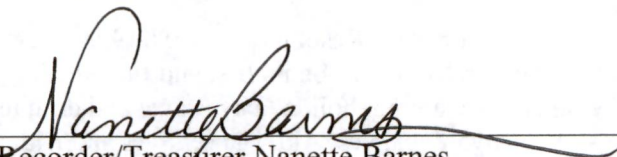
**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Ald. Hansen and seconded by Ald. Sullivan to adjourn meeting at 7:52 pm.  
Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes  
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved  \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest  \_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes