



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

Phone/ Fax 479-621-5921

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Whitehorn

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Public forum (Agenda item)

None

Council Roll Call – by Rec/Tres. Barnes

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

ALD: Kathy Hansen, Oscar Alvarenga, Jeannie Rollins and Jay King

Absent: Katie Rairdon

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McClure

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Maintenance: None

Absent: Chris Rogers

Guests

Jacob Davis; Avoca Fire Dept.

David Connelly

Ronna Smith

Roy Forester

Jim Mills

Mac Whitehorn

Ronnie Smith

Darryl Robinson

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

Ald. Alvarenga made a motion for consent of agenda Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; none. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the minutes of November, 2022, council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion; none. All approved. Motion carried.

Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the minutes of December (Budget), 2022, council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; none. All approved. Motion carried.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022

Financial statement

November 2022; Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the November 2022 Financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; None. All approved. Motion carried.

Staff Report – Rec/Tres. Barnes

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

Rec./Tres. Barnes states Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 58 Calls in November. This brings us to 610 calls on the year so far.

2. NEBCO EMS

a. None

3. Social-Media

a. None

4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 0 New) for November 2022

a. None

5. Building & Inspection Permits for November 2022

a. None

6. Events

a. Christmas Parade: December 3, 2022; Rec/Tres. Barnes states the parade was a success.

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Zoning Book; Ald. Alvarenga states the Planning Members have tabled this issue until after the first of the new year.
- b. Hidden Forrest Sub-Division; Final Plat: Ald. Alvarenga states no update at this time.
- c. Tall Trees Sub-Division: Ald. Alvarenga states no update at this time.

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. No update per Ald. Alvarenga.

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. Ald. King asked Zoning Official DePue to look at property off Tucks Chapel concerning illegal dumping.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022

4. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

- a. Updates - None

5. Streets – Ald. King

- a. Impact Fees: No Updates at this time
- b. Mayor asked Ald. King to get figures and bids on work for Old Wire Road.
- c. Ald. Hansen states she is looking into getting financial help on Old Wire since it is a historical road.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. None

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon

- a. Hazard Mitigation Grant; Town Hall Generator: Rec/Tres. Barnes states ER*Assist is working on this issue. Mayor Whitehorn states once the generator is installed, a fence will need to be built around it.

8. ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan) – Ald. Rollins

- a. No Update per Ald. Rollins

Old Business

- a. Monument; Ald. King states the granite has been selected and we are now waiting on a start date, depending on weather. Ald. King states the mayor, approved he could go over his budget by \$500.00 (Five hundred dollars)
- b. Ordinance 127; Establishing a tax on gross receipts of Motels, Hotels and Short-Term Rentals; A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 127; Establishing a tax on gross receipts of Motels, Hotels and Short-Term Rentals: on its second reading, by title only. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. King; yes, Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes and Ald. Alvarenga; yes. All approved. Motion carried. Town Attorney McClure read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to accept Ordinance 127 on its second reading by title only. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: None. Roll call; Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Alvarenga: yes, Ald. Rollins: yes, and Ald. King; yes. All approved. Motion carried.
- c. Council Photos; Rec/Tres. Barnes asked Council members to be at the Town Hall on January 10, 2023 at 6:00 am (before the council meeting) to be sworn in and to have their pictures taken.
- d. Police; Town Attorney McClure will look into getting a "Shared Use Agreement" written up and signed for the town of Avoca to use the Rogers District Court.

New Business

- a. Business License; A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to table this issue until the January 2023 meeting. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion was held concerning businesses in town having multiple businesses and having them all issued under one name, so they only have to pay for one business license. Increasing the business license fee, which is currently \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) a year, was also discussed. All Approved, motion carried.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022

- b. Budget; A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to raise the mayors 2023 salary to \$44,200.00 (forty-four thousand, two hundred dollars). Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion: was held concerning the large increase. Mayor Whitehorn states he feels that amount of a raise would be inappropriate. Motion failed. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to keep the mayor's salary at \$22,600.00 (twenty-two thousand, six hundred dollars) as discussed at the December 12th budget meeting. Seconded by Ald. Rollins. Discussion: Ald. Hansen states the mayor deserves a better raise, considering all he does for the town. Ald. Rollins states she didn't think he should receive that large of a raise, she stated she has never received that much of a raise while teaching or driving a bus, per Ald. Rollins, raises should be held at 2%. Roll Call: Ald. King; no, Hansen: no, Ald. Alvarenga: yes, and Ald. Rollins: no. Motion failed.
- A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to raise the mayor's salary to \$28,250.00 (twenty-eight thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars). Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; was held concerning what other Mayors in the area make, and the cost of living. Ald. Rollins again stated she had never received a large raise while teaching or driving a bus and states other towns aren't not giving large raises this year. Ald. Rollins again states, raises should be held at 2%. Roll. Rec/Tres. Barnes informed her that was not accurate, as Rogers is giving 5% cost of living raises and an added 2% merit raise to all city employees. Roll Call: Ald. King; no, Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins: no, and Ald. Alvarenga: no. Motion failed. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to raise the mayor's salary to \$25,425.00 (twenty-five thousand, four hundred and twenty-five dollars). Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; was held concerning what the correct percentage raise would be appropriate. Roll Call: Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins: no, and Ald. Alvarenga: yes, and Ald. King; yes. Motion passed.
- c. Dogs; Council members looked over the proposed dog resolution, concerning registering your dogs with the town. Discussion was held concerning why this ordinance is needed. Ald. Rollins, states she was very much against this issue, and this will only make people who take care of their pets penalized and the ones who don't will go free. Ald. Rollins was reminded this resolution was recommended by the Benton County Animal control and by the Rogers Humane Society in helping the town curb all the puppy mills and stray dogs. Ald. Alvarenga explained to Ald. Rollins, as a pet owner, he doesn't want the dog resolution, but as a council member, he was elected to do what's good for the town not for him personally, so he is for this issue. Council Members decided to table this issue until the January, 2023 council meeting.
- d. Resolution 09-22; Adopting the 2023 Budget for Avoca Arkansas; Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the amended 2023 budget. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Rollins: yes and Ald. Hansen; yes. Motion passed.
- e. Rental Shop Rent & Lease; Council tabled this issue until the January 2023, council meeting.

Mayor for the Good of Town

Mayor Whitehorn, talked about the new generator and the location.

Town Council Member's Personal Privilege (Any matter); 3 Minutes

Council Member Rairdon – Absent

Council Member Rollins - None

Council Member Hansen – None

Council Member King – None

Council Member Alvarenga – None

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022

Public Forum (Non-Agenda Items); 3 Minutes

Ronnie Smith commented that he doesn't live inside the town limits of Avoca, and is opposed to any changes to the business license and dog ordinances.

Darryl Robinson commended the mayor on not accepting the large raise and questioned the dog ordinance Roy Forester; would like to see an ordinance concerning junk yards.

Announcements

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for December 20, 2022
2. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2022
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2022

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ald. King and seconded by Ald. Alvarenga to adjourn meeting at 8:05 pm.

Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.


Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved


Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest


Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes