



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

Phone/ Fax 479-621-5921

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

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: Katie Rairdon, Kathy Hansen, Oscar Alvarenga, Jay King, and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: None

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McClure

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Absent: None

Guests

Brian Ervin (Assistant Chief - AFD)

Jacob Davis (Battalion Chief)

Kim Whitehorn

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. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

November 2023:

Ald. Alvarenga made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2023 regular council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; none. All approved. Motion carried.

December 11, 2023 (Budget Meeting):

Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 2023 budget council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; none. All approved. Motion carried.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

Financial statement

Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the November 2023 Financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried.

Staff Report – Rec/Tres. Barnes

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

Battalion Chief Davis states the Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 38 calls for November, and 525 for the year.

Canceled: 7	Fire: 3	Medical: 25
Controlled Burns: 1	Public Service: 1	Spills/Leaks: 1

2. NEBCO EMS

Unable to get run times for November

3. Social-Media

- a. Rec/Tres. Barnes informed Council she put on the town website and Facebook page the price increase of the yellow bags, starting January 2024.

4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 0 New) for November, 2023

None

5. Building & Inspection Permits for November 2023

Joshua Henderson – 520 Hidden Forrest Trail: New House
Joshua Henderson – 990 Tucks Chapel Road: New House

6. Events

- a. Avoca Fire Chief Elliotts Retirement Party: Rec/Tres. Barnes announced the retirement of Chief Elliott. He has been the Avoca Fire Chief for 35 years. The Avoca Fire & Rescue will be having a retirement party for him on Saturday, January 6, 2024, between 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. It will be a walk in gathering and all are invited to attend. Council voted to help with the cost of food and drinks.

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Hidden Forrest Subdivision (Phase I); Ald. Alvarenga states the culverts and sidewalks are in the process of being worked on.
- b. Hidden Forrest Subdivision (Phase II): No updates.
- c. Tall Trees Subdivision (Phase I): Ald. Alvarenga informed council there are four houses being built. Electric is yet to be installed.
- d. Tall Trees Subdivision (Phase II): No asphalt has been laid per Ald. Alvarenga.

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. None

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. Ald. Hansen asked Zoning Official DePue to look at the property at 248 N Hwy 62. There is trash and other items that need to be addressed. Zoning Official DePue states he will contact the owners of the property.

4. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

- a. Chris states they are in the process of cleaning up the leaves along the roads and parks.

5. Streets – Ald. King

- a. Impact Fees: No updates at this time per Ald. King
- b. Rail Road Crossings: Mayor Whitehorn stated he will address this issue in Old Business.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. Pickleball Court: Ald. Hansen is working on this project. No updates at this time.

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon

- a. No Updates

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

- a. Mayor Whitehorn has requested the ARPA funds be allotted toward the resurfacing the parts of streets that are inside the town limits on Tucks Chapel and Old Wire Road.

Old Business

- a. Rental Shop/Warehouse; Ald. Alvarenga requested we place lights on the outside of the warehouse and around the park dumpster. Council agreed, Rec/Tres. Barnes will contact the electrician who is working on the building to add that to his list. Mayor updated council on the work that needs to be done to get the warehouse back in shape to rent out again.
A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to lower the rent from \$2500 (two thousand, five hundred dollars) to \$2000 (two thousand dollars), with a security deposit of \$4000 (four thousand dollars), seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; was held concerning the type of businesses we want renting. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. King; yes and Ald. Rollins; yes. All approved. Motion passed.
- b. Audit 2020-2022: Rec/Tres. informed council, at the November council meeting, she informed them of the findings for the 2020-2022 Audit, she stated she needed to add she was informed she needs to categorize the employee's payroll by positions paid in all future budgets.
- c. Rail Road Crossings; Safety: Mayor Whitehorn stated they have placed a counter across the road by the railroad tracks off Rose Street. Once the numbers of how many cars cross there is counted, we will know if Railroad crossing lights will be installed. This data will be used to determine if this crossing would qualify for the Section 130 program. The Section 130 program is currently a 100% Federally funded program, that is used to perform safety upgrades at crossings.
- d. Apple Shed Award: Council voted on who will be the next Apple Shed Award recipient.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

New Business

- a. Resolution 07-23 - A Resolution Expressing the Willingness of the Town of Avoca to Utilize States & Street Monies for the Following Project: Avoca; Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Attorney McClure read Resolution No. 07-23 by title only. A motion was made by Ald. Rairdon to approve the reading of Resolution No. 07-23 on its first and final reading. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion: none. Roll call; Ald. King: yes, Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins: yes, Ald. Alvarenga yes, and Ald. Rairdon: yes. All approved. Motion carried.
- b. Resolution 08-23 – Resolution Adopting the 2024 Budget for the Town of Avoca, Arkansas: Attorney McClure read Resolution No. 08-23 by title only. A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to approve the reading of Resolution No. 08-23 on its first and final reading. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: none. Roll call; Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins: yes, Ald. Alvarenga yes, Ald. Rairdon: yes, and Ald. King: yes. All approved. Motion carried.
- c. Resolution 09-23 – Resolution to Amend 2023 Budget Attorney McClure read Resolution No. 09-23 by title only. A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to approve the reading of Resolution No. 09-23 on its first and final reading. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion: none. Roll call; Ald. Rollins: yes, Ald. Alvarenga yes, Ald. Rairdon: yes, Ald. King: yes, Ald. Hansen: yes, All approved. Motion carried.
- d. Fire Department: Discussion was held with the council members and Battalion Chief Davis & Assistant Chief Ervin concerning the pros and cons of the town taking over the Avoca Fire & Rescue Department. This issue was tabled until a later time.

Mayor for the Good of Town – Mayor Whitehorn wanted to emphasize the need for the council to consider in the near future, having a full-time fire department, a police department and an ambulance service for the town.

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

Council Member Hansen – the town is growing and if the town is considering full time fire department, a police department and an ambulance service, then council needs to get serious about annexation and impact fees.

Council Member King – would like the town to see about having the contractors in the new subdivisions do something about the dumpsters and trash all over.

Council Member Alvarenga – None

Council Member Rairdon – stated the council needs to really educate themselves before considering full time fire department, a police department and an ambulance service.

Council Member Rollins - None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes – None

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Regular Planning Meeting scheduled for December 19, 2023
2. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2023
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga and seconded by Ald. Rairdon to adjourn meeting at 7:40 pm.
Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved  _____
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest  _____
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes