



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

Phone/ Fax 479-621-5921

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 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

Butch Stout (Captain - AFD)

Dave Masaria

Ronnie Smith

Jordan Sullivan

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. Rollins. Discussion; none. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

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

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Financial statement

Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Rollins made a motion that copies of all bank statements and receipts be included in the monthly financial report. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion: questions were asked and answered concerning why Ald. Rollins wanted this information, Ald. Alvarenga stated any financial information can be seen during office hours. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; no Ald. Hansen; no, Ald. Rairdon; no, Ald. King; no and Ald. Rollins; yes. Motion failed. Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the October 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

Captain Stout states the Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 48 calls for October, and 485 for the year.

Canceled: 13	Fire: 3	Medical: 28
Public Service: 3	MVC: 1	

2. NEBCO EMS

Rec/Tres. Barnes states NEBCO ran a total of 33 calls for October, and 327 for the year

3. Social-Media

a. None

4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 2 New) for October, 2023

Down Town Poppin – Food Truck
Eagle Permaco; 500 Mary Lane

5. Building & Inspection Permits for October, 2023

None

6. Events

a. Christmas Parade; Saturday, December 2, 2023; Ronnie Smith wanted the council to know they removed Avoca off the name of the parade, and changed it to Country Christmas Parade. Mr. Smith wanted it known that the town of Avoca does not contribute to the parade as they have in the past per the Smiths request.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Hidden Forrest Subdivision (Phase I); Ald. Alvarenga states the road issues are in the process of being fixed.
- b. Hidden Forrest Subdivision (Phase II): No updates.
- c. Tall Trees Subdivision (Phase I): No updates.
- d. Tall Trees Subdivision (Phase II): Trash issue is being taken care of per Ald. Alvarenga.
- e. Conditional Use – Lynn Jordan; 500 Mary Lane was approved. Mr. Jordan has a siding instillation company and wants to move his inventory & equipment to his warehouse that is on his property.

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. None

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. None

4. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

- a. Chris states we should have enough salt and sand for the winter roads. The generator guard rail has been installed, and the tractor has been fixed. The water spicket in the park that had been run over has been fixed. The excess cement at the pavilion across from town hall has been removed. The stencil for the hopscotch has been received. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes and Chris will get together to find a good place to paint it.

5. Streets – Ald. King

- a. Impact Fees: No updates at this time per Ald. King
- b. Rail Road Crossings: Ald. King states he is in contact with the Arkansas Missouri Railroad concerning fixing the RR Crossing at Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Road. They agreed it needs to be repaired and the Rail road will contact Ald. King with an update.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. Pickleball Court: Ald. Hansen will get with Ald. Rairdon concerning any grants to help pay for the new pickleball court. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will remove this issue form the agenda until after the first of the year per Ald. Hansen due to any incoming winter weather.

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon

- a. Ald. Hansen and Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will get together to close out an open grant the town has concerning the little kids play area.

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

- a. No updates

Old Business

1. None

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

New Business

- a. Rental Shop/Warehouse – A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to raise the rent from \$1500 (one thousand, five hundred dollars) to \$2500 (two thousand, five hundred dollars), seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; was held concerning a security deposit and the price per square foot for rental. Ald. Alvarenga amended his motion to rent the warehouse out at \$2500 (two thousand, five hundred dollars) with a security deposit of \$5000 (five thousand dollars). Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; concerning selling the building, and who decides who gets to rent the warehouse out. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. King; yes and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion passed.
- b. Audit 2020-2022 – Recorder/Treasurer Barnes went over the Audit report and informed council the town was written up for a few items. 1. Asset list was not done correctly for the second time and was asked to come in front of the Legislative audit. She informed council she redid it correctly and sent the asset list back to the AR Legislative Audit and was told it was now correct and she didn't need to go in front of them. 2. The town has an open contract with the Avoca Fire Department and NEBCO for the yearly donations. The town needs a contract with the exact amount written in it that the council decides to donate. This needs to be updated yearly. Ald. Rollins questioned why it showed the town gave the Fire Department more money then was agreed upon. She was informed that amount showed the grant money the fire department received, that has to go through the town, and the total amount in the audit report shows the towns donation and the grant money. The town passed the 2020-2022 audit.
- c. Rail Road Crossings; Safety – Mayor Whitehorn is in talks with Lisa J. Taylor | Assistant Railroad Coordinator at the Arkansas Missouri Rail Road concerning placing a crossing arm at the Woods Lodge crossing. They are currently compiling data 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 – Recorder/Treasurer Barnes has asked council members to bring names of someone they would like to nominate for the Apple Shed Award. This will be determined at the December council meeting.
- e. Yellow Bags – A discussion was held concerning discontinuing the yellow bag program. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council members the cost of these bags have doubled and the residents that use the yellow bag program will be paying double what they pay now. Council agreed to keep the program and charge the residents the difference starting January 2024.

Mayor for the Good of Town – The new generator is completed. The guard rail has been placed and the generator will come on automatically if the electricity goes off.

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

Council Member Hansen – is concerned that the turn lanes on HWY 62 have not been painted. She was informed that was an issue with ARDOT. Raising fire dues was brought up and she was told the quorum court has to vote on it two more times and then it will go to the voters. She wanted to let the council know they will be cutting Prairie Creek Road for the new 2-ton water pipe line. Microphones were requested for the council meeting due to being unable to hear other council members when they speak.

Council Member King – None

Council Member Alvarenga – None

Council Member Rairdon – wanted council members to know a kid was attacked on the park by a dog this weekend and would like something done about loose dogs. She questioned if there were any Air B & Bs

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

inside the town limits of Avoca. She was informed none at this time but there will be once the motorcycle museum goes in.

Council Member Rollins - None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes – was asked by the Avoca Assistant Fire Chief to invite all council members to the Fire Departments Christmas Party on Friday December 8th at the VFW. She requested all council members make sure she has all their banking information for their end of the year checks.

Announcements

1. Regular Planning Meeting scheduled for November 21, 2023
2. Budget Meeting scheduled for December 11, 2023
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023
4. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2023

Adjournment:


A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga and seconded by Ald. Rairdon to adjourn meeting at 7:27 pm.

Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,


Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved



Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest



Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes