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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2024

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, Katie Rairdon, Oscar Alvarenga, Jay King and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: None

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Absent: None

Guests

Zach Oldebeken (Chief - AFD)

Linda Council

Ronie Smith

Michael Kalagias

Jessica Vasquez

Larry Russell

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

Ald. Rairdon made a motion for consent of agenda. 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.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

Ald. Rairdon made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 2024 regular council meeting, as written.

Seconded by Ald. Rollins. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald.

Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Rairdon; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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Financial Statement

Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Alvarenga made a motion to accept the July 2024 financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. Hasen. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried

Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

Chief Oldebeken states the Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 49 calls for June, and 299 for the year.

Canceled: 7	Medical: 35	Public: 1
Fire: 2	Misc: 4	

Chief Oldebeken presented the council with the utility bills and canceled checks showing their portion of the community room that they have received and have paid. Currently, their amounts and the towns do not match. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes stated she will investigate it and let the council know the amounts the town shows, and if she made a mistake, she apologizes. With advisement from town attorney McClure, Mayor Whitehorn offered to meet with Chief Oldebeken, Recorder/Treasurer Barnes and himself to go over all utility bills to make sure everything is correct, and if this could not be resolved then an in-house audit could be done. Chief Oldebeken stated, the fire department was fine with the figures they presented to the council, and he did not want to have a meeting with Mayor Whitehorn and Recorder/Treasurer Barnes. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes stated she will recheck all figures and let the fireboard and town council know what is found.

Chief Oldebeken was asked about the new OSHA Laws that are being proposed concerning volunteer fire departments. He stated that this is only proposed, and the safety of his firefighters was important. When asked how the fire department was going to pay for all the changes that this law entails, Fire Chief Oldebeken stated he wasn't ready to answer that question at this time.

2. NEBCO EMS

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, NEBCO ran a total of 37 calls for July in the Avoca area.

3. Social-Media

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council members Ron Bird with Design Works will be contacting them concerning their email accounts.

4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 0 New) for June 2024 – Rec/Tres. Barnes

No Update

5. Building & Inspection Permits for June 2024 – Rec/Tres. Barnes

No Update

6. Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

Mayor Whitehorn had a discussion with the owners of Latham Cabinets about a town fireworks exhibit for the 4th of July. He asked the council to think about this, and it will be discussed in more detail during the December Budget meeting.

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7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to purchase the 2022 Lane Shark LS-3 Fel Mounted Brush Cutter from Springdale Tractor Co. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: Ald. Alvarenga asked about the warranty and the size of the limbs it can cut. He was informed the warranty information was not in hand and if needed that information it could be given to him the next day. He stated he didn't feel comfortable approving this without seeing the warranty. It was mentioned the need for this piece of equipment and how the town was starting to get calls with complaints concerning the overgrowth on the sides of the roads and the safety of being able to see around corners. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; no and Ald. Alvarenga; no. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

Chairman Alvarenga stated he was not at the July planning meeting. The Zoning Book will be gone over at the August Planning meeting.

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

No Update

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. Zoning Official DePue stated letters have been sent to 3 residents for Unsightly and Unsanitary. These homeowners and businesses have been working on cleaning these issues up.
- b. Town Attorney McClure states the letter that was sent to 1 resident for abandoned property/house has been returned, he asked if council wanted him to pursue this and the council agreed to proceed with judgment.

4. Streets – Mayor Whitehorn

Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Mayor Whitehorn stated the resurfacing of these roads should be started soon.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

Pickleball Court: Ald. Hansens will meet with Recorder/Treasurer Barnes to start the bidding process on this project.

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. Hansen

Ald. Rairdon states she has no updates at this time.

8. Animal Control – Ald. Rollins

Ald. Rollins reported she has used her personal chip reader to help a pet reunite with its owner, no other town updates at this time.

9. Personnel – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. King

No Update

10. Annexation – Ald. King/Ald. Rollins

No update

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Old Business

a. Rental Shop/Warehouse

Rent: Mayor Whitehorn informed the council, once the roof is fixed, we will rent the warehouse.

Pursley: Attorney McClure stated Paul Pursley has until August 26, 2024, to file an answer to the towns lawsuit that was filed against him.

Roof: Mayor Whitehorn stated we have had a hard time finding a roofer, and at this time, we are waiting on an estimate from a roofer who came and met with Mayor Whitehorn.

b. Raising Permit & Building Fee

On the advice of town attorney McClure, this issue will be removed from the agenda, fee changes will be discussed at the December budget meeting.

c. Tornado Disaster

ER*Assist: Mayor Whitehorn and Recorder/Treasurer Barnes have had meetings with FEMA and ER*Assist to discuss damages.

Pavilion repair: Mayor Whitehorn stated we have had a hard time finding a roofer, and at this time, we are waiting on an estimate from a roofer who came and met with Mayor Whitehorn. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, she received another payment form the insurance company for the recoverable depreciation

Fence repair: The Fence Guys will be here on August 26, 2024, to repair the fence. It should take a couple days. Ald. Hansen asked if FEMA will be helping the town with any of the fence repair.

New Business

None

***At this time Ald. Alvarenga left the meeting, stating he had to go to work.

Mayor for the Good of Town – Mayor for the Good of Town

Mayor Whitehorn informed council members he will be meeting with people from the railroad and ARDOT on September 25th. He stated the railroad would like to close the crossing at Tucks Chapel Road and Old Wire Road. Mayor Whitehorn and the Council members all agreed this would not be good for the traffic inside the town of Avoca and would hinder it.

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

Council Member Hansen: None

Council Member King: None

Council Member Alvarenga: Absent

Council Member Rairdon: None

Council Member Rollins: None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: informed council the town hall will be closed from August 26 thru Sept 3, she will have her laptop in case anyone needed anything. She will be out for knee surgery.

Council members were reminded, elections are this year for the council members.

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Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:30 pm
2. Fire Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 5:50 pm
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6:30 pm
4. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024, immediately after Planning

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Rairdon and seconded by Ald. King to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm.
Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved 
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest 
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes