



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 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, and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: Oscar Alvarenga and Jay King

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Absent: Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Guests

Zach Oldebeken (Chief - AFD)

Jordan Dinoffria (?)

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. Hansen. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, and Ald. Rairdon; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2024 regular council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, and Ald. Hansen; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Financial Statement

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

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 2024

Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

- a. Chief Oldebeken states the Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 35 calls for June, and 285 for the year. ***No other information was provided.

Chief Oldebeken wanted the council to know, he believed it was a waste of his time and there was no value in him having to come to these council meetings, just to read off a couple of numbers, when he could be at home with his family. Council members expressed how they felt it was good PR for someone from the fire department to be here. It didn't have to be him, but they did want someone here who was either a captain or a chief, so they could answer any questions the council may ask. Ald. Hansen explained, this was an agreement with the previous fire chief, when the council donated funds to help the fire department with shift work. Chief Oldebeken stated in that case, he would like the council members to come to the fire board meetings. It was brought to his attention, that, two members of the council were on the fire board, one council member was a fire fighter and others have gone to them. Chief Oldebeken stated, he will inform Recorder/Treasurer Barnes when the monthly fire board meetings will be and she will add them to the announcements. At this time Chief Oldebeken stated again, he was a busy man, and this was just a waste of his time and felt he shouldn't have to be there, nor should any of his fire fighters. Mayor Whitehorn stated he wanted a breakdown of calls as we have had in the past. Ald. Rollins stated she didn't think anyone needed to be here. Ald. Hansen, Ald. Rairdon and Mayor Whitehorn all agreed they would like to see someone here monthly. Majority ruled, it was agreed, an Avoca Fire Chief or Captain needs to be at monthly council meetings.

2. NEBCO EMS

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, NEBCO ran a total of 24 calls for June and 2 inside the city limits

3. Social-Media

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes states all social media is up to date.

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

- a. No Update

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

- a. No Update

6. Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. No Update

7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

- a. No Update

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Zoning Book - The next meeting concerning the Zoning Book will be discussed at the July Planning meeting.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 2024

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. No Update

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. No Update

4. Streets – Mayor Whitehorn

- a. Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Mayor Whitehorn stated he has no update at this time.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. Pickleball Court: Ald. Hansens states no update. We are waiting to start this project, until after Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Road gets paved. We are waiting to see if there is any ARPA money left over from that project to help fund the Pickleball project. Ald. Hansen would like to keep this project on the agenda.

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. Hansen

- a. Discussion was held concerning new playground equipment: purchasing new and/or replacing the current playground equipment.

8. Animal Control – Ald. Rollins

- a. Animal Control: Ald. Rollins reported she had no update at this time.

9. Personnel – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. King

- a. No Update

10. Annexation – Ald. King/Ald. Rollins

- a. No update

Old Business

- a. Rental Shop/Warehouse; Town Attorney McClure state he is working on this issue.
- b. Raise Permit Fees: This issue was again tabled until the August council meeting due to council members wanting all members to be in attendance.
- c. New IT Company: Rec/Tres. informed council the new laptop and fire wall have been installed. Kinks are still being worked out.
- d. Security Cameras for Park & Town Hall: Rec/Tres. Barnes explained to council the new cameras have been installed.
- e. Tornado Disaster
 - i. ER*Assist
 - (a) Update – Fences; AML did not pay for the damaged fence, and stated we are not covered. The council decided not to purchase insurance for fences due to cost and deductible. Pavilion: AML did pay to have the tree removed and the roof fixed. Mayor Whitehorn stated he has been trying to get a roofer to come look at that roof and the rental warehouse roof. All roofers are busy at this time.

MINUTES
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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 2024

New Business

a. None

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

Mayor Whitehorn informed council members he had nothing at this time.

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

Council Member Hansen: stated she would like a microphone system so she could hear better, maybe, in the future, live stream the council meetings.

Council Member King: Absent

Council Member Alvarenga: Absent

Council Member Rairdon: None

Council Member Rollins: None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: None

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 6:30 pm
2. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6:30 pm
3. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024, immediately after Planning Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Rairdon and seconded by Ald. Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved Robert Whitehorn
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest Nanette Barnes
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes