



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 11, 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 Jay King, and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: Oscar Alvarenga

Staff

Present: Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Absent: None

Guests

Zach Oldebeken (Chief - AFD)

Craig Rairdon

Laurel Matula (ER* Assist)

Shawn Mills

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

Ald. Hansen made a motion for consent of agenda. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, and Ald. King; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

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

Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Hansen; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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Financial Statement

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

Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

- a. Chief Oldebeken states the Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 74 calls for May, and 250 for the year.

Canceled: 12	Combustibles/Leaks: 1	Medical: 31	Misc: 18
Fire: 2	Electrical: 5	Public: 5	
- b. The Avoca Fire & Rescue received a new 3000-gallon water Tender Truck from Benton County this week. The 1999 Tender Truck they currently have, will be returned to Benton County.
- c. The Avoca Fire & Rescue Departments annual Fire Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27th for elections of the fireboard. Chief Oldebeken states you must be present and show proof of residence of the Avoca Fire Response area, to be able to vote. The regular fireboard meeting will be held after the elections.
- d. Mayor Whitehorn informed Chief Oldebeken, Friday, June 14th is Flag Day, and the VFW is holding a ceremony to burn old American flags, and asked if any fire fighters would like to be present. Chief thanked the Mayor and said he would look into it.

2. NEBCO EMS

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, NEBCO ran a total of 41 calls for May and 1 inside the city limits

3. Social-Media

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes states she has been trying to put as much information as she can on the town website and Facebook site, concerning FEMA and help with the Tornado. The town sign up at Hwy 62 has been updated to say thank you to all groups and agencies that have helped during the disaster. Website addresses and phone numbers for people to call for help is also on the town sign.

4. Business Permits (0 Renewal & 1 New) for May, 2024 – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. BJ Burns & Joy Foster Vegetables

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

Josh Henderson; BC Home Improvement LLC; 932 Red Cedar Place; New House

6. Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. None

7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

- a. Update

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Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Zoning Book - The next meeting concerning the Zoning Book will be discussed at the June Planning meeting.
- b. Hidden Forrest Subdivision (Phase II); No new update

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. None

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. No Update

4. Streets – Mayor Whitehorn

- a. Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Mayor Whitehorn stated if he doesn't hear from ARDOT by next week, he will be calling them to see when they will be starting this project.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. Pickleball Court: Ald. Hansens states they 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.

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. Hansen

- a. No update

8. Animal Control – Ald. Rollins

- a. Animal Control: Ald. Rollins reported she looked for over twelve hours for grants to help with stray animals. She states she could not find any that would help the town. Ald. Rollins states she has gone on her own personal Facebook page and helped some people reconnect with their lost pets. Ald. Rollins states she purchased a chip scanner/reader from her own personal funds to see if a stray animal is chipped. When asked if she was doing this personally or for the town she stated personally. When asked, Ald. Rollins agreed to tag the Town of Avoca's Facebook page on any lost pets so, Rec/Tres. Barnes will know if someone contacts her concerning a lost pet.

9. Personnel – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. King

- a. None

10. Annexation – Ald. King/Ald. Rollins

- a. No update

Old Business

- a. Rental Shop/Warehouse; Rec/Tres. Barnes has given Town Attorney McClure all receipts pertaining to the warehouse repairs. She will email Attorney McClure pictures of the damage to the warehouse before repairs were made.

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Old Business

- b. Rental Shop/Warehouse; Rec/Tres. Barnes has given Town Attorney McClure all receipts pertaining to the warehouse repairs. She will email Attorney McClure pictures of the damage to the warehouse before repairs were made.
- c. Raise Permit Fees: A motion was made by Ald. Rairdon to table issue until the July meeting, so council member Alvarenga could be in attendance. Seconded by Ald. Rollins. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, and Ald. Rollins; yes, All approved. Motion carried.
- d. New IT Company: Rec/Tres. informed council the new laptop and fire wall has been ordered and should be in and installed soon. Once new IT is all set up and ready to go, council members might be getting new email addresses or they will be updated.
- e. Security Cameras for Park & Town Hall: Rec/Tres. Barnes explained to council the new cameras will be installed the week of June 24th. States sit should only take a couple days to install.

New Business

- a. Tornado Disaster
 - i. Disaster Proclamation; Proclamation was read by Attorney McClure, signed by Mayor Whitehorn, and Rec/Tres. Barnes
 - ii. ER*Assist
 - (a) Contract; A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to accept ER*Assists Contract Agreement - for: Disaster Response & Recovery Services, Seconded by Ald. Rollins. Discussion: concerning fees, timeline, type of work they do. Roll call: Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes. Motion passed.
 - (b) Update – Laurel Mutula came in and discussed what FEMA does, what ER*Assist does, and the timeline for work that needs to be done.
 - iii. Contract Vegetation Debris Removal Company
 - (a) Mills Tree Service: A motion was made by Ald. Hansen for the Town of Avoca to hire Mills Tree Service to pick up tornado storm vegetation debris from the easement of Avoca residents' yards and to trim trees and brush from the sides of the town limit roads. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: time frame, fees, permits, ER*Assist help, dump sites, how many times he will go and pick up vegetation debris from each street, residents will have to pile the vegetation debris at the road – Mills Tree Service cannot go onto personal property to get any debris. Roll call: Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, and Ald. King; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Whitehorn informed council members, he is in talks with Avoca Fire Chief Oldebeken about making an Emergency Plan for the Town of Avoca, for any future disasters.

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

Council Member Hansen: Asked Rec/Tres. Barnes to purchase American Flags for the poles around town
Council Member King: States he was going to go talk to the resident on Hobbs where the fence got blown over by the tornado, to see if he was going to repair it due to his dog and the property being adjacent to the town park.

Council Member Alvarenga: Absent

Council Member Rairdon: Asked that something be done with the trash pile at the trailer at Hobbs and Old Prairie Creek Road. Rec/Tres. Barnes states she will send another letter, stating if it doesn't get cleaned up the next step will be to the town attorney.

Council Member Rollins: None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: None

Upcoming Meetings:


1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm
2. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2024, immediately after Planning Meeting
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm
4. Planning Special Meeting (Zoning Book) scheduled for TBA

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Rairdon and seconded by Ald. Rollins to adjourn meeting at 7:25 pm.
Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved 
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest 
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes