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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 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, Oscar Alvarenga (arrived after roll call), Jay King, and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: Katie Rairdon

Staff

Present: Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Absent: Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Guests

Cody Hahn (Captain - AFD)

Jody Latham

Linda Council

Kim Whitehorn

Steve Latham

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. Roll call:

Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins; 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 April 2024 regular council meeting, as written.

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

Hansen; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Financial Statement

Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. King made a motion to accept the April 2024

financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald.

King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried.

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Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

- a. Captain Hahn states the Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 32 calls for April, and 176 for the year.

Canceled: 4	Fire Structure: 4	Medical: 17
Fire Outside: 2	Fire Vehicle: 1	Public: 6

2. NEBCO EMS

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, NEBCO ran a total of 54 calls for March and 125 for the year.

3. Social-Media

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes states she has started promoting seasonal businesses

4. Business Permits (2 Renewal & 4 New) for April, 2024 – Rec/Tres. Barnes

East Lawn Care
Matts Auto Sales
Mr. E Appliances
Quilted Ornaments NW Arkansas
Snoderly Farms
Sy-Con Excavation & Utilities, LLC

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

Robert & Kim Whitehorn: 448 Prairie Creek Road; New House

6. Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. Avoca Town Clean-Up was a great success. Per Recorder/Treasurer Barnes approximately 32 tons of bulk trash, 5 tons of metal and 44 tires were collected.

7. ARPA – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. Rec/Tres. Barnes informed council the 2023 ARPA compliance reports are all completed and up to date. All remaining funds must be accounted for as of December 31, 2024. Funds do not need to be used, they just need to be allotted for. Rec/Tres. Barnes states, she allotted the funds, if needed, to be used for the Old Wire and Tucks Chapel Road re-pavement project. If any funds are left over, they will be allotted to help build the new pickle ball court.

8. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

- a. No update

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Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Zoning Book – Meeting was held on April 17th to continue to update and go over changes to the zoning book. The next meeting concerning the Zoning Book will be discussed at the May 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. Dumpster Fences: Zoning Official DePue states there are no updates at this time concerning the dumpster fencing.

4. Streets – Mayor Whitehorn

- a. Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Mayor Whitehorn stated the remainder of the ARPA money might be needed if any extra costs occur. Tree roots at the S-curve of Tucks Chapel Road will be removed before the road is re-paved. After Tucks Chapel Road is re-paved, the town will place signs stating dangerous curve ahead, concerning the S-curve.
- b. New Banners: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes showed council pictures of the new regular and seasonal street banners. Council approved. Cost falls under Mayor's purview, so no vote was need.

6. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. Pickleball Court: Any leftover ARPA money will be used toward building a new pickleball court. Ald. Hansens and Rec/Tres. Barnes will get together within the next few weeks to go over bid packets for this project.
- b. Bike Repair Station: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes contacted Ben Craig about the bikers donating funds for this project. His stated he would look into it. Council decided, if the bikers donate the funds for a bike station, they will put it in, but the town will not contribute any monetary funds to this project. Council discussed the pros and cons of street bikes in the town limits and all the complaints the town is receiving. Ald. King, states he supports the bikers and does not want Avoca to be known as the small town that doesn't support bikers.
- c. Park Vandalism: Pictures were shown to Ald. Hansen of all the vandalism and graffiti that was done to the park – she was absent form Aprils council meeting.
- d. Fence Painting: Rec/Tres. Barnes showed council members pictures of fences that have been painted with pictures of flowers, and stated she would like to have Rogers Mounties and Heritage art students/classes compete in a contest and have the winner paint a mural on the park fence by the volleyball court/future pickle ball court. Council members all agreed this would be a great idea. Ald. Alvarenga, was concerned about graffiti and it was discussed that the town would need to ask the residents on Hobbs who own the fences for their permission. Ald. Hansen and Rec/Tres. Barnes will meet to go over this issue at a later date. School will be out soon, so this will be a future 2024-2025 project.

7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. Hansen

- a. No update

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8. Animal Control – Ald. Rollins

- a. Animal Control: Ald. Rollins states she filled out a couple grants then realized, the grants have either expired or the grants wouldn't work for the town of Avoca. She is still researching other types of grant options. She will also contact Clay Morgan at the Humane Society for his help on grants and will look into a chip reader to be placed at town hall for people who find lost dogs.

9. Personnel – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. King

- a. None

10. Annexation – Ald. King/Ald. Rollins

- a. No update

Old Business

- a. Rental Shop/Warehouse; Mayor Whitehorn states Mills Construction has been contracted to replace the damaged metal on the rental warehouse. Weather permitting, the work should start in a few days. Once, this project is completed, Mayor Whitehorn will walk around and inspect the warehouse for any further work that needs to be done. Once all work is complete, the final figures will be sent to the town attorney for further action.
- b. Raise Permit Fees: A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to table issue until the June Council meeting, so council member Rairdon could be in attendance. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, and Ald. Alvarenga; yes. All approved. Motion carried.
- c. New IT Company: Rec/Tres. Barnes and Mayor Whitehorn informed council members they contacted 4 different IT companies for quotes. Out of the 4 companies, 1 did not show and 1 did not send us a quote. The other two were Pinnacle IT and JH Computer Group. Motion was made by Ald. Hansen to accept Pinnacle IT's quote for a new laptop, firewall, and monthly service. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion was held on the differences of the two companies, the types of back-ups they provide, their yearly service fees, and what type of computers they each offered. Roll call: Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, and Ald. Alvarenga; yes. All approved. Motion carried. Rec/Barnes will contact both companies with the decision the council made.
- d. Security Cameras for Park & Town Hall: Mayor Whitehorn and Rec/Tres. Barnes explained to council they contacted 5 different companies and only received 2 estimates. Motion was made by Ald. Hansen to accept Ozark Home Technologies quote for a new security system, for the inside & outside of town hall and around all town parks, play areas & pavilions. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion was held on the differences of the two companies, fees, types and how many cameras. Roll call: Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. Rollins; no, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, and Ald. King; yes. Motion carried. Rec/Barnes will contact both companies with the decision the council made.

New Business

- a. None

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

Mayor Whitehorn informed council members, after the railroad conducted their testing, they have found the railroad crossing at Woods Lodge and Rose does meet the minimum qualifications for the section 130 program. He will start having diagnostic meetings with the Missouri/Arkansas Railroad, and ARDOT in September.

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

Council Member Hansen: None

Council Member King: None

Council Member Alvarenga: None

Council Member Rairdon: Absent

Council Member Rollins: None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: Informed council members the Food Pantry boxes up at the food court will be removed. The Masonic Lodge and Girl Scouts have not kept up with them and the boxes are falling apart. All books and food will be transported to the Food Pantry and Little Library next to the Avoca Town Hall.

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm
2. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm
3. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2024, immediately after Planning Meeting
4. Planning Special Meeting (Zoning Book) scheduled for TBA


Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga and seconded by Ald. Hansen to adjourn meeting at 7:38 pm.

Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved  _____
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest  _____
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes