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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 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, Jay King and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: Katie Rairdon

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Absent: None

Guests

NEBCO Chief Rob Taylor

Marc Hayet

Chad Slater

Terrie Slater

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

Ald. Alvarenga made a motion for the consent of agenda. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; 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 October 2024 regular council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Hansen; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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Financials:

- a. October Report: Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the October 2024 financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried.
- b. ARPA Funds: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council members she contacted Arkansas Municipal League who is working with her with the final steps of the allotment of these funds, the resolutions needed, and the closing of the bank account.
- c. Budget Meeting: The 2025 budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 5:30 pm. The final budget will be approved at the regular December Council meeting.
- d. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council the 2025 millage is now 4.51%. It went down due to the Arkansas Constitution Amendment 79 and Arkansas State Statue 26-26-402; countywide reappraisal.

Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 63 calls for the month of October and 445 for the year.

Canceled: 8 Fire: 19 Medical: 30 Misc.: 6

*** There was no one at the meeting representing the fire department

2. NEBCO EMS

a. Calls: Chief Taylor informed council, NEBCO ran a total of 39 calls for October in the Avoca area.

Lift Assists: 4 Medical: 27 MVC:

b. Station: Chief Taylor informed council, NEBCO would like to build an EMS station inside the town limits of Avoca. It would be a 24-hour manned living station with 2 bays and 2 ambulances. They are asking if the town can help with this project. Attorney McClure suggested NEBCO come back to the council with some figures and exact items that they would like the Town of Avoca to help them with. Council members informed Chief Taylor they were very happy and very interested in having an EMS service inside the town limits.

3. Social Media

a. Emails: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes asked council members to make sure to get with Ron at Design works if they are having problems setting up their emails. This needs to be done ASAP.

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

None

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

Skyline Construction on NWA; 601 Hidden Forrest Cove– New house

Skyline Construction on NWA; 520 Hidden Forrest Trail – New house

6. Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

a. None

7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers.

Chris let council know the tractor was fixed. They are waiting for the leaves to finish falling before they start picking them up.

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Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Zoning Book: Ald. Alvarenga informed council Recorder/Treasurer is making the changes the planning members wanted.
- b. Franklin Miller; Hidden Forrest – Phase II Final Plat: At this time, this plat was denied.

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

No Update – will be meeting in December.

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. Zoning Official DePue stated three (3) unsightly and unsanitary letters went out to residents. He is waiting to hear back from them, or to see if any work has been done.

4. Streets – Mayor Whitehorn

- a. Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Mayor Whitehorn stated the resurfacing and stripping are completed on these roads.
- b. Dance Road: Mayor Whitehorn let council know Dancer is no longer a dead-end road and is now tied into the new subdivision. Ald. Alvarenga asked about the tree roots that are tearing up the road. Mayor Whitehorn stated they were fine and will be asphalted over.

5. Park – Ald. Hansen

- a. Pickleball Court: The new pickleball court has been started.
- b. Wooden Fence Repair/Replace: More options were discussed concerning replacing the wooden rail fences around the parks due to termites. Mayor Whitehorn will get prices for hedges.

6. Grants – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. Hansen

- a. Playground Equipment: No Update
- b. Black plastic barrier for rubber mulch: No update
- c. Fence: No Update

8. Animal Control – Ald. Rollins

Ald. Rollins reported she has no current updates.

9. Personnel – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. King

Ald. King reported no updates.

10. Annexation – Ald. King/Ald. Rollins

Tucks Chapel Road: This issue is on hold per Mayor Whitehorn

Old Business

- a. Rose Street Warehouse
 - i. Pursley: Attorney McClure stated Mr. Pursley has until December 15th, to respond.
 - ii. Roof: Mayor Whitehorn informed the council we hired a contractor to fix the roof. They will begin work next week.
- b. Tornado Disaster
 - i. ER*Assist: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes states ER*Assist has been working with FEMA on the town's behalf.

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New Business

- a. Resolution 07-24; A Resolution Amending the Towns 2024 Budget and ARPA Grant Budget to appropriate costs. Attorney McClure read Resolution 07-24 in its entirety. A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to accept Resolution 07-24 on its first and final reading. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: none. Roll Call: Ald. King: yes, Ald. Hansen: yes, Ald. Rollins: yes, Ald. Alvarenga: yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Whitehorn was asked by Premier Broadband to have council members, recorder/treasurer and himself sign letters of support for them to receive a grant to get fiber out to rural areas around Avoca for residents to get internet. All council members agreed and signed a letter of support.

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

Council Member Hansen: for safety reasons, she would like the town to make it so all bicyclist have to have a light on their bikes at night. Donating or selling the rental warehouse to NEBCO was an option she brought up to the council.

Council Member King: None

Council Member Alvarenga: None

Council Member Rairdon: None

Council Member Rollins: None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: None

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm
2. Fire Board Meeting scheduled for November: TBD
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:30 pm
4. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024, immediately after Planning Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga and seconded by Ald. King to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm. Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved 
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest 
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes