



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

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MINUTES  
TOWN OF AVOCA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 8, 2024

**Call to order**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Whitehorn

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of silence**

**Public forum (Agenda item)**

Steve & Jody Latham asked about council term limits, and the regulations on becoming a council member. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will get them this information.

**Council Roll Call – by Rec/Tres. Barnes**

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

ALD: Katie Rairdon, Kathy Hansen, Oscar Alvarenga, Jay King and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: None

**Staff**

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Absent: None

**Guests**

Steve Latham

Jody Latham

Avoca Fire Chief Oldebeken

**Declaration of quorum**

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

**Consent of Agenda**

Ald. King made a motion for the consent of the amended agenda ( Ald. Alvarenga placed Dancer Road under streets). Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. 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. Hansen made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 2024 regular council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. 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**

- a. Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Alvarenga made a motion to accept the September 2024 financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried.
- b. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council members she contacted 1<sup>st</sup> Western Bank concerning the banking fees the town has been having to pay. She had them reversed and the council will see a refund on next month's financial statement. She also got the interest rates increased to 3.0% for the next six months on the money market accounts.
- c. ARPA Funds: Mayor Whitehorn asked Ald. Rollins if she received an email concerning these funds and the date the funds must be used by. She had not received the email. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will forward her the email. Ald. Rollins will have a report at the November meeting.

**Staff Reports:**

**1. Avoca Fire & Rescue**

Avoca Fire Chief Oldebeken informed council, Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 33 calls for the month of September and 382 for the year.

          Canceled: 3      Fire: 1      Medical: 28      Water: 1

**2. NEBCO EMS**

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council, NEBCO ran a total of 38 calls for September in the Avoca area.

          Lift Assists: 2      Medical: 27      MVC: 9

**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 & 2 New) for September 2024 – Rec/Tres. Barnes**

A Bikers Garage  
ABC Riches

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

Clements Home Inc.; Clayton Ridgley - 878 Tucks Chapel Road: New House  
Jesus Caldera; 926 Tucks Chapel Road: New house  
Juan Salinas-Mandujano; 480 Rader Road: Barn-dominium/House  
Natural Energy Solutions, LLC; 370 Old Wire Road: Solar Panels

**6. Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes**

- a. Inmates: Streets: Inmates came and cleaned trash off the streets inside the town limits last week per Recorder/Treasurer Barnes
- b. Fall Clean-up & Tree Give Away: October 19<sup>th</sup> : Carroll Electric has volunteered to have an arborist here to instruct residents who get a free tree, how to plant and care for the tree.

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- c. Trunk R Treat; October 26<sup>th</sup> : Everything is all ready for this event per Recorder/Treasurer Barnes. School List for Student Hours: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes has been in contact with the Rogers School systems to help local high school kids get their community hours while volunteering at the Avoca events. She has placed flyers around town and on the social media pages to let parents know this.

**7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers.**

Chris let council know the tractor was overheating and is at Springdale Tractor getting fixed.

**Committee Reports:**

**1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga**

- a. Zoning Book: Ald. Alvarenga informed council the planning members finished making changes on the zoning book. Recorder/Treasurer is making these changes, once she is done, she will send the book to town attorney McClure for his input, it will then go back to NWARPC for their final approval. Once they approve it, the book will come before the council to pass it by an ordinance.
- b. The Planning Commission has a new planning member: Rec/Tres. Barnes swore Jordan Dinoffria in on September 17, 2024.

**2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga**

No Update

**3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue**

- a. Zoning Official DePue stated he talked to someone at 187 Woods Lodge Road who stated they were in the process of purchasing the home. They were told the property needed to be cleaned up. At this time no clean-up has been done, Zoning Official DePue states the for-sale sign is still up and he will contact the realtor.

**4. Streets – Mayor Whitehorn**

- a. Old Wire & Tucks Chapel Roads: Mayor Whitehorn stated the resurfacing of these roads have been completed and they will come back later to restripe them.
- b. Dance Road: Ald. Alvarenga states there are tree roots that are tearing up the road. Mayor Whitehorn will contact Franklin Miller about resurfacing that area when he opens Dancer into the new subdivision.

**6. Park – Ald. Hansen**

- a. Pickleball Court: Ald. Hansens and Recorder/Treasurer Barnes met with Attorney McClure to start the bidding process on this project. Attorney McClure is working on the bid packet.
- b. Wooden Fence Repair/Replace: Options were discussed concerning replacing the wooden rail fences around the parks due to termites. Ald. Hansen will investigate the different options that were discussed: Rot Iron Fencing, Large Rocks/Boulders, Sidewalks, Piping with Cables or Pedestals with Chains.

**7. Grants – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. Hansen**

Mayor Whitehorn has asked Ald. Rairdon and Ald. Hansen to look into grants for new playground equipment. The equipment in the park we have now needs to be replaced.

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**8. Animal Control – Ald. Rollins**

Ald. Rollins reported she has no current updates.

**9. Personnel – Ald. Rairdon/Ald. King**

Ald. King states we have a new planning member: Jordan Dinoffria

**10. Annexation – Ald. King/Ald. Rollins**

Tucks Chapel Road: Ald. King and Ald. Hansen will contact Josh Henderson concerning this issue to get it started.

**Old Business**

a. Rose Street Warehouse

- i. Pursley: Attorney McClure stated he is pursuing this issue and will have an update at the November council meeting.
- ii. Roof: Mayor Whitehorn informed the council T. Mills Construction has been hired to fix the roof. We are waiting for it to rain to see where the holes are.

b. Tornado Disaster

- i. ER\*Assist: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes states ER\*Assist has been working with FEMA on the town's behalf and all projects are now completed. FEMA states they will pay 75% of damages and the state and other agencies are fighting for them to pay 100% of damages.

c. RR Crossings

- i. Rose Street: Mayor Whitehorn and Recorder/Treasurer Barnes met with ARDOT and the Arkansas Missouri Railroad, there will be gates placed at the railroad crossing on Rose Street. It will take about a year to be placed. This will be paid for through a grant and will be at no cost to the town of Avoca.
- ii. Tucks Chapel Road (crossing over Hwy 62 & Old Wire Road): will be fixed so cars will be able to safely be able to go over it.

**New Business**

- a. Neon Sign: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council the town sign at the food court has a module board out and will need to be repaired. They agreed. The cost is under the mayor's purview, so no motion was needed. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will contact Best Sign and Banner to have it repaired.

**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.

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

Council Member Hansen: wanted to make sure Avoca was receiving sales tax from local businesses. She also wanted the town to think of things for the biker to do in town during Bikes Blues and BBQ. She asked the Avoca Fire Chief about fire fighter shifts and getting a rundown of how many days a month are being covered and how much money is being paid out for shift work.

Council Member King: states he will not be available for the town clean-up this year. He also wanted us to know there were four lights out in the park.

Council Member Alvarenga: None

Council Member Rairdon: None

Council Member Rollins: None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: asked the council members to let her know all committee dates and who attended these meetings so she can get them paid in December. She also wanted to let council members know she has had great response about having to reserve the pavilions for events. Residents like it.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 6:30 pm
2. Fire Board Budget Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:30 pm
3. Fire Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2024, at 6:00 pm
4. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:30 pm
5. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024, immediately after Planning Meeting

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ald. King and seconded by Ald. Alvarenga to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nanette Barnes  
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved   
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest   
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes