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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2025

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Whitehorn

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Public forum (Agenda item)

Nichlous Wilkerson requested 2 years of council minutes, financials and audio recordings. When asked for his contact information, he stated he would not give that information publicly and would provide that information after the meeting.

Council Roll Call – by Rec/Tres. Barnes

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

ALD: Katie Rairdon, Travis Aikins, Jay King and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: ALD: Oscar Alvarenga

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Absent: None

Guests

Rob Taylor – NEBCO Fire Chief

Mike Kalagias

Jessica Vasquez

Larry Russell

Jim Mills

Curnel Everett

Nichlous Wilkerson

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

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

Consent of minutes for council meeting

February 2025: Ald. King made a motion to accept the minutes of the February council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Aikins. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; absent, Ald. Rairdon, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Aikins; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2025

Financials:

February Report: Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Aikins made a motion to accept the February 2025 financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; absent, Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins; yes, and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire & Rescue

a. Calls: Per Larry Russell; Avoca Fire & Rescue ran a total of 34 calls for the month of February and 92 for the year.

Canceled: 5 Fire: 3 Medical: 24 Misc: 1 Public Assist: 1

b. Shifts: The Fire Station was staffed 21 days in March per Larry Russell.

2. NEBCO EMS

a. Calls: Per Chief Taylor; NEBCO ran a total of 36 calls for February 2025 in the Avoca area and 80 for the year.

EMS: 30 Fire: 3 Lift Assist: 2 MVC: 1

b. Station: Chief Taylor wanted to update the council concerning the new ambulance station, NEBCO: is putting in Avoca. He states the original property they were looking at purchasing would not perk, they are looking at another area and will keep the council updated. Council members thanked Chief Taylor for all his updates.

3. Social Media

a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council members she was setting up a meeting with Ron Bird at Design Works to update the town's webpage.

4. Business Permits (16 Renewal & 0 New) for February 2025 – Rec/Tres. Barnes

A to Z Golf Cars, LLC	Goodwood	OCH; Benton County
Acacia Cabinets, LLC	Harris Seamless Guttering	Tacos El Cholo Food Truck
Beaver Storage, LLC	Johns Lawn Maintenance	Taqueria Los Brothers Food Truck
Charley's Tree Service	Lamar Outdoor Advertising	Wolf's Waypoint Marine
Dollar General	Matts Auto Sales	
Eagle Permcoc	Neveria Guerrero Food Truck, LLC	

5. Building & Inspection Permits for February 2025– Rec/Tres. Barnes

DR Horton	159 Nadine Drive	New House
Victors Custom Homes	901 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	917 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	924 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	925 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	933 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	940 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	948 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	973 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	981 Red Cedar Place	New House
DR Horton	988 Red Cedar Place	New House

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2025

6. Town Sanctioned Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

Easter Egg Hunt	April 12, 2025	Saturday	11: 00 am – 12:00 am
Avoca Spring Clean Up	May 10, 2025	Saturday	8:30 am – 11:30 am
Avoca Fall Clean Up	October 11, 2025	Saturday	8:30 am – 12:00 am
Trunk R Treat	October 25, 2025	Saturday	6:00 pm –

***These dates are subject to change ***

7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers.

Chris stated the truck bed, and the plow are both fixed. They are waiting on the weather to start painting the new pickleball court.

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. February 2025 Meeting canceled due to lack of Agenda

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. None

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. Zoning Official DePue stated Mayor Whitehorn, Recorder/Treasurer Barnes and himself are going to drive around town this week to see who needs letters sent out.

4. Streets – Ald. Aikins

- a. No updates

5. Park – Ald. Rairdon

- a. Pickleball Court: Mayor states the paint and nets have been purchased, waiting on the weather to continue this project.
- b. Wooden Fence Repair/Replace: Mayor Whitehorn states he is still looking into different ideas on fencing for the parks, Ald. Raiden recommended Stanley Fencing. Rec/Tres. Barnes will call them to meet with Mayor Whitehorn for some suggestions.

6. Grants – Ald. Rollins

Ald. Rollins states she attended two meetings concerning grants: a matching Art Council Grant & a non-matching Veterans Grant. She will continue to look further into these grant ideas and see about getting help from local residents and veterans.

- a. Playground Equipment: No update on grants to update or replace these specific items
- b. Black plastic barrier for rubber mulch: No update on grants to replace these specific items
- c. Fence: No update on grants to update or replace these specific items

7. Annexation – Ald. King

No updates

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2024

Old Business

- a. Rose Street Warehouse
 - i. Pursley: Attorney McClure states he went to court on February 12, 2025, Mr. Pursley did not show, A body attachment was filed by the Judge. Once picked up, Mr. Pursley will be held, until fines are paid, or payment arrangements are made, depending on what the judge decides to do. Attorney McClure will keep us posted.
- b. Fee Rate Increases – Chairman; Ald Aikins
 - i. Ald Aikins informed council a meeting was held on March 4, 2025 concerning raising the rates for fees in the town of Avoca. It was decided to raise the building permit fees, for any new construction, valued at two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) or more. The town will charge these fees according to the Benton County building permit fee schedule. Mayor Whitehorn will finalize building permit fees less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00). It was also decided the town would raise the fees for a special meeting from four hundred dollars (\$400.00) to six hundred and eighty dollars (\$680.00) to cover the cost of paying the council/planning/BOA members to attend said meetings. All other fees will remain the same. A resolution will be written and presented to the council at the April 8, 2025 council meeting.

New Business

- a. Committees
 - i. Paying non-council members: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes asked council if they wanted her to pay non council/planning members who are consultants at committee meetings. Pros and cons were discussed on this issue. No motion was made, issue did not go further/did not pass.
- b. Business Licenses
 - i. Ald. King made a motion to table having outside contractors pay for a yearly business license while doing business inside the town limits of Avoca. No second. Motion died.
- c. Warehouse
 - i. Leased – Unlimited Contractors LLC; Mayor Whitehorn informed council members, the warehouse has been rented.

Mayor for the Good of Town

None

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

Council Member Aikins - None

Council Member King - None

Council Member Alvarenga - Absent

Council Member Rairdon – asked about health department, unsightly/unsanitary letter/EPA call concerning her grandmother's house on Rose Street and her neighbors.

Council Member Rollins - None

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes - None

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2024

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:30 pm
2. Fire Board Meeting scheduled for March 27, 2025
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 6:30 pm
4. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025, after Planning Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Rollins and seconded by Ald. King to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 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