



These minutes are from the Town of Abita Springs, April 5, 2022, Public Committee Meetings.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Contois moved to open the Finance Committee Meeting and to accept the March 2022 minutes. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. 1.) Jay Hawkins noted that the February Financial Report was sent for review. 2.) Ms. Contois opened discussion of the Town millages. The consensus amongst the council members was that the millage should remain static with no increase. Ms. Contois moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

**GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Saussy moved to open the Governmental Committee Meeting and to accept the March 2022 minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 1.) Mr. Saussy opened discussion of Instrument 2022-003, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ABITA SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD CHAPTER 9, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, TO SECTION 9, TO IMPLEMENT THE TOWN'S STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN; TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS, TO PREVENT THE DISCHARGE OF CONTAMINATED STORMWATER RUNOFF AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS. Ms. Contois' interest in clarifying and strengthening language in the violation section was discussed. Town Attorney, Edward Deano, suggested a reordering of "*Sec.9-913. - Violations and penalties.*" Mr. Deano also suggested adding language to define which professionals were to provide guidance in the event of a violation. Mr. Saussy made a motion to move the ordinance forward favorably, with amendment, seconded by Mr. Murphy. 2.) Discussion of zoning ordinances was the next agenda item. Ms. Contois reiterated her support of moving forward with a comprehensive master plan. Mayor Curtis disclosed that ACSW Architects has provided the Town with a proposal amounting to \$365,000.00. The Mayor explained that with the Town's limited budget, the proposal is currently not a feasible option. He added that review and amendment of clearly problematic and deficient ordinances, specifically in Part 9 of the Town of Abita Springs Code, must be undertaken. Mayor Curtis noted that efforts to put together a team and process to include public input are underway. Mr. Saussy noted that public input will be part of the process. Mr. Saussy moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Randolph, acting on behalf on Mr. Patterson, moved to open the Infrastructure Committee Meeting and to accept the March 2022 minutes, seconded by Mr. Saussy. Ms. Randolph moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Saussy.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Ms. Randolph moved to open the meeting and to accept the March 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Contois. There were no agenda items to discuss. Ms. Randolph moved to close the meeting, seconded by Ms. Contois.

Ms. Randolph read a personal statement to clarify misinformation regarding the sale of her commercial property to Dorsey Development.

Town Clerk, Janet Dufrene, explained the developmental permit process. Ms. Dufrene informed attendees that as of the date of the meeting the only application submitted by Dorsey Development was for the Certificate of Appropriateness. The Certificate of Appropriateness was submitted by the developer to the Historic Commission and relates to the design of the building.



**OPEN:** Mayor Pro Tem Murphy opened the floor to public comment. Members of the public universally expressed opposition to the Dorsey Development project. The project, proposed for the west side of LA Hwy 59, to build a commercial building intended to house a Dollar General, was widely criticized. Community members expressed concern over the project detrimentally impacting public health, safety, and welfare by increasing traffic on an already congested thoroughfare, and worsening flooding and drainage problems. Additional objections were based on public perception that the Dollar General Corporation displays poor maintenance practices and that their stores contribute to unsightly litter. Several attendees expressed further concerns over the removal of trees thereby diminishing buffers between the commercial project and the adjacent residential zoning, lighting and general building design.

Mr. Saussy made a motion to close the meetings, seconded by Ms. Contois.

MEETING ADJOURNED  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2022.

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Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

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Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor