



The following minutes were taken at the regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen at 6pm on August 20, 2024, at the Town Hall in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Curtis invited Alderman Contois to introduce guest speakers, Dr. Kevin Caillouet from St. Tammany Parish's Mosquito Abatement Department and Dr. Elizabeth deEtte Smythe from St. Tammany Parish's Department of Planning and Development. Presentations included information concerning on-site sewer systems and the negative impact these can have on water quality and mosquito control. Other topics included clean water objectives, available grants, and the proliferation of mosquitoes, specifically those carrying West Nile Virus, beginning in May through October, with a peak in August. The Mayor then updated attendees regarding the status of the Level/Burvant street repairs and the Wastewater Interconnection at Arrowwood.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: The Mayor opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2024-005 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON CERTAIN STREETS IN THE TOWN, PROHIBITING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS ON CERTAIN STREETS, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH." There was public support for allowing golf cart use on Town roads. The Mayor next opened discussion of INSTRUMENT 2024-006, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO REPEAL THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) ZONING DISTRICT IN THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING AMENDMENT OF PART 9 – PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT, CHAPTER 2. – ZONING REGULATIONS, SEC. 9-212. DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED AND CHAPTER 8. – PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) DISTRICT; AND TO REPEAL THE MORATORIUM ON CLASSIFICATION OF LAND AS PLANNED UNIT. After calling for comment, the Public Hearing section of the meeting was closed.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy and Templet were present. Mr. Patterson moved to accept the July 16, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Boudreaux. All were in favor. Financial information was presented for the period of January through June 2024. Town Clerk, Janet Dufrene provided an oral summary of the report.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Mayor Curtis offered, for consideration, A RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ABITA SPRINGS SAFE STREETS ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND UPCOMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. The resolution acknowledged the selection of Stewart Eastman, Katie Weaver, Terri Fancey, Eddie Dowd, Beth Ryan, Cindy Knight, Michael Calecas, Liz Hall, Arielle Davis, and Marie Dessommes as safety committee members. Alderman Contois made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Alderman Patterson. The vote was YEAS: 5 Aldermen Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet, NAYS:0, ABSTAIN: 0, ABSENT:0. 2.) Alderman Saussy made a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION THAT UPON DECLARATION OF A MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY, THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS BOARD OF ALDERMEN, WILL WAIVE LAND USE REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO PERMITTING FOR MOBILE HOMES, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, AND OTHER TEMPORARY HOUSING DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE SURVIVOR'S DAMAGED DWELLING TO ALLOW FOR EXPEDITED TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN THE TOWN. The motion was seconded by Alderman Templet. The vote was YEAS: 5 Aldermen Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet, NAYS:0, ABSTAIN: 0, ABSENT:0.

OLD BUSINESS: 1.) Mayor Curtis opened discussion of amending INSTRUMENT 2024-005 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON CERTAIN STREETS IN THE TOWN, PROHIBITING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS ON CERTAIN STREETS, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.” The amendment included redefining the term golf cart to be the same as defined in state law, removal of reference to regulation within private subdivisions, and to remove the limiting word, “motoring” from the text relative to protecting public safety. Several Aldermen expressed objection to the ordinance stating that without the ability to cross state highways, the provision allowing the use of golf carts on any Town streets should not be allowed. It was decided by a majority that the ordinance should be deferred, continuing the prohibition of the use of golf carts within the Town until such time as the highway crossing illegality issue could be resolved. Several members of the public expressed their support of allowing the use of golf carts and encouraged the Board to pass the ordinance. A motion to defer until such time as the state highway prohibition could be addressed was made by Alderman Saussy and seconded by Alderman Patterson. The vote to defer was YEAS: (4) Aldermen Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson and Saussy. The sole nay vote was cast by Alderman Templet, who stated that he did not see the point of deferring the vote. Aldermen Templet questioned the logic of continuing the prohibition all use of golf carts based on the inability to cross state highways. There were no abstentions or absences. 2.) Alderman Saussy made a motion to adopt INSTRUMENT 2024-006, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO REPEAL THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) ZONING DISTRICT IN THE TOWN’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING AMENDMENT OF PART 9 – PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT, CHAPTER 2. – ZONING REGULATIONS, SEC. 9-212. DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED AND CHAPTER 8. – PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) DISTRICT;5AND TO REPEAL THE MORATORIUM ON CLASSIFICATION OF LAND AS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT.” Mr. Deano suggested that reference to “planned unit development” be removed from two other parts of the code. Ms. Contois requested that the Board move forward with the ordinance as written and return to the consideration of the remaining language at a later meeting. Alderman Contois seconded the motion. The vote was YEAS: 5 Aldermen Boudreaux, Contois, Patterson, Saussy, and Templet, NAYS:0, ABSTAIN: 0, ABSENT: 0

OPEN/ADJOURNMENT: Several residents mentioned varying topics including the use of polymer on road overlays, the Town Marshal, the Town’s use of Venmo, and sewer plant capacity.

Mr. Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Contois. All were in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024.

Janet Dufrene, Town Clerk

Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor