

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
August 5, 2013

Present:

Mayor: Brian Reese
Alderman: Carolyn Ammons
Alderman: Johnny Lawson
Alderman: Vaughn Barnett
Clerk: Nancy Thomas
Tax Collector: Clara Ramsey

Mayor Reese called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Alderman Ammons made the motion to approve the minutes and financial statements.

Alderman Lawson seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

Ike Lassiter commented the web site was a good thing, and suggested the Board invite all organizations and businesses to use the site for any events and activities scheduled.

Agenda:

Glen Norwood said he was here for the same reason as last month. He asked if the Town had made any effort at all to resolve his flooding problem.

Mayor Reese replied they had met with an Engineer on the site, and they were waiting for a letter of recommendation from him. The Engineer had commented on the site that it didn't appear the Town was at fault for the flooding, as rain water naturally ran downhill.

Mr. Norwood said he too had talked with the Engineer, and heard him say the Town was not at fault, but disagreed. Mr. Norwood said the problem started when the Town had Scott Ricker dig a ditch on another property to prevent flooding on Mr. Gentry's property, which was illegal. Mr. Norwood knew this to be true because he "seen it". He then went on to say nobody was doing anything, and the problem was not going away. Mr. Norwood also commented on the shape of the roads, saying there had been no paving or repairing anywhere, and inquired as to where the Town money was going.

Mayor Reese gave Mr. Norwood a copy of the Budget.

Mr. Joe King commented that the water was also running onto his property. Mr. King and Mr. Norwood were quite certain that the main problem stemmed from a property adjacent from theirs, and stated with certainty that the property belonged to the Town of Hot Springs. Mayor Reese replied that the property did in fact belong to the Railroad, and although the Town uses it, it does not belong to Hot Springs.

Mr. King asked who paid taxes on the property.

Mayor Reese replied the Railroad did.

Alderman Ammons assured Mr. Norwood and Mr. King that they were in the process of resolving the problem to the best of their ability, as the first step was to contact the Engineer, and they were waiting to hear from him. Ms. Ammons offered to give the phone numbers to all concerned, and told them they were welcome to call if they wanted.

Mr. Norwood and Mr. Cameron Green got the numbers of the Engineer, as well as Ms. Karen Kiehna, and the gentleman from the Railroads number, and stated they had no problem calling each one to stress to them the urgency to move forward with this issue.

Mr. Cameron Green addressed the Board with the issue at his property also, stating that his property has been flooded again, and he has observed water shooting up out of the sewer system, and that shouldn't be happening. He asked if the Town was doing anything about it.

Alderman Lawson replied that the maintenance department had found a crack in the system after hiring a plumbing company to smoke the lines.

Mr. Green asked when it was going to be fixed.

Mr. Ricker, with Maintenance stated that the crack in the sewer line is right next to a power pole, and the Electric Company has come on site before any digging can be done there.

Mr. Green asked how ground water could enter the sewer system, and why has that not been taken care of, and who is going to fix that and when, and he pays taxes.

Mayor Reese agreed the problem needs to be resolved, but they had taken the first steps, and were honestly waiting on the Engineers letter of recommendation, and the Power Company, regarding the crack and the digging.

Mr. Reese said all the rain has caused major problems for him as well, and his main living area had flooded twice. He said he didn't blame the Town for all the rain, however.

Alderman Barnett said the line did need sealed so no ground water could enter the sewer system.

Mr. Green said yes, someone needed to step up and fix it, as one problem would lead to another problem and so on and so on, and mentioned again his tax dollars.

Mr. Reese stated again that they were making the effort, and working with Karen Kiehna in an attempt to get financial help to solve these issues. Mr. Reese told Mr. Green and Mr. Norwood they were welcome to call Ms. Kiehna and stress to her the urgency to put a rush on the procedures. They all stated they would indeed make that call.

Sally Lassiter talked to the Board about the Community Dinner. She stated that the busy months were self-sufficient, as hikers and patrons were all willing to put money in the jar to fund the dinners. The slow months were not so good though, Ms. Lassiter added, and asked the Board if they would be willing to cut the cost of the Community Center rental for them during the slow months. Ms. Lassiter added she truly felt it was a service to the community, and she felt like they contributed more to the Center than anyone, as they use and pay for it weekly.

Mayor Reese said it was very apparent how passionate Ms. Lassiter was about the dinner, and recommended to the Board they consider her request.

Alderman Ammons made the motion to table the request at this time, and make the decision after further discussion.

Alderman Lawson seconded the motion.

Karen Conner commented that she cleaned the Center, and on many occasions noted it had not been cleaned. She specified the floor was not consistently swept and mopped, and the stove and refrigerator had not been cleaned.

Ms. Lassiter replied that they don't always mop, but they were not responsible for the stove and refrigerator as they didn't use these appliances. She added they would mop as needed in the future.

Josie Fox gave the Board an update on upcoming activities of the Entertainment Committee.

Aug. 17 is their Appreciation Dinner and Bingo for Seniors. Ms. Fox said all were welcome to come to the dinner and Bingo, and they would even deliver dinners to those who couldn't attend, within Town Limits. She thanked the Board for allowing people to place their orders at Town Hall.

Ms. Fox added they were in need of potatoes, desserts, and bread, if anyone was able to help with that to let her know.

Also the Entertainment Committee will be having their Labor Day Celebration on August 31st. They will have fireworks, food, other vendors, music by Joe Lasher, Jr. Band, free Bouncies on the lawn until 8:00, and free glitter tattoos. Vendor fees are \$50.00, and vendors can contact Josie regarding setting up.

Ms. Fox stated it cost a lot of money to sponsor this event, and they don't receive any money for it except what amount they make selling food, so donations are very much needed and appreciated.

Alderman Lawson made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Entertainment Committee.

Alderman Ammons seconded the motion.

James Buckner, representing the Concerned Bikers Association attended the meeting, and presented a Plaque to the Hot Springs Police Department in appreciation for their help during the Harley Rally.

Mr. Buckner also presented Mayor Reese with a check for \$1,000.00 to deposit, saying they wished this to go into the Police Department Budget as they appreciated their assistance.

Mayor Reese and all the Alderman thanked Mr. Buckner for the plaque and the check.

Mr. Buckner asked if the Board had any questions or concerns about the Harley Rally, and they did not.

Mr. Buckner stressed they were limited to where they could direct their donations, and that they could donate to municipalities.

Ms. Fox stated that was a donation the Entertainment missed out on, because they had not yet established Non Profit status.

Mayor Reese told Ms. Fox that Attorney Gary Davis could help them attain nonprofit status, and it didn't cost that much.

Clark Coffey, representing Marsh LP Gas Company, gave the Board a proposal regarding tank rental and propane, and asked if the Town would consider giving him their business. He stated they would be cheaper than anyone else, would allow use of the tanks for merely \$1.00 rent, and that he was available 24 / 7 if they should ever need anything.

Alderman Lawson said they would let him know within the week.

Mr. Coffey gave Mr. Lawson his home number, and said he could be reached any time.

Libby Staude, with the Zoning/Planning Board gave the Board an update on what they had been working on. This includes work on vacation rentals, bed and breakfasts, sub divisions, and communication towers.

Fire Chief Josh Norton talked about another grant the department is pursuing to assist in the purchase of safety vests and gloves, at a cost of \$1,700.00, and requested the Board to consider helping. Mr. Norton also shared that he had found a fire truck at a good price, and let the Board know they were looking into obtaining it. He suggested the Town take bids to sell the old fire truck. He added it is a good truck, just not a good FIRE truck.

Alderman Lawson asked if there was a deadline on when an offer should be made on the new truck. Mr. Norton replied not that he was aware of.

Mr. Norwood was also aware of the new truck, and assured the Board it was a very good truck at a very good price. (\$5,000.00)

Alderman Barnett said the Towns Garbage Truck needed a radiator.
Alderman Lawson said to check for prices.

At this time:

Alderman Lawson made the motion to adjourn.
Alderman Ammons seconded the motion.