

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Morning Meeting
January 7, 2013

Present:

Mayor: Brian Reese

Alderman: Johnny Lawson

Alderman: Vaughn Barnett

Clerk: Nancy Thomas

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

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

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

Public Comment

On behalf of the Hot Springs Entertainment Committee, Josie Fox invited the Board to “Meet and Eat” with the Committee on Wed. Jan. 16 to become more familiar with the Committee, meet all the members, and discuss their plans for this year’s events. Ms. Fox added they would be happy to hear any suggestions the Board had to offer. It was agreed the Board would attend the meeting, and also agreed to hold it at Town Hall.

Fire Chief Josh Norton informed the Board that the Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department had been approved for a grant. The Department is looking forward to receiving the grant, in the amount of \$56,000.00. The funds would be used to purchase equipment for the Department, including air packs. The Department must contribute a percentage of funds to the grant money in order to eliminate the interest charges, and Mr. Norton asked if the Board would consider helping with this contribution. Mr. Norton also told the Board the Department had been meeting weekly to ensure they were up to date on by-laws and techniques, and that the Department followed all mandated procedure. Mr. Norton then showed the Board an insurance policy, in addition to the coverage already in place, which would cover any injuries occurring during a call. This coverage applies to anyone involved in assisting the Department when on a call. The cost of the additional coverage is \$677.00 per year.

Alderman Johnny Lawson made the motion to approve contributing \$1,400.00 to the Department for their share in receiving the grant money, and also to approve purchasing the additional coverage for \$677.00 per year.

Alderman Vaughn Barnett seconded the motion.

Mayor Reese also suggested the Department have more fund raising events.

Mr. Norton agreed.

Alderman Vaughn Barnett made the motion the HSVFD accept and adopt the updated by-laws.

Alderman Johnny Lawson seconded the motion.

Mr. Norton then told the Board the sign post at French Broad Circle had been pulled up and needed to be replaced. Alderman Lawson suggested concrete be used when replacing it to ensure it wasn’t pulled up again.

Pete Nagle asked the Board about possible ways the Town could keep Librarian Lisa Ledford in Hot Springs. He stated if Ms. Ledford truly lost her job due to budget cuts perhaps the businesses and Board could make up that difference and keep Ms. Ledford in Hot Springs.

Everyone was in agreement that Ms. Ledford has been such a dedicated Librarian, and an asset to the Town. She has gone over and above her job description, put in extra hours, and it was she that taught some children to read.

Mayor Reese said he as well was very unhappy with the County Commissioners decision to cut Ms. Ledford's job. Nobody could see how dismissing Ms. Ledford, and replacing her with two part time Librarians getting 19 hours each, would be a significant budget cut. All agreed that Hot Springs would be the first to receive that sort of treatment. It was suggested everyone remember this when County Commissioners began their campaign for the next election.

Mr. Reese said he still had questions and comments regarding Mr. Ledford leaving, but preferred to drop the subject at this time.

Town Business

There was a conflict of opinion regarding a property owned by Bernice Wills. The property in question has never been deemed in City limits until the current year, when reassessments were done. She objected that she only had two properties in City limits, and would not agree to pay City Taxes on the property in question without objection. The Board had studied maps, and took into consideration that the property had never before been deemed within City limits. As the property in question would only have a small percentage, if any, within City limits. No Board member thought the property was in City limits, and each Board member has been a resident of Hot Springs most if not all of their lives. In order to waive City taxes for Ms. Wills, a letter has to be sent to the tax assessor in Marshall.

Alderman Johnny Lawson made the motion to have the Clerk write Mr. House, with the Tax Assessors Office in Marshall, stating the Board was in agreement that the property was not in City limits. Alderman Vaughn Barnett seconded the motion.

Paul Sawyer, employee of the State of Franklin, received a letter from the SoF stating his last day of employment with them would be the 9th. of January. As Mr. Sawyer assists in the Maintenance of Hot Springs, it was suggested he become an employee of the Town, and continue working with Mr. Larry Ricker in the Maintenance Department.

Alderman Johnny Lawson made the motion to hire Mr. Sawyer to work as needed, and at least 3 days a week in the Maintenance Department. Alderman Vaughn Barnett seconded the motion.

The Board discussed getting started on replacing Fire Hydrants throughout Town, beginning with the hydrant at the Post Office.

Alderman Johnny Lawson made the motion to hire a professional to begin replacing hydrants as needed, hopefully one per month. Alderman Vaughn Barnett seconded the motion.

Pete Nagle had a concern regarding an incident involving a firearm on New Year's Eve, just a few miles from Hot Springs. He declined from naming any names, but assumed Police Chief David Shelton was aware of the situation. Mr. Nagles concern was that a similar situation could occur in Hot Springs. Chief Shelton assured Mr. Nagle that the man with the firearm was arrested, and would likely be away for some time.

The Board discussed closing the Welcome Center for 6 weeks. They agreed it would be cost efficient to winterize the Center and close it during the remainder of January and February. There are very few tourists interested in visiting the Center during this time.

Alderman Johnny Lawson made the motion to close the Welcome Center until the 6th. of March.
Alderman Vaughn Barnett seconded the motion.

The Board discussed having the Community Center, The Welcome Center, and City Hall cleaned on a regular basis. It was agreed once every two weeks would be sufficient, and at \$10.00 per hour, would not be too expensive.

State of Franklin workers could also sweep and mop at the Community Center when needed.

Mayor Reese stated the Welcome Center, when open, should be cleaned on a regular basis and the expense would not be a lot.

The Board looked at water cards, and asked Mr. Ricker to disconnect service to those who have not made any effort to pay for over two months.

Alderman Lawson made the motion to do water cut offs Tuesday.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.

As there was no other business,

Alderman Lawson made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.