

Town of Hot Springs  
Board of Alderman  
Regular Meeting  
June 3, 2019

Present:

Mayor Sidney Harrison  
Alderman Jeanne Gentry  
Alderman Vaughn Barnett  
Alderman Jimmy Moore  
Tax Collector Clara Ramsey  
Town Attorney Ron Moore  
Clerk Nancy Thomas

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed guests.

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to approve the minutes and financial statements.**

**Alderman Moore seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

**Mayor Harrison** wanted to begin by sharing with everyone the progress at the Forest Service property. He said he met with Roy Hurley who is doing the work on the property. He said the windows and roof are looking very good. Mayor Harrison said much of the interior wood in one of the buildings was wormy chestnut, and asked if the Board would like to consider cleaning it up and saving it. It was agreed they would take a look at it and decide.

Mayor Harrison also gave an update on the project at the sewer plant. He said the blower for the structure, at \$20,000.00 doesn't include insulation. He is awaiting papers from McGill and Associates to continue progress.

Mayor Harrison also mentioned Mission Hospital wants something soon regarding the renewal of their lease. They have not yet decided if they will move to the Forest Service property or stay on Andrews Avenue in their current location.

**Town Accountant Sidney Mashburn** presented the Board with the proposed 2019 – 2020 FY Budget, and gave an explanation and opportunity to ask questions. *(attached)* Ms. Mashburn also had some budget amendments the Board needed to approve. *(attached)*

The first amendment was for selling the house segment of the Forest Service property.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment regarding the selling of the house part of the Forest Service property.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

The second amendment was for \$59,500 held in escrow for expenditures utilizing grant funds.

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment regarding the \$59,500.00 grant funds held in escrow.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

The third amendment was for the \$79,300.00 one time forgiveness of the Water and Sewer Fund to the General Fund agreed upon at the March 4, 2019 meeting.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment regarding the \$79,300.00 loan forgiveness.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

Ms. Mashburn described the fourth amendment as a general clean up, which always occurs.

**Alderman Moore made the motion to approve the last Budget Amendment.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

## **Agenda**

**Pete Dixon** asked for the Boards support with a project he is working on with the National Parks Service. The project is to help with promotional materials such as trail maps. He said funding for the project will all come from County funds, not the Towns funds. He shared a letter of support he drafted for the Town to use as an example, and asked if they would submit a letter of support.

**Alderman Moore made the motion to send a letter of support regarding the project.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

*(copy of letter attached)*

Mayor Harrison asked the Board if they approved a letter to Mr. Steve Allen about a segregated water line at the Dollar Store.

**Alderman Moore made the motion to approve and submit the letter to Mr. Allen.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

*(copy of letter attached)*

The Board received an estimate for replacing the damaged fence at the Sewer Plant.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to accept the estimate, and replace the fence.**

**Alderman Moore seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

## Public Comment

**Cameron Green** asked the Board when they planned to install the fire hydrants to replace faulty hydrants throughout town.

The Board explained they had made an agreement with the Maintenance Department from Marshall to send two of their employees to Hot Springs to help with the installation of the first few hydrants in order to show the Hot Springs Maintenance Department how to do the job. The time table for the work to be done depends largely on when the employees from Marshall could come to Hot Springs.

Mayor Harrison said the town would set a goal to replace these hydrants, at least one each month along with faulty meter replacement, and get started as soon as possible.

Hot Springs Maintenance Employee Lance Byrd said he would call Marshall tomorrow, and push to set a date. Mr. Byrd said the recent flooding has put Marshall Maintenance behind, but perhaps they were caught up enough now to come to Hot Springs.

**Resident Wanda Green** said the Town had erected a concrete wall in front of her property to keep her bank from washing out into the road on Mountain Heights. She said there were two places in the wall that were about to fall, and asked the Board if the Town would repair it. She said to repair it now would be better than waiting on the wall to fall, which would cause much more necessary clean up and repair.

Employee Lance Byrd said they had looked at the wall, and should be able to repair it in a couple of hours.

Alderman Barnett said the Maintenance Employees would fix the wall.

**Police Chief David Shelton** said the EMS Parking Area needed to be touched up, lines repainted, and better signage put up. He said the area is strictly NO PARKING but it was not noticeable as it should be.

The Board agreed to get the signs.

**Phillip Solomon**, the new owner of the Artisan Gallery, told the Board the Gallery will have new hours now, and asked about a free standing sign they had to advertise the shop and the new hours. Police Chief Shelton said all sidewalks must be able to accommodate a wheelchair and pedestrian traffic with nothing to impede them.

Alderman Moore said it was important to keep the sidewalks clear as possible at all times.

Zoning Administrator Jonathan Woods told Mr. Solomon there was a signage ordinance, and he will get together with him to determine what was allowed.

Mr. Solomon said he was happy to comply with the ordinance.

**Zoning Administrator Mr. Woods** asked if the Board has received a call from the Peerless Blowers Plant Manager about a contract from AT&T for a cell tower.

Alderman Gentry said the plant manager has been told many times that AT&T has not yet applied or filled out an application for the tower yet.

**Town Attorney Ron Moore** asked the Board to to into executive session to discuss the contract with Mission EMS.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the contract with Mission EMS.**

**Alderman Moore seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

(7:35)

(7:55)

**Alderman Moore made the motion to return to regular session.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

**Mayor Harrison** said the Board discussed EMS rental property. He said the new building on the Forest Service property should be ready in about 90 days. He said he would call the people from Mission EMS and ask if they wish to negotiate renting space at the new facility, or re-negotiate a contract to stay at the current location.

**Alderman Gentry** showed a picture of the Town's Chlorination Building. She said it was very apparent the building needed to be rebuilt.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to re-build the structure.**

**Alderman Moore seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

**Mayor Harrison** wanted to congratulate Newspaper Reporter Paul Eggers on the articles he has written, and commended him on the good job he was doing.

Alderman Gentry also congratulated him on the birth of his new baby.

As there was no other business at this time,

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to adjourn.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor.**

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

Date 7/1/2019

*Sidney Harrison*  
Mayor Sidney Harrison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other

Town of Hot Springs  
Board of Alderman  
Regular Meeting  
July 1, 2019

Present:

Mayor Sidney Harrison  
Alderman Jeanne Gentry  
Alderman Vaughn Barnett  
Tax Collector Clara Ramsey  
Town Attorney Ron Moore  
Clerk Nancy Thomas

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the minutes of June 3 and financial statements.  
Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to approve the first minutes of June 24.  
Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the second minutes of June 24.  
Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

Mayor Harrison asked if the League of Women Voters had set a time for their candidate forum on October 15.

Alderman Gentry replied they only talked about where to have the forum, and didn't have a time yet.

**No requests to be on the Agenda.**

#### **Public Comment**

**Fire Chief Josh Norton** asked if the Town would sell their Blazer as is, and the old truck they received from South Carolina. Then, when the Police Department got the vehicle approved in the new budget, the Town would transfer the Durango over to the Fire Department. The old truck has wiring and break issues. Keith McCall is interested in the old truck.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to transfer ownership of the Durango to the Fire Department when the Police Department gets another vehicle.  
Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

Alderman Gentry requested Nancy call and drop the insurance coverage on the unused vehicles.

**Fire Chief Norton** asked if the Board had a time line in place to replace hydrants. He suggested the Maintenance Department change out as many as possible in July as to not affect the schools. Maintenance employee Lance Byrd said he talked to Jamie from the Maintenance Department in Marshall, and they are working on scheduling a day to come to Hot Springs to instruct the HS Maintenance employees how to install the hydrants. He said they hoped to be able to come to HS as early as next week.

The Board and Fire Chief Norton discussed which hydrants would affect the schools, and which wouldn't affect anyone.

Fire Chief Norton also asked to use the Town's generator for the July 4<sup>th</sup> event, and asked if the Town would make it's usual donation of \$500.00 to contribute to the fireworks display.

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Fire Department to help with the fireworks display expense.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Gentry** asked Fire Chief Norton to be sure to get a copy of the 2019 – 2020 Budget to see what funds are available to them.

**Mayor Harrison** gave an update on the Forest Service property. He said it was getting close to completion.

**Alderman Barnett** said he knew two people that were interested in buying the Town's Back Hoe. He said it needed to be fixed or sold.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to advertise selling the Back Hoe, and the Track Hoe, and accept closed bids in July.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Nina Wills** discussed her water issue with the Board ,Maintenance employee, and son in law Josh Norton. They discussed how to divert the water run-off from her basement and water meter, and how to best solve her problem. The Maintenance employees had looked at in while it was raining to determine where the run-off came from, and believe moving the meter and placing a *burn curve (?)* at the property would help. *CUFO*

Employee Lance Byrd said they should be able to work on this by the end of this week, or the first of next week.

Ms. Wills was skeptical.

Alderman Gentry said she would follow up on this.

Alderman Gentry made the motion to contact Lonesome Mountain paving and include Spring Hill burn *CUFO* curve in their proposal.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to include the Spring Hill work in the Lonesome Mountain proposal.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the purchase of work tee shirts for the Maintenance employees.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to allow Lance Byrd to take the CDL course through the school system, and pay for any cost necessary for the course plus mileage.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Alderman Gentry** said the Town of Hot Springs was awarded a \$500,000.00 grant from NCEQ to complete improvements to our chlorination system. She added the Town didn't apply for the grant, but was gifted the grant.

**Alderman Gentry** informed the room that the Board will not be raising rates for water and sewer or taxes at this time.

**Fire Chief Josh Norton** asked the Board about pool fill up rates. Alderman Gentry said that would be addressed in closed session.

**Mayor Harrison** asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss the pool fill up rates, personnel, and the lease with EMS.

**Alderman Barnett made the motion to go into closed session.**

**Alderman Gentry seconded the motion.**

7:35

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to return to regular session.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

7:55

**Mayor Harrison** said they must negotiate a contract to lease a space for the EMS. He didn't know at this time if they are interested in keeping the building they are currently in, or if they wish to move to the Forest Service property. He said when and if the new lease is signed, they will be moving the fire trucks and all the Fire Department belongings to the new property.

Also discussed was a pool fill-up policy with new prices. Mayor Harrison said the pool fill-ups were getting out of hand, and rates had to be increased as the Town was losing money.

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to approve the new Pool -Fill -Up Policy.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

*Copy attached*

**The Board of Alderman and Maintenance Department** will have a special call meeting on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am to discuss some issues. The paper will be notified and a notice will be placed on the door at City Hall.

**Alderman Gentry** said a policy needed to be in place for the Town's Public Parking Area. She said they cannot permit abandoned and disabled vehicles to use the area. She said they also must address long term parking, and limit the amount of time a vehicle can stay in the area. They will need signage and a policy to address this issue. The policy must also include a disclaimer stating the Town is not responsible for any damage done to a vehicle.

**Employee Lance Byrd** asked if a member of the Fire Department or a First Responder could leave the job in a life threatening emergency without repercussions.

Alderman Gentry said they will adopt a policy that will apply to those circumstances. Meanwhile,

**Alderman Gentry made the motion that a fire fighter or first responder may leave his job during a life threatening emergency without repercussion.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

**Nina Wills** asked the Board if Mr. Joseph could check the chlorine content of her water. She said it smelled and she couldn't drink it.

Mayor Harrison said he would have Mr. Joseph check her water, and added she may need to purchase a filter.

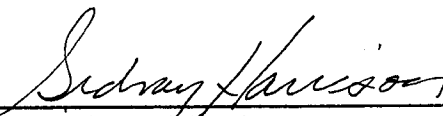
As there was no other business at this time,

**Alderman Gentry made the motion to adjourn.**

**Alderman Barnett seconded the motion.**

Approved ✓

Date 8/5/19

  
Mayor Sidney Harrison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other