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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2025
(AMENDED JUNE 10, 2025)

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Whitehorn

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Public forum (Agenda item)

None

Council Roll Call – by Rec/Tres. Barnes

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

ALD: Katie Rairdon, Travis Aikins, Oscar Alvarenga, Jay King and Jeannie Rollins,

Absent: None

Staff

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Absent: None

Guests

None

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present

Consent of Agenda

Ald. King made a motion for the consent of agenda. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, and Ald. King; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes for council meeting

March 2025: Ald. King made a motion to accept the minutes of the March council meeting, as written. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Aikins; yes. All approved. Motion carried.

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Financials:

1. March Report: Financial report presented by Rec/Tres. Barnes. Ald. Aikins made a motion to accept the March 2025 financials as presented. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion: was held concerning the need to constantly purchase stop signs. Due to safety reasons, it was decided against placing boulders around the stop signs in town, to deter people from running them over. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon; yes, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins; yes, and Ald. Rollins; no. Motion carried.
2. BC Resolution R-2025-15; Refer to Voters-Reallocation of County Wide One Cent Sales Tax for New Jail: Mayor Whitehorn updated the town council of the meeting he attended concerning this issue. He wants the council members to know that if the residents of Benton County pass this issue at the next election, the Town of Avoca will lose around twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) a year, and for a small town like ours, that will be a big hit for us.

Staff Reports:

1. Avoca Fire Department – Avoca Fire Chief

- a. Ran a total of 74 calls for March and 166 for the year
Canceled: 7 Fire: 32 Medical: 26 Misc: 9
- b. Fire Station was manned for 22 days in March

Ald. Alvarenga wanted to discuss Mercy and Air-E-Vac Life Team helicopters landing in the town park. He was told by the Avoca Fire Chief Oldebeken that the town did not want them landing in the park. Mayor Whitehorn, Rec/Tres. Barnes and Chris Rogers, all told him that information was incorrect, and the town employees went down to the Avoca Fire House to find out if any landed in the park recently, due to the soccer goals being pushed over. They were checking due to vandalism being carried out in the park and the town employees wanted to anchor down the goal posts far enough apart, so it was safe for the helicopters to land. It was decided, town attorney McClure would write up a shared use agreement with both Mercy and Air-E-Vac Life Team stating they had permission and were more than welcome to land on any and all town property any time they needed.

2. NEBCO EMS – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. Ran a total of 28 calls for March in the Avoca area. 108 for the year.
EMS: 22 Fire: 0 Lift Assist: 3 MVC: 3
- b. New Station

3. Social Media

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes informed council members she had met with Ron Bird at Design Works, they are working on updating the town's webpage to make it more user friendly for town residents.

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4. Business Permits (15 Renewals & 2 New) – Rec/Tres. Barnes

A-Bikers Garage	Fork in the Road Food Truck
ABCD Riches (Seasonal Vendor)	Git – R – Done Landscaping
Anytime Ornaments & Creations (Seasonal Vendor)	One Stop
APAC – Central, Inc.	Pro-line Cabinets
Assembled Products/Jotto Desk	Snoderly Farm (Seasonal Vendor)
Avoca Tire Shop & Auto Repair	Theissen Fireworks
C & K Produce	Unlimited Contractors
Choo-Choo's	Williams Tree Service
Don's Canopies & Metal Products	

5. Building & Inspection Permits for March 2025– Rec/Tres. Barnes

None

6. Town Sanctioned Events – Rec/Tres. Barnes

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|----------------------|
| a. Easter Egg Hunt | April 12, 2025 | Saturday | 11: 00 am – 12:00 am |
| i. Donations: Avoca, Boat & RV Storage, A-Bikers Garage, Wolfes Waypoint Marine, the Latham Family, Beaver Storage, Two Sisterz Liquor Store, and Jamie Trotter-Lynge gave either candy or monetary donations toward candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. | | | |
| b. Avoca Spring Clean Up | May 10, 2025 | Saturday | 8:30 am – 11:30 am |
| c. Avoca Fall Clean Up | October 11, 2025 | Saturday | 8:30 am – 12:00 am |
| d. Trunk R Treat | October 25, 2025 | Saturday | 6:00 pm – |

***These dates are subject to change ***

7. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers.

Chris stated they had started mowing the parks, and were getting the park ready for the Easter Egg Hunt. They put more gravel down to fill the large holes in the parking lot of the food court.

Committee Reports:

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Hidden Forrest: Drainage Issue
 - i. Bond - Returned
- b. Lot Line Adjustment/Combination: Odyssey Engineering; Fractal Plaza Flex Space Hwy 66, Parcels: 04-00220-000 & 04-00221-000 - Passed
- c. Lot Line Adjustment: Pilcher & Davis - Canceled at time of meeting per Rec/Treasurer Barnes 11843 & 11849 Cemetery Road, Parcels: 18-04744-000, 18-04744-001, 18-04745-000

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. None

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will get letters out to unsightly and unsanitary residents.

4. Streets – Ald. Aikins a. Tucks Chapel: Ald. Aikins states the road is being fixed where the 3 ton water line went in.

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5. Park – Ald. Rairdon

- a. Pickleball Court: Mayor states the paint and nets have been purchased, waiting on the weather to continue this project.
- b. Wooden Fence Repair/Replace: Mayor Whitehorn states he met with four different companies about the fence, only received two estimates back. Mills Tree Service recommended removing the 200 feet of wooden fences and placing them with bright yellow Forsythias at the cost of one thousand, one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$1,125.00). M& W Outdoor Services gave an estimate of four thousand, eight hundred, four dollars and thirty-one cents (\$4,804.31) to remove old fence and replace with new wooden fence (use what old fence is useable). The council talked different options and would like estimates on a “Green Coated Chain Link Fence”. Recorder/Treasurer will put it on social media and the town sign.

6. Grants – Ald. Rollins

Ald. Rollins states most grants sights are closed due to the government, she will continue to look for non-matching grants that will help with the following issues that the town needs:

- a. Playground Equipment
- b. Black plastic barrier for rubber mulch
- c. Fence

7. Annexation -- Ald. King

No updates

Old Business

- a. Rental Shop/Warehouse - Town Attorney; McClure
 - i. Pursley – No Update
- b. Business Licenses
 - i. Out of town contractors – Mayor asked Council to reconsider charging out of town contractors a business license to work in the town. Ald. Aikins states Rogers is the only town that checks this, and if you have a business license in another town, they do not have you get another license through Rogers. Ald. Rollins doesn’t believe this would be fair to out of town businesses that do come in and get a license, because there will be some out of town businesses that will not come and get a license. Ald. Aikins and Ald. Rollins both stated they are opposed to adding additional fees to contractors. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes explained to the council members they need to understand if the reallocation of the one cent sales tax passes for the new jail, and if the town loses twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) a year, this small town is going to be in a lot of trouble. If they do not want to add additional fees to out of town contractors, the council needs to find other ways to bring money into the town. Mayor Whitehorn agreed. Ald. Alvarenga stated he needs to pay ~~business licenses in all towns he does business in~~ (Per Ald. Aikens - amended to: for a business license in Rogers). Mayor Whitehorn asked to table this issue until next month. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to table this issue until next month. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon: no, Ald. King: yes, Ald. Aikins: no, Ald. Rollins: no, Ald. Alvarenga: yes. Motion failed. A motion was made by Ald. Rollins to end the issue of Business Licenses for out of town contractors. Seconded by Ald. Aikins. Discussion: None. Roll call; Ald. King: no, Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; no, and Ald. Rairdon: yes. Motion passed.

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New Business

- a. Resolution 05-25: Dispose of Excess Personal Property of the Town of Avoca - Attorney McClure read Resolution 05-25 on its 1st and final reading by title only. A motion was made by Ald. Rollins to accept Resolution 05-25 on its 1st and final reading by title only. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: was held on what items and how the items will be disposed of. Roll Call: Ald. Aikins: yes, Ald. Rollins: yes, Ald. Alvarenga: yes, Ald. Rairdon: yes, and Ald. King: yes. All approved. Motion carried.
- b. Ordinance 131: New Fee Schedule – Attorney McClure read Ordinance 131 in its entirety. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga and seconded by Ald. Aikins to approve Ordinance 131 on its 1st reading in its entirety, and its 2nd & 3rd reading by title only. Ald. Aikins asked to see the Ordinance; Attorney McClure apologized for getting the Ordinance to the council late due to a staff issue at his office. Discussion: Ald. Aikins questioned the wording of the Benton County fee structure. Roll call: Ald. Rollins: yes, Alvarenga: yes, Ald. Rairdon: yes, Ald. King: yes, and Ald. Aikins: yes. All approved motion passed. Attorney McClure read Ordinance 131 on its 2nd reading by title only. A motion was made by Ald. King to approve Ordinance 131 on its 2nd reading by title only. Seconded by Ald. Rairdon. Discussion: Ald. Aikins wanted to read Ordinance 131 and the minutes of the committee meeting before voting. Ald. Aikins wanted to adopt all of Benton County's Fee schedule. ~~He was informed that was not what the committee decided.~~ (Per Ald. Aikens - amended to: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes claimed that was not what the committee decided). Attorney McClure stated the motion was to accept the ordinance on the 2nd reading, if the council decides not to approve it on the 2nd or 3rd reading, the ordinance can come back at a later date with different numbers, if the council decides that is what they want to do or if they want to approve as is. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga: yes, Ald. Rairdon: no, Ald. King: yes, Ald. Aikins: no, and Ald. Rollins: no. Motion failed. A new Resolution will need to be written per town Attorney McClure. Ald. Aikins stated he didn't agree with the ordinance and stated he should not have approved of the March minutes that he approved earlier in the night. Ald. Alvarenga, explained to Ald. Aikens the minutes from the committee meeting will not match exactly what the council minutes say. Ald. Aikins stated he could not comprehend the Ordinance at this time. The attorney stated the Ordinance is now dead, and if a new ordinance wants to be brought before the council it can be done at a later date.

Mayor for the Good of Town

None

Town Council Member's Personal Privilege (Any matter); 3 Minutes

Council Member Aikins - None

Council Member King - None

Council Member Alvarenga - None

Council Member Rairdon – wanted it known she was upset with Recorder/Treasurer Barnes this evening, and didn't like how frustrated she was.

Council Member Rollins – wanted the council to know, the meetings may need to be videoed in the near future, and she wanted to let the council know Planning Member Shelly DePue stopped and helped her with a woman who was having a medical issue a few days ago and she wanted to give a shout out to her & say thank you!

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes - None

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Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:30 pm
2. Fire Board Meeting scheduled for April 24, 2025
3. Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm
4. Board of Zoning meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025, after Planning Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga and seconded by Ald. Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved 
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest 
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes