



P . O . Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711

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MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2026

Call to order - by Mayor Whitehorn

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Public forum - 3 minutes

Jeannie Varnell discussed the meta data for images she requested

Roll Call - by Rec/Tres. Barnes

Council:

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes

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

Absent: Katie Rairdon

Staff:

Present: Town Attorney: Ed McCure

Zoning Official: Tim DePue

Town Maintenance: Chris Rogers

Absent: None

Guests

Kim Whitehorn

Jeannie Varnell

Larry Russell

Avoca Fire Chief Oldebeken

Declaration of quorum

Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present.

Consent of agenda

Ald. Aikins made a motion for consent of agenda. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; None. Roll call:

Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon; absent, and Ald. King; yes.

Motion carried.

Consent of minutes

March 10, 2026, Minutes: Ald. Alvarenga made a motion to accept the March council meeting minutes.

Seconded by Ald. Aikins. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald.

Rairdon; absent, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Aikins; yes. Motion carried.

Financials

- a. March Report: March financials were presented to council members.

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NEBCO & Avoca Fire Dept - by Rec/Tres. Barnes

1. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes read off the quarterly runs for both NEBCO and the Avoca Fire Department
NEBCO

Avoca calls to date: Fire: 13 Medical: 89 MVC: 4 TOTAL: 106

Avoca Fire & Rescue

Calls to date: Alarms: 12 Fire: 50 Medical: 99 MVC: 5 Misc.: 9 TOTAL: 17

2. Shifts and Agreement: A motion was made by Ald. Aikins to amend the description on the agreement between the Avoca Fire Department and the Town of Avoca to say; The town shall pay \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars) in 2026 to the Avoca Fire & Rescue Department to assist them with providing shift work for eight (8) hours per day, (7) shifts a week. Seconded by Ald. Rollins. Discussion: Staffing issues: being able to have someone on shift these hours, adjusting the amount given to the Avoca Fire & Rescue to eight (8) hours per day, (6) shifts a week, due to the Fire Chief stating he can't guarantee someone on shift for the original request of one firefighter to be on shift eight (8) hours per day, (7) shifts a week. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon; absent, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins; yes, and Ald. Rollins; yes. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

1. Town Sanctioned Events - by Rec/Tres. Barnes

- a. April Calendar – Posted
- b. Easter Egg Hunt – Thank you for all who made a donation of candy and volunteered their time.
- c. May – Spring Clean Up & Tree Give Away; Saturday May 9, 2026, 8:30 am – 11:00 am

2. Business Permits for March 2026

A Bikers Garage	Git -R-Done Landscaping	Silver Stream Lodging
Acacia Cabinets	Lamar Outdoor Advertising	Sy-Con Excavation & Utilities
APAC Central	Matts Auto Sales	Tri-Star Automotive & Tire
Assembled Products	Red Wolf Technologies	Wolfes Waypoint Marine
Dollar General	Rush Diesel Services	

3. Building Permits for March 2026

Sergio Sanchez – 121 Russell Road; Garage

6. Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers

Employees have started mowing and are updating any OSHA related items or issues

Committee Reports

1. Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. Victor Batres: 998 Red Cedar Place – Potential Setback Encroachment: Tabled until April Meeting

2. Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga

- a. No updates

3. Zoning Official – Tim DePue

- a. No updates

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3. Streets – Ald. Aikins

a. Asphalt Parking lots:

1. Town Hall Parking Lot: Asphaltting has been completed. Possible stripping was discussed.
2. Food Court Parking Lot: A motion was made by Ald. Aikins to have Swope Engineering do a topography and boundary survey to assess any water drainage issues at the price of \$2000.00 (two- thousand dollars). Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion; asked for an estimate in writing. Ald. Aikins states he will ask them to send it to the town. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon; absent, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, and Ald. Alvarenga; yes. Motion carried.

b. Rader Road: Mayor Whitehorn read off the two bids he received for the dirt work & retaining wall; Jackson Brothers: \$28,205.00 (twenty-eight thousand, two hundred and five dollars) & Ozark Dirt Contractors \$3,515.00 (three thousand, five hundred and fifteen dollars). A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to table this issue until the May 2026 council meeting. Seconded by Ald. Aikins. Discussion; why the big price difference. Mayor will call and ask Ozark Dirt Contractors if they left the labor portion off by mistake. Roll call: Ald. Rairdon; absent, Ald. King; yes; Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, and Ald. Alvarenga; yes. Motion carried

c. Railroad Crossing: is tentatively scheduled to be started the last week of May. It is estimated to take one to two weeks. All traffic will be detoured toward Tucks Chapel Road and Lester Lane.

5. Park – Ald. Rairdon

- a. Canopy Covering – discussion was held concerning some type of shade area near the pickleball court.
- b. 250 Year Flags: Recorder/Treasurer Barnes to look into 250-year banners for the streets.

6. Grants – Ald. Rollins

- a. Playground equipment grant was discussed.

7. Annexation – Ald. King

- a. Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services to be extended to said area; Ald. Travis made a motion to place Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services to be extended to said area on its first reading. Seconded by Ald. King. Roll call: Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes and Ald. Rairdon: absent. Motion carried. Town attorney McClure read Ordinance 133 in its entirety. A motion was made by Ald. Aikins to accept Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services: on its first reading. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon: absent, and Ald. King; yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ald. Ald. King to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services: on its second reading, by title only. Seconded

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7. Annexation – Ald. King (cont.)

by Ald. Aikins. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon: absent, Ald. King; yes, and Ald. Aikins; yes. Motion carried. Town Attorney McClure read Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services: by title only. A motion was made by Ald. King to accept Ordinance 133 on its second reading, by title only. Seconded by Ald. Alvarenga. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Rairdon: absent, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins, and Ald. Rollins; yes, Motion carried. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services: on its third and final reading, by title only. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: None. Roll call; Ald. Rairdon: absent, Ald. King; yes, Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, and Ald. Alvarenga; yes. Motion carried. Town Attorney McClure read Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services by title only. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to accept Ordinance 133; An Ordinance Accepting the annexation of certain territory to the town of Avoca; and approving the schedule of services; on its third and final reading, by title only. Seconded by Ald. King. Discussion: None. Roll call: Ald. King; yes. Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; no, and Ald. Alvarenga; yes, and Ald. Rairdon; yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ald. Alvarenga to adopt the emergency clause. Seconded by Ald. Aikins. Discussion: annexing surrounding property. Roll call: Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, and Ald. Rairdon absent, and Ald. King; yes. Motion carried.

Old Business

- a. Community Building; “Shared Use Agreement” –Fire Chief Oldebeken handed each council member a copy of the current shared agreement. Town Attorney McClure will look it over and will update council members at the May 2026 Council meeting.

New Business

- a. Building Development Timelines: mistakenly placed on agenda – needs to be on planning agenda.
- b. Town Hall Sign: Council members approved the design of the new sign for the front of Town Hall. Recorder/Treasurer Barnes will order it.

Mayor for the Good of Town

Mayor Whitehorn let the council know, construction for the new railroad crossing arm should be started around April 6th and will take about 3-5 days.

Town Council Member’s Personal Privilege - 3 minutes on any matter

Council Member Aikins: none

Council Member King: absent

Council Member Alvarenga: Would like the concrete at the pavilion across from town hall repaired.

Council Member Rairdon: absent

Council Member Rollins: none

Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: Thanked retired Avoca FF James Holland for his plaque donation to the town and the Governor Sanders for the 250-year flag, that is currently on the pole.

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Upcoming Town Meetings

Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 pm
BCWD #1 Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2026, at 9:00 am
Fire Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Board of Zoning meeting scheduled for June 16, 2026, after Planning Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Rollins and seconded by Ald. Aikins to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm. Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved 

Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest 

Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes