AVOCA ARKANSAS
Incorporated 16 March 1966

P. O. Box 160 Avoca, Arkansas 72711 Phone/ Fax 479-621-5921

MINUTES
TOWN OF AVOCA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2026

Call to order - by Mayor Whitehorn

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Public forum - 3 minutes
Charity Thornhill asked that no political candidates' campaign at the Trunk R Treat, it is a family event for the kids, and if there is any campaigning, that person will be asked to leave the event.

Roll Call - by Rec/Tres. Barnes

Council:

Present: Mayor Robert Whitehorn
Rec/Tres. Nanette Barnes
ALD: Kathleen Hansen, Oscar Alvarenga Travis Aikins, and Jeannie Rollins
Absent: Jay King

Staff:

Present: Town Attorney: Joshua Prusak
Zoning Official: Tim DePue
Town Maintenance: None
Absent: Chris Rogers

Guests
Kim Whitehorn
Venessa Cerasale
Charity Thornhill
Jeannie Varnell

Declaration of quorum
Mayor Whitehorn declared a quorum was present.

Consent of agenda
Ald. Alvarenga made a motion for consent of amended agenda (lights & resurfacing the walking trails were added to Parks per Ald. Hansen). Seconded by Ald. Hansen. Discussion; None. Roll call: Ald. Aikins; yes, Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, and Ald. King; absent. Motion carried.

Consent of minutes
September 2026, Minutes: Ald. Hansen made a motion to accept the September council meeting minutes. Seconded by Ald. Aikins. Discussion; none. Roll call: Ald. Rollins; yes, Ald. Alvarenga; yes, Ald. Hansen; yes, Ald. King; absent, and Ald. Aikins; yes. Motion carried.

Financials
September Report: Financials were presented to council members.

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Staff Reports

1. **Town Sanctioned Events - Rec/Tres. Barnes**
   October Calendars Posted
   *Avoca Trunk R Treat, October 31, 2026, at 6:00 pm
   A special Thank you was said to; Beaver Storage for their Candy Donations
   C & K Produce for Pumpkin Donations

2. **Business Permits for September 2026 - Rec/Tres. Barnes**
   None

3. **Building Permits for September 2026 - Rec/Tres. Barnes**

Jones, Anita & Mike	New House	460 Sheppard Road
NG Contractors LLC	New House	995 Red Cedar Place

4. **Town Maintenance – Chris Rogers**
   Sides of roads are being mowed now that the burn ban has been lifted. Once this is completed, they will concentrate on getting the leaves picked up from the culverts to help drainage.

Committee Reports

1. **Planning commission – Chairmen Alvarenga**
   Final Plat – Tall Trees; Phase III – was passed, with a (90) ninety-day contingency the streetlights will be installed and completed.

2. **Board of Zoning Adjustments– Chairmen Alvarenga**
   None

3. **Zoning Official – Tim DePue**
   a. (3) Unsightly & Unsanitary letters were mailed out, one address has complied and mowed their lot. We are waiting on the other two.

4. **Streets – Ald. Aikins**
   a. Rader Road – Work has been completed and the retaining wall has been finished.

5. **Park – Ald. Hansen**
   a. Lights – we are in talks with James Hurla (ROI Energy), who helped us with the light poles in the park, he is going to help us with a quote for the 2027 budget for light poles for the new pickleball court and the park across from town hall.
   b. Resurfacing the walking trails – waiting on a quote for the 2027 budget to resurface the walking trails around the town park.

6. **Grants – Ald. Rollins**
   No Updates

7. **Annexation – Ald. King**
   No Updates.

Old Business

a. Fire Inspections (Ald. King & Ald. Alvarenga) was tabled until the November 10, 2026, council meeting.

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

New Business

a. Resolution: 08-25 Authorizing the Rate of Property Tax; Recorder/Treasurer Barnes read Resolution 08-26 in its entirety. A motion was made by Ald. Hansen to accept Resolution 08-26 on its 1st and final reading. Seconded by Ald. Rollins. Discussion: None.
Roll Call: Ald. Alvarenga: yes, Hansen: yes, Ald. King: absent, Ald. Aikins: yes, and Ald. Rollins: yes. All approved. Motion carried.

Public forum (Non-Agenda Items only) - 3 minutes

Jeannie Varnell asked if the memorial could be painted, Mayor Whitehorn explained it is on schedule to be done in the Spring. She asked who is in charge of the streetlights on Hobbs, because the decorative part was broken. She was informed it was the electric company. She asked who to contact for volunteer hours for her kids. She was informed to contact Rec/Tres. Barnes at the Town Hall. Lastly, she wanted to discuss an upcoming campaigning event that she was not a part of, she was told this was not the place to discuss that issue and that could be discussed after the meeting.

Mayor for the Good of Town

Mayor Whitehorn informed the council about the regional Model Drainage Criteria Manual (DCM) and our portion of that fee ($155.91).

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

Council Member Aikins: had a question concerning the regional Model Drainage Criteria Manual (DCM).
Council Member King: Absent
Council Member Alvarenga: None
Council Member Rollins: None
Council Member Hansen: asked other council members if they were getting spam emails that looked like they were coming from other council members. Rec/Tres. Barnes will look into this issue.
Recorder/Treasurer Barnes: wanted all council members to make sure she had the correct banking information for their direct deposits. Council congratulated town Attorney Prusak for his upcoming wedding nuptials. The town clean-up was a success; there was an issue with a volunteer and their PPE (safety vest). They refused to close it, and that is a safety violation. It was said that at any future events, if this happens, any person who does not comply with safety regulations will be asked to leave the event.

Upcoming Town Meetings

BCWD #1 Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 9:00 am
Planning Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Avoca Fire & Rescue Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Special Council Meeting (2027 Budget) scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Board of Zoning meeting scheduled for December 15, 2026, after Planning Meeting

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Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. King and seconded by Ald. Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 6: 58 pm. Discussion: none. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved _____
Mayor Robert Whitehorn

Attest _____
Recorder/Treasurer Nanette Barnes