

**TOWN OF COATS**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2026**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**Members Present:**

Mayor Chris Coats  
Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert  
Commissioner Marc Powell  
Commissioner Shirley Allen  
Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg  
Commissioner Todd Pope

**Staff Present:**

Barbara Hollerand, Town Manager  
Wesley Blount, Public Works Director  
Kenneth Storicks, Police Chief  
Sarah Goldsmith, Parks and Recreation Director

**Others Present:** Alton Bain, Town Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Mayor Chris Coats called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Coats delivered the invocation and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Coats called for a motion to approve the agenda.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the amended agenda.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Marc Powell

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Shirley Allen

**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - A.) February 12, 2026 Regular Meeting
  - B.) March 3, 2026 Special Called Meeting
  
2. Approval of Attorney Bill for Services Rendered February 1-28, 2026

**RESOLVED**, to approve the consent agenda.

**MOTION BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Todd Pope

**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janet Barnett, 317 S. Carrie Street, asked the Board to review ordinances regarding roosters.

Vikki Ingersoll, 30 N. Railroad Street, discussed new restaurants in Town, and mentioned a ribbon cutting at Blue Agave on March 27 at 11:00 am. She also discussed the upcoming event Easter in the Park and asked for as much participation as possible.

Sharon Stevens, 3701 Abattoir Road, asked the Board to consider adopting a proclamation for Kayden Beasley. She also asked the Board to consider looking at adding a line item during the budget process for new Christmas lights. She mentioned a group of individuals who were going to try to raise money for the lights.

Patrick Mulhearn, Director of Government Affairs with Ripple Fiber, apologized for the disruption in water service and said he and his team, Chief Legal Officer Joshua Runyan and Senior Vice President of Fiber Construction Ryan Zakany would be glad to answer any questions or address any concerns.

Reginald Walden, 53 E. Debbie Street, discussed recycling cans being removed in his neighborhood, with personal belongings being taken with the can at pickup.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Heart for Coats Recognition – Girl Scout Troop 491**

Jennifer Marriner, along with Kori Fair and Jenna McGee and the Girl Scout Troop thanked the Commissioners for all they do and presented each Board member with a book in their honor.

Heather Adams with Apogee Art Studio presented a coloring sheet to draw and color what you love about Coats. Because of their creativity and dedication to the community, the Girl Scout Troop and Heather Adams received the Heart for Coats award.

### **2. Presentation on Water Rate Study – Paul Langfield, North Carolina Rural Water Association**

Mr. Langfield went over results of the Water Rate Study. He said the main takeaway was that customers with minimal water usage would potentially see a decrease in their bill rather than an increase, and customers with more water usage would see a slight increase.

### **3. Petition for Voluntary Noncontiguous Annexation – B.C. Property, Inc/ James A. Burgin**

Ms. Hollerand gave background explaining the Resolution was the first step in the two-step process.

**RESOLVED**, to schedule the public hearing for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Powell

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Allen

**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

### **4. Budget Amendment for General Management – Salaries & Wages \$8,885**

Ms. Hollerand explained the budget amendment would be helpful to move forward in the recruitment of the Finance Director position. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked if another budget amendment would be needed in the future, and Ms. Hollerand explained the budget amendment was just regarding what has been paid out, so there would be additional ones later.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the budget amendment 2026-9.

**MOTION BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Powell

**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

#### 5. Discussion on Professional Services Agreement for System Development Fee Study – Willdan Financial Services

Ms. Hollerand explained system development fees were a common practice in growing towns, with the goal being growth covering the cost of growth rather than by existing residents. She said there was no need for action, but if there was interest in pursuing the study, it would be brought to the Board for action at a later date.

Public Works Director Wesley Blount further explained associated costs with growth eventually trickling to the Town, and revenue needing to be recuperated.

Mayor Coats asked who else had used the firm in the past, and Mr. Blount said Lillington, Angier, and Fuquay-Varina. He said he attempted to contact one other firm but was not successful in reaching them. Mayor Coats asked if the rate was comparable to the other municipalities, and Mr. Blount explained that the cost depended on the size of the town. Mayor Coats confirmed the percentage rate was the same based on size and Mr. Blount responded yes.

Commissioner Powell asked how long the process would take once a contract was signed. Mr. Blount explained that the most time-consuming part of the process was getting the firm all the data they'd need, and it would move fairly quick after that. Commissioner Allen asked about the data needed and Mr. Blount said mostly usage data and rates; and mentioned he discovered the fee could be back dated a year. Mayor Coats asked if Mr. Blount could try to get more quotes. He said he could, but this firm came very highly recommended.

Commissioner Allen asked exactly what the firm was going to do for the Town. Mr. Blount explained they would analyze numbers by looking at what customers are charged, what the County charges the Town, future growth, the impact on existing water lines, demand created on the County, along with other factors. Mayor Coats asked what line item the fee would go to, and Mr. Blount explained it would stay in an enterprise fund, like a capital reserve.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked for the total cost estimate for the study. Mr. Blount said it was around \$28,000. Ms. Hollerand explained the study couldn't be done in house as fees would need to be legally defensible. She also clarified that while the fee would mostly impact new construction, if an expansion took place, change of use, or major modification the fee could then apply to that customer.

Commissioner Powell asked if the hourly rate was in addition to the \$28,000. Ms. Hollerand said generally that would be included in case additional services were required, such as a presentation. Mayor Coats asked if it would be a onetime study, and Ms. Hollerand explained it could need to be revisited. Mr. Blount clarified it would take extreme growth for it to need to be revisited.

#### **MANAGER UPDATE**

Ms. Hollerand gave the following updates:

- Potential ribbon cutting around July 4 for completion of Downtown Square Project
- Reminder of upcoming Budget Work Session on March 19 for Department level budgets
- Reminder of Budget Work Session on March 26 for fees discussion
- Battle of the Badges – successful event, thankful for all donations and support
- Successful volunteer workday at Coats Park with 15 attendees
- Easter in the Park on April 4 – received lots of donations, one more egg filling day on March 16
- T-ball/Baseball sign-ups closed - 85 players signed up

### COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert mentioned some citizens had asked him about a splash pad. He asked Parks and Recreation Director Sarah Goldsmith if she could do some research prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Allen questioned the liability risk, and Ms. Goldsmith said she would take that into account and do some research.

Mayor Coats asked Patrick Mulhearn with Ripple Fiber to approach. Commissioner Powell asked how much work was left to be done. They responded there was about 3 weeks left. Commissioner Allen asked if the reason for damages was due to not knowing where lines were. Their response was preliminary findings included equipment failure for the first time; the second time was due to pressure from equipment hitting the line and the third time was due to contractor negligence. Mr. Runyan explained the contractor had been pulled and was not doing any excavating. Mayor Coats asked if it was the same contractor each time and Mr. Runyan said it was, but he wasn't sure if it was the same sub-contractor.

Commissioner Powell mentioned the areas with boxes in people's front yards having washing issues when it rained, and excess cables being left lying in the ditch. Ripple Fiber representatives responded that as part of the final process there would be a check through and mentioned the customer care hotline where customers would get a ticket ID number and could track the final restoration process.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked if the Town would receive any bill for the damage that was done. Mr. Runyan said while he couldn't say they would absorb the cost, the Town would not either. Mayor Coats asked for as close of a promise as possible that previous events wouldn't be repeated. Mr. Runyan guaranteed they would put forth their best effort to ensure previous events didn't happen again. He explained they picked a new contractor who they had a long relationship with and they would be monitoring the process.

Mayor Coats asked if Andy Thomas with N-Focus was possibly looking at an old ordinance as he believed there was one regarding roosters. Ms. Hollerand said Mr. Thomas would be in the next day and they could look into it. Mayor Coats explained that from his memory, in partnering with Harnett County Animal Control, all ordinances needed to be similar to other municipalities.

Mayor Coats offered his help if needed for a proclamation for Kayden Beasley, saying Ms. Stevens was the second individual to reach out to him in the past five days.

Mayor Coats asked for an update on changes regarding the recycling situation. Ms. Hollerand explained there were issues with trash and recycling being comingled, causing Carolina Trash and Septic problems with potentially being rejected at the landfill. She explained she had met with Carolina Trash the week prior and would be bringing a proposal to the Board regarding giving customers more options on what kind of cans they have. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert confirmed that customers who had their can removed

would have the recycling charges removed from their bill, and Ms. Hollerand confirmed that was correct. He also asked if customers had been notified their can would be removed, and Customer Service Representative Mikayla Johnson explained there was an attempt to notify customers by phone call, and those that couldn't be reached received a door hanger from Public Works.

Commissioner Pope asked for an update regarding the flagpole at the cemetery. Ms. Hollerand explained that Mr. Blount found a company that specialized in flagpole repairs and the price came in around \$3,500. The Board was in agreeance with moving forward and getting the pole repaired.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked about the rooster situation, saying he didn't want the concerned citizen to have to wait another month for a resolution. Ms. Hollerand explained that if she did find an ordinance regarding roosters that action could be taken immediately, but if not it would require action from the Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert mentioned the line item for Christmas lights. He said he was in favor of doing so and would like to talk more about it in the near future. He confirmed Ms. Hollerand would have a conversation with Mr. Walden, and that she would speak to any other concerned citizen regarding their recycling can and she responded that she would. He also mentioned the owner of the trailer park, and Ms. Hollerand said he would be coming in the following day and they could discuss.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

**RESOLVED**, to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Pope

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg

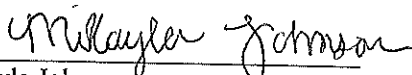
**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

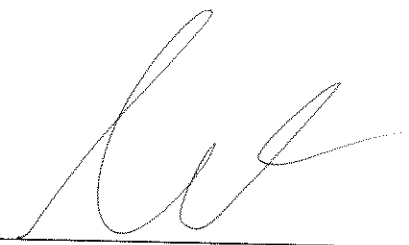
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The attached documents of reference are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

**Minutes prepared by Interim Town Clerk Mikayla Johnson.**

ATTEST:

  
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Mikayla Johnson  
Interim Town Clerk

  
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Chris Coats  
Mayor