

TOWN OF COATS  
Board of Commissioners  
January 13, 2022  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**I. ABSTRACT**

A scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on January 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley, Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, Commissioner Shirley Allen, Commissioner Allen Mosby and Commissioner Marc Powell were present.

Mayor Chris Coats was not present.

Town Attorney Alton Bain was present.

**III. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Mayor Pro-Tem Beasley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Beasley delivered the invocation and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley asked to amend the Agenda by adding the Introduction of New Director of Economic Development for Harnett County under New Business as Item A and move subsequent items down accordingly.

**RESOLVED**, to approve Agenda as amended.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER ALLEN MOSBY; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2022 Meeting
- B. Approval of Attorney Bill – Services Rendered December 1-31, 2021
- C. Review of Financial Statement

**RESOLVED**, to approve Consent Agenda.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER MARC POWELL; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Utility Repair Update & Approval**

Town Manager Nick Holcomb informed the Board that the water leak at the intersection of Main Street and Carrie Street had been repaired as directed by the Board at the December 9, 2021 meeting. Bids received as follows: **(Reference #1)**

\$22,242.00 – Columbus Utilities  
\$31,550.00 – Hydrant Mechanics

Mr. Holcomb stated that the low bidder, Columbus Utilities, made the repairs and that the cost was reduced to Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$16,300) because of equipment not used which was lowered in addition to the negotiated agreement that the Town would undertake the ABC stone and patch repair listed on the proposal.

Mr. Holcomb noted that there was an unplanned town-wide water supply shut off at some point between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. due to the lines not holding the anticipated pressure during repairs.

**RESOLVED**, to approve payment of Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$16, 300).

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER KELVIN GILBERT  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Introduction of New Director of Economic Development for Harnett County**

Walter Weeks, Chairman of Harnett County Properties Corporation, introduced Christian Lockamy as the new Director of Economic Development for Harnett County. Mr. Lockamy stated that he was impressed with the Town of Coats and that he looked forward to bringing resources to help with the Town's initiatives for growth.

### **B. Set Public Hearing for Rezoning**

Town Manager Nick Holcomb presented a rezoning request from the Planning Board for T & L Coats LLC on a parcel of land less than an acre to R-6 ND. Mr. Holcomb reminded the Board that this is a very similar request from the same developers that was approved in June of last year, but this particular piece of property was not up for sale at that time. Mr. Holcomb on the recommendation of the Planning Board requested to set a Public Hearing for February 10, 2022.

**RESOLVED**, to set Public Hearing for rezoning on February 10, 2022.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER ALLEN MOSBY; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER MARC POWELL  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

C. Voluntary Annexation Request

Town Manager Nick Holcomb presented a voluntary contiguous annexation request for a property with only one owner on Brick Mill Road that shares a border with the Elementary School. Mr. Holcomb stated that a Public Hearing on the Annexation and Rezoning will be required if this request is pursued by the Board with the initial action of the Clerk being directed to investigate the sufficiency of the petition; afterwards, the Planning Board would be involved with primarily the rezoning request and Public Hearings could take place in March.

Mr. Holcomb informed the Board that the owner has passed away leaving a son as executor of the estate and mentioned that the Town Attorney has seen some of the language of the deed. Mr. Holcomb noted that developers will do title search before close. Mr. Holcomb requested that the Clerk be directed to investigate the sufficiency of the petition. **(Reference #2)**

**RESOLVED**, to direct Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER KELVIN GILBERT; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

D. Set Schedule for Budget

Town Manager Nick Holcomb presented the proposed 2022-2023 Budget Calendar for approval of dates for Budget Workshops and Budget Adoption. **(Reference #3)**

**RESOLVED**, to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Calendar as presented.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER ALLEN MOSBY; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

E. Town Clerk Oath of Office

Retiring Town Clerk Karen Wooten administered the Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Town Clerk Connie Lassiter. **(Reference #4)**

## VII. MANAGER & COMMITTEE REPORT

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, updated the Board on the following:

1. A Board of Adjustment Organizational Meeting was held during the January 6, 2022 Planning Board Meeting. Walter Weeks was appointed as Chair of the Board of Adjustment and Hazel Stephenson was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Weeks and Ms. Stephenson will serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively on the Planning Board.
2. The Streetscape Kick-off Meeting held January 13, 2021 had a great turnout with good comments given on the display of images of potential streetscapes.
3. Starting to work on RFP for Solid Waste as well as RFP for Auditing Services
4. Received one bid for North Johnston Street paving. Awaiting one more bid.

5. Recent Annexation and Rezoning requests are the front of major residential projects coming. Looking for lots of commercial and residential development over the next year.
6. Close to half way through zoning and subdivision ordinance revision.

Ken Storicks, Police Chief, presented his December statistics and mentioned that he met with the School Board and Sheriff's Department to discuss running an evacuation drill at Coats Elementary and Coats Erwin Middle School in February. Mayor Pro Tem Beasley inquired on the status of a police car to which Chief Storicks replied that the new Durango that had been sitting in the parking lot is on the road in service now. Chief Storicks informed the Board that another car should arrive in March to replace the vehicle involved in an accident; and that equipment has been ordered to avoid any delay in getting this vehicle in service. **(Reference #5)**

#### **IX. Public Forum**

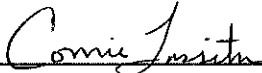
Mayor Pro-Tem Beasley opened the Public Forum and after hearing no one, closed Public Forum.


#### **X. RECESS**

**RESOLVED**, to recess meeting until January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to allow for discussion of County Library Consolidation and building needs.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER MARC POWELL; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN  
APPROVED: AYES (4) COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND POWELL; NOES (0)**

The meeting recessed at 7:37 p.m.

  
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Connie Lassiter, Town Clerk

  
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Chris Coats, Mayor

TOWN OF COATS  
Board of Commissioners  
January 24, 2022  
Rescheduled Recessed Meeting January 13, 2022  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**I. ABSTRACT**

A rescheduled recessed meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on January 13, 2022 reconvened on January 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Chris Coats, Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley, Commissioner Shirley Allen, Commissioner Allen Mosby and Commissioner Marc Powell were present.

Town Attorney Alton Bain was not present.

**III. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Mayor Coats reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

County Library Consolidation & Building Needs Discussion

Town Manager Nick Holcomb informed the Board that the Harnett County Library has proposed to consolidate with all towns in the county that have their own library effective July 1, 2022. Mr. Holcomb mentioned that the County would take into consideration the thoughts and opinions of each town and create one contract for all towns which would be ready for consideration approximately by May 2022.

Teresa Brown, Library Director, joined the meeting by Zoom call and said that she believes it would be a good idea to consolidate with the County. Ms. Brown turned it over to Library employee, Shannon George, to present and answer questions on her behalf. Ms. Brown mentioned that she would remain on Zoom call to answer questions as well. **(Reference #1)**

Ms. George highlighted the following benefits of consolidation:

1. Equitable services – all services would be the same at County operated libraries
2. Additional programs available such as adult book club, teen book club, tutoring services, movie night and programs for preschool and toddlers
3. New hours which would extend times to visit library
4. Full time staff and increase part-time staff

5. Increased budget for salaries, books, programs and supplies

Ms. George brought to the attention of the Board the drawings of potential new layouts of library which would allow for such things as a quiet room for tutoring, office for Teresa, media room, conference room and kid friendly area.

Town Manager Nick Holcomb noted that the Town contribution would need to be budgeted for the next two (2) years and in the third year the only expenses would be related to ownership of the building such as maintaining and insuring the building.

Councilman Kelvin Gilbert entered meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Mayor Chris Coats asked why there were three drawings presented as layouts. Ms. Brown mentioned that one of the layouts was taking into consideration the Chamber office lease renewal.

Discussion among the Board as follows:

1. Solution for rooms in library currently being used for storage
2. Need for more computers
3. Renovations for potential new layout
4. Possibility of closing library during Main Street events
5. Potential effect on Chamber lease renewal

Commissioner Gilbert commented that he wanted more time to analyze the consolidation of the library.

Mayor Pro Tem Beasley suggested that Town Manager Nick Holcomb should relay to the County Library that a 6-month cancellation clause should be included in the contract and that the Town Manager be allowed input in the hiring of Library Director.

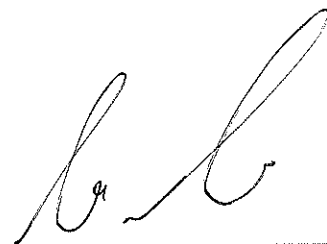
**V. ADJOURN**

**RESOLVED**, to adjourn meeting.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER ALLEN MOSBY; SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER SHIRLEY ALLEN  
APPROVED: AYES (5) MAYOR PRO TEM BEASLEY; COMMISSIONERS MOSBY, GILBERT, ALLEN, AND  
POWELL; NOES (0)**

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

  
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Connie Lassiter, Town Clerk

  
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Chris Coats, Mayor