

**TOWN OF COATS  
Board of Commissioners  
Thursday, April 13, 2023  
Official Minutes**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**Members Present:**

Mayor Chris Coats  
Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley  
Commissioner Marc Powell  
Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

**Others Present:**

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager  
Al Bain, Town Attorney  
Connie Lassiter, Finance Director/Town Clerk  
Ken Storicks, Chief of Police  
Rodney Pleasant, Public Works Director  
Mike Collins, Parks and Recreation Director

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Shirley Allen  
Commissioner Allen Mosby

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve Agenda.

**MOTION BY: Commissioner Marc Powell, SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert  
APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. March 9, 2023 Regular Meeting
  - 2. March 23, 2023 Budget Workshop
  - 3. March 25, 2023 Budget Workshop
- B. Approval of Attorney Bill – Services Rendered March 1-31, 2023
- C. Approval of Sale for Cemetery Lots C191-192 and C623-627

**RESOLVED**, to approve Consent Agenda.

**MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, SECOND BY: Commissioner Marc Powell  
APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

**III. PRESENTATION**

Dr. Linda Robinson was presented with proclamations recognizing her eight years of service as Mayor Pro Tem and Commissioner for the Town of Coats in addition to practicing medicine for over forty years in Harnett County by Mayor Chris Coats on behalf of the Town of Coats, County Commissioner Brooks Matthews on behalf of Harnett County, and State Representative Howard Penny on behalf of the State of North Carolina. Senator Jim Burgin presented Dr. Robinson with the prestigious honor of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine for her significant contributions to her community and state for medical services.

#### **IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mayor Chris Coats opened the Public Forum.

Michelle Godwin announced that a barbeque fundraiser for the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church cemetery and church renovations would be held Saturday at the Senior Center from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Coats closed the Public Forum after hearing no one else.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Request for Easement – CloudWyze**

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, informed the Board that CloudWyze had been working to install fiber internet in rural areas which included Harnett County and noted that work in Erwin had been completed and they were currently working in Dunn with intentions of Coats being the next stop. CloudWyze is requesting a 3' x 5' easement for a cabinet.

Kyle Lefelhoc, Vice President of CloudWyze, explained that the cabinet held electronics that were the brains of the operation. He expressed that his company desired to provide internet service to the underserved rural communities such as Coats. Mr. Lefelhoc mentioned that he had worked with Town Manager Nick Holcomb to find potential locations for the cabinet and had identified 128 W Lemon St as a good location that would be hidden from public view.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the request on contingency that the Town attorney reviews lease and finds no problems.

**MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley, SECOND BY: Commissioner Marc Powell**  
**APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

##### **B. Request to Purchase Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)**

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, stated that the purchase of a Ground Penetrating Radar had been a topic of discussion at budget workshops, and it had been determined that it would be useful for mapping the water system and protecting lines from outside contract work. Town Manager Holcomb noted that money was available to purchase the GPR now if the Board was inclined to approve the purchase. He explained that \$64,000 had been budgeted for the Capital Improvement Plan this year which included \$50,000 for CIP analysis and \$14,000 for emergency repairs and noted that only \$12,000 had been spent for the CIP analysis, so the purchase of the \$16,000 GPR would still allow \$36,000 to be returned to fund balance.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the purchase of the Ground Penetrating Radar.

**MOTION BY: Commissioner Marc Powell, SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert**  
**APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

C. Open Grant Project Ordinance – Multipurpose Hardcourt

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, reminded the Board that there had been agreement at previous meetings to direct the \$50,000 grant that was passed through Harnett County toward park improvements with the majority of the Board interested in turning the dilapidated tennis courts into a multipurpose hardcourt that could be used for things like tennis, basketball and pickleball. The staff recommendation was to convert the area to a grass multipurpose field that could serve as a dedicated field for the youth soccer program. A grant project ordinance needed to be established in order to proceed with the project.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the grant project ordinance for a multipurpose hardcourt.

**MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley**  
**APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

D. Investment of Funds

Town Manager Nick Holcomb informed the Board that no action was need on investment of funds, but staff was seeking options for higher interest rates and wanted to provide the Board an opportunity for any feedback. Mr. Holcomb noted that First Bank was actively recruiting for local government funds and offered 4.25% for a \$500,000 money market account. The current rate for the NCCMT (Trust) was 4.83% with expectation to be up to 5% by May. Mr. Holcomb asked the Board for any input steering investments one way or the other.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley expressed that \$500,000 would be okay to move from the depository. Finance Director Connie Lassiter explained that at the moment the Trust had the highest rate with expectations of rising higher and that money could be moved immediately at any time with a simple phone call should rates start to drop. Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert indicated that he would steer in the direction of the highest rate. Commissioner Marc Powell noted the relationship with the Trust was good.

E. Celebrating Spiritual Unity Day

Commissioner Marc Powell relayed a request from Buster Stone asking for street closures on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Spiritual Unity Day to allow for pedestrians to walk without traffic posing a problem. Town Manager Nick Holcomb explained that the street closure would be at the east end of Lemon St. just up from the driveway entrance into the Town Hall parking lot as well as the east end of Dooley St.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the street closures as mentioned.

**MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley**  
**APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

## VI. MANAGER & DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### A. Review of Financial Statement

There were no questions or comments.

### B. Budget Status

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, updated the Board that the focus had been on salaries for the budget and mentioned it was difficult to balance; there would definitely be some cuts. Mr. Holcomb confirmed that the proposed budget would be presented at the May meeting, but there may be the need for the additional budget workshop that had been tentatively scheduled.

### C. Minimum Housing Update

Town Manager Nick Holcomb notified the Board that he planned on having the contractor demolition bids and the ordinance to condemn and demolish ready to present at the May meeting for the two properties that were given 90 days to come in compliance as the time would have expired at that point.

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, relayed that there had already been some changes just in the first month of the water line project. The Railroad St project as it was would create a pinch point where there would be one block of a pinched 3" line squeezed between the new 8" line and an existing 6" line, so the engineers were proposing a change with the State right now.

Town Manager Holcomb requested on behalf of the auditors if the Board would allow a remote presentation of the audit. Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert inquired about a reduction in cost due to the remote audit. The Board was in agreement to the remote audit presentation as long as they were given a copy of the audit with graphs.

Police Chief Ken Storicks commented that he had interviewed a candidate to fill the vacant officer position and was optimistic about the hiring of the officer.

Public Works Director Rodney Pleasant thanked the Board for the approval to purchase the GPR.

## VII. ADJOURN

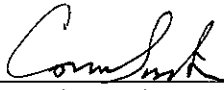
Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

**RESOLVED**, to adjourn.

**MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley, SECOND BY: Commissioner Marc Powell**  
**APPROVED: 3-0, unanimously approved**

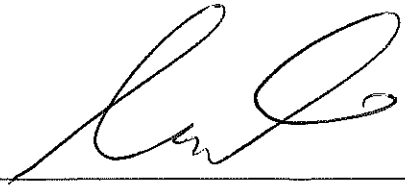
Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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



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Connie Lassiter, Town Clerk



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Chris Coats, Mayor