

TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, July 11, 2024
Official Minutes

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Invocation & Pledge

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

B. Approval of Agenda

RESOLVED, to approve the agenda.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2024

B. Approval of Attorney Bill – Services Rendered June 1-30, 2024

C. Approval of WithersRavenel Payment

RESOLVED, to approve Consent Agenda.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Coats Museum Display

Walter Weeks, Coats Museum Representative, requested that the museum be allowed to put a single display case in the board room that would be a focal point to showcase the town's history.

He offered that the museum would remove the display case if the board did not like it or could add additional displays if the board desired to do so.

RESOLVED, to allow museum to put the display case in the council room.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

B. Local Water Supply Plan

Town Manager Nick Holcomb explained that a Local Water Supply Plan was required to be approved every five years. The board had received the actual submitted plan with letter of NC DEQ approval and the resolution to approve the plan.

RESOLVED, to approve the Local Water Supply Plan.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

C. Comprehensive Land Use Plan Consultant

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, expressed that it was a critical time to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in order for it to be reasonably maintained due to development factors being much different now than nine or ten years ago. Recent rezonings and hearings should have made it clear the importance and value of having a good plan to use as a guide for land use and rezoning decisions as well as use for decisions regarding capital investments and infrastructure.

Town Manager Holcomb announced that proposals had been received from two consultant groups, Stewart Engineering and KCI, to help spearhead the process. He commented that Stewart was currently doing the process for Harnett County which would give them a feel for what was going on around us. He mentioned that KCI came highly recommended by Lillington and Dunn and noted that some of the people with KCI now were formerly with Stewart. N-Focus could also be an option as they were familiar with the town from the working on the UDO and should be in the same price range as the others.

Mr. Holcomb noted that KCI would spread cost into the next fiscal year which would help since we were only able to budget \$30,000 this year. Also, KCI would lower pricing if the planning board would manage some of the public information aspects such as setting up a booth at Farmers Day to gather surveys and get public feedback.

RESOLVED, to select KCI for Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

D. Approval of Ferguson Payment – AMI Water Meter Project

Town Manager Nick Holcomb explained that the final pay request received from Ferguson for the AMI Water Meter project was about \$20,870 over the remaining budgeted amount of \$301,914. He recommended that the board approve payment of only the remaining budgeted amount in

order to close the project in the same fiscal year since it was not set up as a capital project. Credits are owed to the Town for undercounted $\frac{3}{4}$ " meters which will amount to around \$9,000. Mr. Holcomb handed out the final counts to the board that he received after the packets went out. He informed the board that a budget amendment would be needed in the new fiscal year for \$13,000-\$15,000 once all credits and adjustments were completed. He reminded the board that it had been expected that an amendment would be needed for adjustment of meter counts, but there was no way to know at the outset of the project that there would be 144 meters to be adjusted.

RESOLVED, to approve payment as requested.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Chris Coats opened the Public Forum.

Gale Spears, 120 Gale Spears Dr, Coats NC, addressed the board about the issue she continued to have with water standing in her yard when it rains.

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

V. MANAGER & DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. Financial Reports

No comments were made regarding financial reports.

B. Introduction of Parks & Recreation Director

Mark Whitman was introduced as the new full-time Parks & Recreation Director. Mr. Whitman communicated his desire to draw the kids back that had left Coats to play in other towns. He added that there was a lot of work to be done and some changes would be needed to make a better parks and recreation program. He expressed his enthusiasm in working in this community and willingness to work with town staff and community groups and businesses.

C. Waterline Upsize Project

The waterline upsize replacement project work began today on Railroad St and Ida St. Everything should be completed in about two months.

D. Downtown Revitalization Concepts

There will be a meeting held with the downtown stakeholder group to show the architectural renderings and design concepts to address the loss of parking and gather feedback.

E. Public Works Facility Update

The pad has been dug for concrete to be poured as soon as the engineered plans and permits are received. The fencing material should be delivered in the next two to three weeks.

F. Street Resurfacing

Commissioners were requested to be prepared at the August meeting to name streets at the top of their priority list for resurfacing in order to formalize a bid. Town Manager Holcomb mentioned Washington and Mason as potential streets. Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert commented that most of the streets in town could benefit from resurfacing and suggested a plan was needed to address the concern of lack of money to keep up with the paving needs of the town.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.

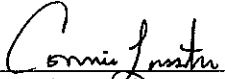
MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

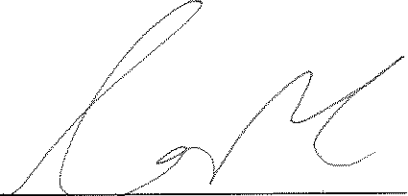
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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



Connie Lassiter, Town Clerk



Chris Coats, Mayor