

**TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, October 10, 2024
Official Minutes**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 10, 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
Commissioner Monique Clegg

Others Present:

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager
Connie Lassiter, Finance Director/Town Clerk
Rodney Pleasant, Public Works Director

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: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2024

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

RESOLVED, to approve Consent Agenda.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cemetery Fund Transfer

Finance Director Connie Lassiter pointed out the prior board action of the approval of the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget with cemetery upkeep expenses included under the newly created General

Services/Appearance Department within the General Fund because there were no more plots available to sell thus no revenue to balance the expenditures. Both the LGC and town auditor were consulted and both were in agreeance with the recommendation by town staff to close the Cemetery Fund since the town would no longer receive revenue for plot sales. The amount currently remaining in the Cemetery Fund balance was \$71,553.27.

RESOLVED, to approve the budget amendment to transfer the balance in the Cemetery Fund to the General Fund.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

RESOLVED, to approve the ordinance for the dissolution of the Cemetery Fund.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

B. Set Public Hearing on Rezoning – 568 N Orange St, 546 N Orange St, 552 N. Orange St

Town Manager Nick Holcomb relayed that a public hearing was required for a request to change rezoning from the current zoning of SFR-1 to SFR-3 at 568 N. Orange St, 546 N. Orange St and 552 N. Orange St. He noted that the Planning Board recommended the rezoning.

RESOLVED, to set Public Hearing for rezoning to November 14.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

C. Board Room AV Upgrades

The Board Room AV upgrades were discussed during the FY2025 budget meetings and funds were allocated in the budget. A quote was obtained from NC Sound to provide and install a 75” TV mounted monitor in addition to the existing TV monitor and with HDMI cable connection ran to laptop for display on both monitors; wired microphone at podium; four new speakers throughout room connecting back to existing amplifier; and a new AV rack. Town Manager Holcomb noted that the NC Sound representative instructed that the Commissioners microphones were not in need of replacement and suggested that the microphone should be adjusted at or slightly below the speaker’s mouth to produce adequate volume.

Town Manager Holcomb inquired whether or not the board would like to proceed with the entirety of the quote or any portion of it. He mentioned that this project would exhaust the building repair line item for the year and a budget amendment would be necessary if any other repair projects were required throughout the remainder of the year.

The Board discussed the need for the upgrade based on previous citizens’ comments about not being able to see the current TV monitor and trouble hearing.

RESOLVED, to go ahead with the quote.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

D. Gale Spears Dr. Drainage Bids

A report outlining findings and suggested upgrades for the drainage situation for the Sunny Acres neighborhood was given at last month's meeting. Town Manager Nick Holcomb explained that because the existing pipe entered an existing storm box which could not easily be connected to or expanded an alternative was studied to add a second 15" pipe to carry water from corner of 120 Gale Spears Dr directly to fallout area. Barbour Grading and Construction bid \$9,190 to restore ditch and \$15,911 to install pipe for a total of \$25,101. B & L Construction and Septic submitted a total bid of \$36,700 for the project.

Mr. Holcomb announced that the property owner at 131 McLean St was not in favor of the ditch running the full length of his property. He noted that a possible compromise would be to run the ditch approximately 80' to the back of his house and with the savings of the cost of the ditch work for the 50' feet in the front yard a driveway tile could be added in the place of the owners choosing to retain vehicle access to his rear yard.

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert expressed that saying this would solve the problem would be a false hope and that running the ditch half-way or full length would garner the same result in his opinion. Commissioner Jerry Beasley agreed and suggested that the homeowner could run a french drain to the ditch at his own expense.

RESOLVED, to restore ditch the length of Gale's property and half of the other citizen's property using Barbour Grading.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

RESOLVED, to approve installation of pipe using Barbour Grading.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

E. AMI Meter Payment

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager, explained that a budget amendment of \$13,472 was necessary to pay the remaining balance for the AMI project after receiving all credits for returned unused meters.

RESOLVED, to approve payment of remaining AMI meter project amount and associated budget amendment.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Chris Coats opened the Public Forum.

Vicki Ingersoll, 30 N Railroad St, Coats NC, announced the upcoming Farmer's Day events.

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

V. MANAGER & DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Town Manager Nick Holcomb informed the Board that the waterline project should be completed in November. Finance Director Connie Lassiter updated the Board on the current financial status of the waterline project and relayed the previous transactions regarding the project.

Manager Holcomb announced that the Public Works Building renovations funded by the Harnett County pass-through grant had been completed and explained that the project did go over budget by \$995 due to issues that had to be resolved in order to pass inspection. Finance Director Connie Lassiter mentioned that the overage could be absorbed by the budgeted expenditure line item for building repairs in the Water Fund rendering a budget amendment unnecessary.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.

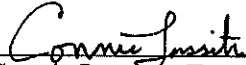
MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

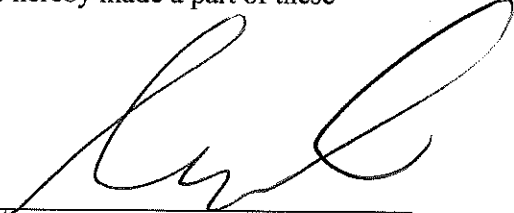
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 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