**TOWN OF COATS**
**Board of Commissioners**
**Thursday, October 8, 2026**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**Members Present:**
Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
Commissioner Todd Pope
Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
Commissioner Marc Powell
Mayor Chris Coats

**Staff Present:**
Barbara Hollerand, Town Manager
Wesley Blount, Public Works Director
Jade Stone, Town Clerk / Human Resources
Sarah Goldsmith, Parks & Recreation Director
David Register, Acting Police Chief
Courtney Knight, Finance Director
Mikayla Johnson, Deputy Clerk

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Shirley Allen

**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

**RESOLVED,** to amend agenda as presented by striking adding a Commissioners Comments Period prior to Public Comment Period, remove Business Item #5 pertaining to BLET Sponsorship, and adding a Closed Session pursuant to to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3).
**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Marc Powell
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

**RESOLVED,** to approve consent agenda items as presented.
**MOTION BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Todd Pope
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

## COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT

Chris Coats wished to take a moment to thank all individuals present tonight and to apologize that false statements had been made that Farmers Day would be cancelled; assured that all events would take place as planned, weather permitting. Apologized for any confusion. Stated these talks stemmed from discussions

with the League of Municipalities, the town's insurer, providing information pertaining to requirements needed in order to conduct safe events within the town. Stated that continued discussions will be had with the Chamber for the Christmas events and all future events.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair of Planning Board, Hazel Stephenson, 220 S. Railroad Street, Coats, NC, stated that the board has a vacancy for one of the in-town positions and requested the Board of Commissioners open the position up to the public for applications.

Ann Stevens, 59 E. Park Street, Coats, NC, stated that rolling trash receptacles are becoming an eyesore by being left out all week long; states she hit one the other day in the roadway; also wanted to convey that it was dangerous crossing across 27 towards Orange/Abattoir, hard to see traffic coming over the hill, says it took her 5-10 minutes to drive across.

Debbie Cann, 8122 Maude Stewart Road, Fuquay-Varina, NC, Vice-President of the Coats Chamber speaking on behalf of their Board of Directors, to discuss chamber's concerns about preparation of Farmers Day. Their executive director and chamber president met with the mayor, a commissioner, and department heads on September 30th. Stated police coverage, road closures, and insurance were discussed. Stated the Chamber has never been asked to handle these matters or additional costs before; says these expectations are unreasonable and frustrating. Chamber asked who is making these decisions – staff or the board? Chamber requests a face-to-face meeting with the Mayor and full Board within a week. Hopes all will join the Chamber in celebrating the upcoming event.

Frank Horvath, 288 S. Carrie Street, Coats, NC, Paster of Coats Methodist Church. Shares the community's excitement for the new downtown square. Requests to host a community Easter Sunrise Service on March 28, 2027. States other local parks are used for religious ceremonies wants Coats too as well. Also wants to request that the town government allow individuals to complete their community service doing town work.

Kevin Lee, 70 N. Railroad Street, Coats, NC, agreed with Mrs. Cann that town could use some good communication. States he has been a member of the Chamber for several years. Adopted a highway toward the park to keep the streets cleaned. Says recently the Chamber has caused strife within the town. Mayor Coats interrupted Mr. Lee and advised that his comments should be directed toward the Board and address matters the Board had control over. Mr. Lee requests the town and the Chamber meet and deal with the animosity currently being experienced.

Stephanie Carpenter, 3584 Old Stage Road, Coats, NC, wished to provide history on Farmers Day. Excited about 114th celebration; states the event celebrates history, local farmers, businesses, and the people of Coats. Hopes everyone will come out and attend the event which includes vendors, entertainment, and local artists. Says a lot of heart and hard work have gone into planning this year's event. Stated this event is a celebration of our past, present, and future. States it's her first time heading up the event and she wants it to be the best. States Treat Street will be October 31st from 3-8 p.m. and want 55 to Main and Railroad to Main to be closed during event.

Pat Godwin, 834 Old Stage Road, Coats, NC, states she was executive director for the Chamber for many years and is still a volunteer with the Chamber. States many towns do their own festivals and that Coats Chamber does the Town of Coats' festivals. Wants the Town to know how much she loves the people and Farmers Day festival. Asks that everyone try to work together and asks that no misinformation be given out.

Allen Faircloth, 16 East Main Street, Coats, NC, states he has deep concerns for the future of Coats. Says town if paralyzed by inaction and missed opportunities. Says growth and prosperity do not happen by accident. States current administration has failed to do what was necessary. Says actions taken by board and/or staff to include insurance requirements for events is unnecessary and not what other local towns do with their local chambers. Says the town has misguided priorities and misaligned leadership. States the voters of Coats will be forced to seek a voter referendum or legislative action asking for the town to be annexed into a neighboring community. Says the town needs to stop obstructing progress.

Vikki Ingersoll, 30 N. Railroad Street, Coats, NC, says another business was lost on Main Street when Viva Zapata closed; says more action is needed to revitalize downtown; requests additional efforts on rebuilding the police force; asks that the Chamber power boards been kept up to allow for power usage during events; says that relationship have been built between Chamber and the Town and asks that additional steps be taken to foster that relationship.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Presentation of Revenue Report.

Presented by Ms. Knight; explanation of town's financial report. Revenue is behind for first quarter as state and county taxes have not yet been received; water funds are currently ahead of projected revenue. Current expenses are within of the 24% anticipated expenses for the year as budgeted.

2. Consideration and Approval of Budget Amendment #2027-03.

Presented by Ms. Knight; explanation of budget amendment which included moving of SCIF grant funds.

**RESOLVED,** to approve the budget amendment as presented.
**MOTION BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Marc Powell
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and Approval of Proposed Amendment to the Town's Personnel Policy and Administrative Policies.

Presented by Ms. Stone; update to town's existing personnel policy as well as the information technology, unlawful harassment-discrimination, and vehicle use policies as well as new social media and communications policy and a travel policy.

**RESOLVED,** to approve policies as presented.
**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Marc Powell
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration and Approval of Renewal of the Computer Support Services Agreement with Harnett County Information Technology.

Presented by Ms. Stone; renewal and continuation of prior years' agreement with Harnett County to continue to provide IT services to the town.

**RESOLVED,** to approve agreement as presented.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Marc Powell
**SECOND BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

No Report.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) - *To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee,* and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) - *to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.*

**RESOLVED,** to enter into closed session.
**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Todd Pope
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners entered into Closed Session at 7:35 p.m.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Commissioners reconvened in open session at 8:58 p.m.

**RESOLVED,** to hire Matt Garner as new Town Manager beginning November 23, 2026, with negotiated vacation in his contract.
**MOTION BY**: Commissioner Todd Pope
**SECOND BY**: Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
**APPROVED**: Motion carried unanimously.

**FINAL COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

With no further comments, Mayor Coats called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**RESOLVED,** to adjourn the meeting.
**MOTION BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Todd Pope
**APPROVED:** Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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

Chris Coats, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jade Stone, Town Clerk