

TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, March 26, 2026

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in scheduled budget work session on Thursday, March 26, 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 Marc Powell
Commissioner Shirley Allen
Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg

Members Absent:

Mayor Chris Coats

Staff Present:

Sarah Goldsmith, Parks and Recreation Director
Wesley Blount, Public Works Director
Kenneth Storicks, Police Chief
Mikayla Johnson, Interim Town Clerk

Staff Absent:

Barbara Hollerand, Town Manger

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Town Manager Barbara Hollerand began by saying this work session was to introduce a breakdown of department budgets. She mentioned looking at other solutions for services such as animal control, due to a 15% raise in cost in the next year. She noted that Dunn handled their own animal control, and she had been in contact with the city to see if they would consider handling animal control for Coats as well.

Public Works Director Wes Blount discussed inspection fees for new construction that would mostly affect developers and contractors. Next, he discussed the solid waste charge. He explained \$9 rather than \$6 would be more reasonable for in-house services. Commissioner Marc Powell mentioned Carolina Trash potentially taking over solid waste services and asked what the cost would be. Mr. Blount said it would be around \$9 and some change. Commissioner Powell asked what Public Works staff would prefer. Mr. Blount explained he would choose to outsource, as maintenance would no longer be an issue and Carolina Trash trucks have cameras. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked if the new proposed fees were comparable to other towns. Mr. Blount responded that the rates weren't the lowest and not the highest but somewhere in the middle. Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg voiced that if changes are made regarding yard waste, she believed customers should be notified that they have options. Mr. Blount also informed the Board that Carolina Trash would ideally like 6-8 weeks notice to prepare.

Mr. Blount also discussed the water rate study results that were presented on March 12 at the regular Board meeting as well as the system development fee study. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked about the cost, and Mr. Blount said it would be around \$29,000. Mr. Blount stressed that fees regarding the water rates would affect everyone, and system development fees would mostly affect new construction. There was discussion regarding the best way to notify customers and how effective notifications would be.

Parks & Recreation Director Sarah Goldsmith discussed making a change to the picnic shelter fee, suggesting an all-day fee rather than in increments of three hours. She mentioned not renting out the concession due to no hot water or security. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked if the plan was to open the concessions in the future, and Ms. Goldsmith said yes. Next, she mentioned a late fee for sports registration, noting all other towns had at least a \$5 late fee. She also discussed wanting to start a couple of summer camp programs for \$20, potentially between baseball and soccer season as well as nature programming for the cost of supplies. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked what would be offered for adults. Ms. Goldsmith said parents would be welcome at nature programs and eventually she would like to bring adult softball back. Ms. Goldsmith said her intentions were to have programs accessible for all.

Ms. Hollerand discussed several proposed positions: Assistant Public Works Director, Water Maintenance Supervisor, Town Planner, Facilities & Grounds Maintenance Specialist and Community Engagement Coordinator, a reclassified position.

Mr. Blount and Ms. Goldsmith discussed potential benefits if the positions were approved as well as some job duties. Ms. Hollerand discussed the benefits of a Town Planner.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Powell


SECOND BY: Commissioner Warren-Clegg

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

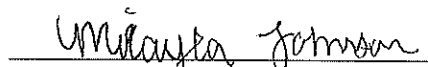
The attached documents of reference are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Minutes prepared by Interim Town Clerk Mikayla Johnson.



Chris Coats
Mayor

ATTEST:



Mikayla Johnson
Interim Town Clerk