

TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, April 16, 2026

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in scheduled budget work session on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

Members Present:

Mayor Chris Coats
Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
Commissioner Marc Powell
Commissioner Shirley Allen
Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
Commissioner Todd Pope

Staff Present:

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

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.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Stephen Barrington with Harnett County's Economic Development Office made a presentation, thanking the Board for being part of the job campaign. He explained that last year \$150,000 was raised for the purpose of transitioning available land into market-ready sites. He said he believed Coats could excel in the gap in industrial properties, which was a smaller product. He gave the example of Gray Flex.

After Mr. Barrington's presentation, Town Manager Barbara Hollerand began a review of the proposed budget. She explained that the goal of this workshop was to reach consensus before the draft budget was presented May 14. She gave a recap of the previous meetings and said key decisions for the proposed budget included no decrease in tax rate, prioritizing new positions and pay adjustments, downtown revitalization, succession planning, and consideration of a future fund balance policy. She went over proposed 2026-2027 revenues and expenditures, explaining that some numbers were placeholders. She said that once she had a chance to work with finance staff, the projections would be more solid.

Commissioner Shirley Allen asked if health insurance would be going up. Ms. Hollerand said insurance increases were still being reviewed. Commissioner Marc Powell asked about the contract with N-Focus. Ms. Hollerand explained she had included a reduced amount for a transition in case it was needed while a town planner was being recruited.

Ms. Hollerand touched on animal control, saying that after researching a potential contract with the City of Dunn, the proposal was not realistic due to distance, costs for veterinary care and boarding and police response. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert asked how many calls the county responded to in Coats last year and Ms. Hollerand said 80 calls.

With regard to new proposed positions, Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert expressed concerns that the employees' time would be fully utilized. Mayor Coats asked Parks and Recreation Director Sarah Goldsmith what additional services she could provide if her positions were approved, and she listed grant writing, summer camps, adult softball, new nature programs and creating a succession plan. Public Works Director Wes Blount said he would be able to concentrate on training for basic operations, safety, 811 system and ground penetrating radar. Mr. Blount referenced the new developments adding to the workload and explained he is the only one in the department trained on the 811 system. Chief Ken Storicks explained he could add a second officer on night shift, increase supervision and provide more training opportunities.

Town Board and Planning Board increases were discussed. Ms. Hollerand confirmed that the Board was in agreement with the proposed positions. Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert said he would like the budget for building repairs to be increased.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Marc Powell

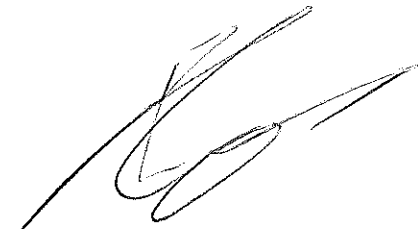
SECOND BY: Commissioner Todd Pope

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

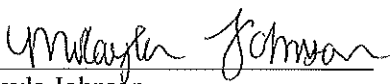
The attached documents of reference are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Minutes prepared by Interim Town Clerk Mikayla Johnson.



Chris Coats
Mayor

ATTEST:



Mikayla Johnson
Interim Town Clerk