

Regular Meeting
Town of Cooleemee
February 15, 2021 6:00 pm
Minutes

In attendance were Mayor Jessica Almond, Commissioners: Don Cover, Jeannie Taylor, Commissioner Reavis, and Michael White, Town Clerk Steven Corriher, and Attorney Wendy Terry.

Mayor Jessica Almond called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Commissioner Cover

Pledge to the US Flag led by The Mayor

Visitors were welcomed.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to add the annual Easter Egg Event to Old Business Item A to the agenda.

Seconded by Commissioner Cover, motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Cover to adopt the agenda and the consent agenda which includes Minutes from the January 18, 2021 meeting as well as the financial report.

Seconded by Commissioner Reavis, motion carried (3-0)

Public Comment Jonathan Vizard from Center St. spoke on a neighboring house that seems to have trash outside and a stove under the carport. Wondered if anything was being done.

David Bone came to introduce himself to the Town Board as the new Davie County Manager gave an update on COVID vaccines and testing. Gave an update on the Library had an agreement with the current property owner for 5 years even though there was an attempt to double the monthly lease they Landlord has decided to honor the agreement made just months before, so the county and the Town were grateful the library has a secure home for the next 5 years.

Code Update: Code Officer presented the board with violations from January being the end of the year reports were being worked on most of the month there were only 8 violations written 6 of those had been abated by time the meeting was held 1 was given an extension due to weather and the fact the mess they had to clean up was severe and really needed more than one week the Code Officer did report great progress however had been made. The last one was a Junk car which has 30 days to move so their time was not up yet. He had also addressed the Center St complaint stating multiple violations has been written to the house and each time they correct the last violation was written in November for which the Code Officer submitted before and after pictures showing work complete. Currently there are toys in the yard and carport but that was not a violation of the Town Ordinances. He would check on the stove situation.

Town Hall Update: The Town had entered a copier/ printer agreement a year ago with 500 B&W and 100 Color copies included, this seems to be working out great as all the Clerk has to worry with is paper on the machine, they keep track of copies and ink and auto send ink as needed. So far new has not even been required for the new machine the old printer I was changing ink at least monthly on Black ink and about 3 weeks on some color ink so the Town is saving a tremendous amount with the switch over, on average just for ink it was costing the town around \$220 an month that cost has been cut in half to \$112. We was using the old printer on some items however since we still had some ink now that that has ran out we run the risk of going over our 600 copies month so I have asked for a quote for 1200 doubling each B&W and Color copies. I have not received that quote they have assured me it will be a minimum up charge.

The Clerk asked the board to be considered a full time employee, for 2 very simple facts, Firstly he was allotted 20 hours a week and performing 3 jobs it is very difficult to do that. The Town can only consider a position Part-Time if that employee works less than 1000 per year or 20 hours per week. Now the current salary for his 3 positions are rated at 30 hours however 10 of those hours were paid as a contract not as an employee. Having a CPA look at what this has done to his personal income for 2020 this was no longer an option unfortunately. So he had quit paying himself for Code Work in October still performing the duties perhaps just not in full form since then and still working 25-32 hours a week but only paying himself for 20 to stay under the guidelines of the 1000 hours. Under the written offer his salary would not change the only new cost to the Town would be about \$1000 for FICA and roughly \$6000 for state retirement annually . He stated he was comfortable speaking of the way he paid himself because in speaking the Town Auditor it was perfectly legal to perform a "volunteer" role to help out.

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to accept this offer to Mr. Corriher for full time services beginning March 1, 2021 with the Town offering State Retirement as well as Vacation, Sick, and Holiday Pay.

Seconded by Commissioner Cover, motion carried (4-0)

Post Office: A few complaints had came in to the board in recent weeks about mail delivery and mailboxes within town. The Clerk was asked to research the questions and get back to the board with any answers he could supply. The Clerk has stated he asked questions early in his Town involvement about why some things were the way they were and very quickly became a "Man who wanted to shut down the library". He was hoping that would not happen this go around but he would try to have these questions answered.

Most doing with the way mail is delivered, and why folks cannot have a mailbox outside their home. In speaking with Ms. Lucas at the Greensboro office it was stated the No Mailbox Ordinance is not uncommon in smaller Towns especially in the roadside, to which I said I believe that to be the main reason the Town has this in effect, But that also some folks were worried since houses with a mailbox outside has a postal address of 27028 not the 27014 she stated yes because Mocksville delivers that mail the Town was not losing its Identity due to this although she can see why folks would question that. She also asked why are we the Town being asked questions on the Post Office as the Town would have absolutely no authority or jurisdiction with the Postal Service. I said I understood that but for most it's easier to contact Town Hall than anyone else. The current statement the Clerk made back to the board was just that from now on the Town need not attempt to answer questions concerning the Post Office

rather put them in touch with the local Office in hopes all their questions would be answered by someone who knows. I also wanted to reassure the board of 2 major things, 1 the Town, nor the Local Post Office sets fees, and 2 the Town is not ever obligated to offer mail services to anyone that is within the Federal Government and if you read something on their website about receiving mail paid or free services, that is questions not involving the Town.

Old Business: The Mayor spoke on trying to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 27, 2021 here at the Zachary House grounds. Everyone seemed to be in favor of this pending where State COVID restrictions currently are. Since we would be outdoors, would still practice Social Distancing, have signs requiring mask if needed, and we would not anticipate more than 50 people which is the current number of outdoor attendances It was felt it should be fine. It is OK if you do not feel comfortable not to take part in the event.

The Finance Officer presented a quote to the Board from O'Neal's Lawn care to remove the fence around the front of the Zachary House as it has become quite aged and unsightly and in fact are not up to date with current Town regulations concerning Fences, they will refill holes and plant grass for \$200. The quote removes the fence from the gate entrance on Marginal St. all the way down Church St. leaving the fence that runs between the Church Property and The Town Property so that kids playing in the field behind the Church could not have easy access to the pool area. It was questioned would this open up the grounds for foot traffic or unwanted pet traffic, the Clerk stated no more than it currently does, as with the portions in question there are 3 openings 2 for cars on for pedestrians that are never closed, never locked so folks come in now whenever they wish. Questions came up with the Park, The Clerk stated the Tennis Court has a taller fence already around it so it would not be effected, the fence around the Playground would stay in place the fence running alongside Basketball court would remain to keep balls from the street. The Clerk stated he has spoke with CHA as well on the matter they seemed on board but wanted to meet and vote and discuss the matter as a board. He felt this was fair due to the partnership in hopes between the 2 entities. Attorney Terry suggested signs be placed on Pool fencing for Do Not Enter or No Trespassing in an attempt to cover the Town by folks that may see the fence gone as an invite to the area.

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to accept this offer of fence removal as quoted leaving up areas that were mentioned in the details.

Seconded by Commissioner Reavis motion carried (3-0) (Cover had been excused)

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Taylor, motion carried (3-0) Cover had been excused)

Motion made by Commissioner

1 hour 15 minutes Meeting Time

Mayor, Jessica Almond

Clerk, Steven Corriher