

Regular Meeting
Town of Cooleemee
February 21, 2022 6:00 pm
Minutes

In attendance were Mayor Jessica Almond, Commissioners: Almond, Taylor, White, Reavis, Town Clerk Aaron Thies, 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 to adopt agenda and consent agenda of financial report and Jan. monthly meeting minutes by Commissioner Reavis Second by Commissioner Almond Favor 4-0

Public comments

Sue Correll came to board is a concern that the town board wasn't out in the public eye available in time of need. She feels as the board needs to be the ones hearing all the complaints and not Aaron in town hall. She wants to see the board out and about more handling issues of the town and not just setting at a table. Commissioner Reavis said that the board cell phones were not paid for by the town so they were not for the residents to have. If they had a home phone and it was publish then that's the way to contact the board members.

Updates

Police updates - Acting Chief Hill had paperwork from where D&D Express was changing owner ship over and the ABC permits where needing to be filled out. The person he found was a former ABC store employee and he wasn't real sure how that happen when it needed a background check performed by law enforcement. He asked if the board want Clerk or the Chief to be the towns sign off on the permits. Aaron explained that he had already signed off on the zoning section of the permit. Mayor ask Attorney which would be the best way to go. She said if went with police chief or clerk to just list title and not a name or the paperwork would have to be changed every time employment changed.

Motion was made to make sign off of ABC permit as title police cheif by Commissioner Almond Second by Commissioner Taylor 4-0 in favor

Town hall - Aaron gave update on town hall office actions. Wex cards have been switched over and accounts created for ever office with their own pin for the card to track who is getting fuel for the cars. Center st was resubmitted for paving with NCDOT. Upcoming even is Easter in April. Website is fully updated and changes have been made. Had meeting with ABC board chair to go over the police department being cut from services being used. Census results are now final and the population was 940. Public notary class is set for Friday May 6th so town hall will closed that day.

Old Business

Aaron started off by saying he was contacted by southern software asking if the board approve the new agreements. Aaron said due to timing there was no way to get a action plan set up to combine both the town hall and police department. Aaron said we just needed a motion to approve the agreement.

Motion to accept the southern software agreement by Commissioner Taylor

Second by Commissioner Almond 4-0 in favor

The first of the two former police cars is ready to be sold off Mayor Almond stated. Aaron gave quick rundown that the estimated value of the car was between \$2,000 & \$2,500 and that was for a perfect car. With this being a former police car and just the v6 it going lower value down to under \$2,000. Mayor ask what the board wanted to set as the minimum bid. Commissioner Almond and Reavis both said start at \$1,000.

Motion was made to start the seal bids at a minimum of \$1,000 and run for a 2 week time frame by Commissioner Taylor

Second by Commissioner Almond 4-0 in favor

Aaron said the he would have the posting up and ready to start on the 28th and 21st meeting bids would be open.

New Business

Tony Brewer with Eddie Carrick CPA office came to present the finding of the 2020/2021 audit to the board. Tony said that the town collection rate on property taxes were 95% for the year. He also went over few key point in the area of change in expenditures for the year. One big area was having a road paved and the other was that town hall was full time staff for the last 3 months of the year. He states for the size of Cooleemee and the amount of revenues the town received they have a good fund balance on hand. All the areas that the LCS looks at on the audit were in the target area of standings. He asked the board if they had any questions about the audit. No board members had questions. Lastly he said he wanted to thank Aaron for a wonderful hospitality shown and having everything ready to go and run with it. He looked for to working with Aaron again after the 2021/2022 year ended.

Aaron told the board that in front them were smaller maps but the larger map was in the center of the table of everyone to see. Aaron said that he met with David Snider with Professional Property Service in talk with an easement alone the river banks for the raw water lines to the new water treatment plant. David told Aaron that the tax value that the county would be really to pay for the easement would be in the amount of \$550.00, but the county was asking if the town would give the easement and take no funding. Board member asked Aaron if we could table and get David Snider to attend the next meeting on March 21st to give more details into the easement. Aaron said he would reach out and get it schedule.

Aaron presented the new contact for the town's website and email that is manage by Word Master Media Group. In the new contract that is set to start with then February bill there is a \$6.00 increase in monthly fee. The monthly fee cover the cost of the domain, security for email system, routine service. The 2% increase is to cover the cost of rising prices.

Motion to accept the contract with Word Master Media Group by Commissioner Reavis
Second by Commissioner Taylor 4-0 in favor

Aaron told the board that the Davie Co. Parks & Rec. grant was submitted. Afterwards Aaron said that he found where the ARPA money the town received back in August of 2021 can be used to fix up the playground. Since there was an increase in usage the fund can be used to replace and fix items in the park. Mayor Almond said that she would like to see the rubber mulch used on the playground since the lifespan is longer than the regular mulch. She said that it does cost more, but since we have this extra fund that we can't use for most requirements let's use it in the areas that we can since it was free to use and if we don't use it we have to send it back. The board was on the same page as the Mayor. Aaron then presented an idea to the board to do an equipment loan out during the summer. Aaron said last summer while at work there was a lot of kids just walking around the grounds and they had nothing to do. This way they could pay a deposit and could use the town's items to play with and then return them by the end of the day. As noted to the board that this was a rough draft idea. The board liked the idea and attorney Wendy said she'd be glad to help make a loan agreement with Aaron.

Aaron gave everyone on the board a pre budget breakdown. Aaron said this is to get it started and was to let everyone look over so we can look more into it at the next meeting.

Ray Tutterow with Davie County Enterprise reached out about being in the Our Davie Positive Growth in Davie County publication focusing on aspects of the county. Years past Cooleemee has a quarter page ad in the publication. Aaron presented the ad from last year with all the information with the board members and contact information listed on the paper. Aaron said that we could just update the names on the current layout or change it up to have the board members' pictures along with all town employees.

Motion was made to use current layout and just update names and go with quarter page ad by Commissioner Taylor
Second by Commissioner Reavis 4-0 in favor.

Addison Davis with Riverpark at Cooleemee Falls presented to the board some information on what's going on at the park. Mr. Davis started off by saying that they were excited to learn \$250,000 was given to the town for a pedestrian bridge over the river connecting the two counties. Mayor Almond and Attorney Wendy asked Mr. Davis who applied for the funds as the town had no knowledge of the funds coming from the general assembly. Aaron said he had no information on the funds as he had not really seen any information on the funds. Attorney Wendy said we talk in close on the matter. Next item Mr. Davis talked about was a right of way that is cutting down the middle of the town's property on the Rowan Co. side that has put a pause on the gate house. A surveyor had been contacted to come out and look at the property as it needed by Rowan Co. to terminate the right of way. Mr. Davis asked if the town attorney could help with this and Wendy said that it will be discussed in close session as well. Last Mr. Davis talked about the way of the future for the park. Started with saying 2021 was a successful reopening of the park after being closed due to COVID and the start of charging admission to the park and special thanks to hard working staff. Issues the board feels is the increase of operating cost, the park will need a professional park management over a volunteer board, and loss of government

support over time. After Mr. Davis finished he asked if anyone on the board had any questions for him. The board said they had no questions at this time and thank Mr. Davis for coming.

Motion to enter close section at 8:00 pm by Commissioner White
Second by Commissioner Reavis 4-0

Motion to end close section at 8:45 by Commissioner Almond
Second by Commissioner Reavis 4-0

Motion to end meeting at 8:50 by Commissioner Almond
Second by Commissioner White 4-0

2 hour 50 minutes Meeting Time

Mayor, Jessica Almond

Clerk, Aaron Thies