

Special Call Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

February 1, 2023

5:00 pm

In attendance were Mayor Jessica Almond, Commissioners: Almond, Taylor, Reavis

Town Clerk Aaron Thies, Attorney Wendy Terry.

Mayor Jessica Almond called the meeting to order.

Visitors were welcomed.

Motion to add public comment by Commissioner Reavis and seconded by Commissioner Almond

Motion to adopt agenda by Commissioner Reavis Second by Commissioner Taylor Favor 3-0

Public comment (3)

Tronia Gibson, Walter Ferrell, KC Smith all three spoke in favor of how well the O'Neal's are to the town and how much work they do for the town. They had been working so long for town why shake it up all at once in voiced over the recent change wanted.

Aaron stated that the auditor said the state could investigate why the same person was always doing it and no postings were being made for the contact on a yearly basis. There was nothing against O'Neal's just trying to make sure everything is being done the correct way and the state not having to come in to look over documents.

Wendy also gave intel on the rulings from UNC School of Government on awarding bids.

Commissioner Reavis started off by saying that you can see the O'Neal's do a lot for this town. They have a high value to the residents of the town, and everyone sticks behind them. Commissioner Almond said no one has said they have done anything wrong but saving money where we can is the key with the town slowly losing more sales tax every year. Commissioner Reavis stated that he did some looking into Advance Property Solutions LLC. Stated there is no pesticide license listed for the company or the owner name. The LLC was not paid up to date and was considered inactive by the state. Also presented photos of the address associated with the owner house and asked if someone's personal yard looks like this how would the towns look with him doing so. Commissioner Almond stated that he reached out to the owner, and he gave more people to contact and stated that he did work for Rowan County at their water treatment plants. Commissioner Reavis said he needs to be disqualified if he doesn't have the proper paperwork to fully do the job the town needs and spraying is part of that. Aaron stated that the original post did not say anything about that being a requirement for the contact as what was ran in the paper is what was agreed on by the board back in the October meeting when this all started. Commissioner Reavis also stated that the O'Neal's had a signed contract with the town and Aaron said

he hasn't signed a contract with O'Neal's and Wendy asked if he had the copy with him and a reply of no was said. Wendy stated that it should be signed by Aaron and Jessica plus the O'Neal's in this case.

Wendy requested that we enter a closed session to receive legal advice.

Mayor Almond asked for a motion to enter the close session.

Motion by Commissioner Taylor to enter the close session at 5:36. Second by Commissioner Almond 2-1

Commissioner Reavis voted against it.

Everyone in attendance is asked to step out during this time and will be able to reenter after done with giving legal advice.

Motion by Commissioner Almond to enter back into regular at 6:24. Second by Commissioner Reavis 3-0

After reentering the regular meeting and everyone returning Mayor Almond said that we were going to repost the ad for two weeks with more details and requirements to be submitted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to repost the ad for two weeks. Seconded by Commissioner Almond 2-1 Commissioner Reavis voted against.

Motion to end meeting at 6:29 by Commissioner Taylor

Commissioner Reavis started talking about matters that were unrelated to the meeting topic and adjourned the meeting with the beating of the gable.

1-hour 29 minutes Meeting Time

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Mayor, Jessica Almond

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Clerk, Aaron Thies