

Regular Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

January 23, 2023

6:00 pm

Minutes

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.

Invocation: Commissioner Reavis

Pledge to the US Flag led by The Mayor

Visitors were welcomed.

Motion to adopt agenda and consent agenda of the financial report and Nov.21st, Dec. 12th
special call, and Dec.19th meeting by Commissioner Reavis Second by Commissioner Taylor
Favor 3-0

Public comments

Josh Ijames came to ask if anything can be done about the cut thru to the shopping center from
Joyner St. Mr. Ijames said his family was confronted by the gentleman that lived in the house
next to the sidewalk and said it was his property and no one was allowed to use the area.

Aaron did state that a survey had been in contact after the issue was originally talked
about after other residents of the town had similar issues.

Updates

Commissioner Almond reported that the switch over to the DCSO is going well and on track to
have 400 hours inside the town limits by the last day of the month. 91 activities have been
logged so far with 10 records being logged for issues that have taken place in town since the first
of January.

Aaron gave a quick update on town hall. The other sets for the park have been ordered and 90%
paid for already. The park rule sign was messed up so two new signs are in order. New easter
eggs were purchased and they are ready to go. Will buy more candy to make more eggs, buying
the premade will help replace some the old eggs. Budget season is coming and the that will be
starting soon.

Old Business

New Business

Josh Ijames came to the board with a zoning request. He stated that he was part-invested in the property that has the old Cooleemee Journal attached. He is asking the board to split the journal off and make the property into two separate lots where he can take full control over the journal and convert it over to a studio style apartment. Mr. Ijames said everything on the outside would remain the same.

Mayor Almond said we would have to discuss the subject at a different meeting and would get back with an answer after a special meeting is held.

Aaron said that the mowing ad ran since the end of November and two bids were placed, one by O'Neal's Lawncare and other being Advance Property Solutions. One being for \$600 monthly including the leaf pick up and one being \$1300 monthly and additional \$8500 for the leaf pick up.

Commissioner Reavis said breaking something that's been going on for so long will be a big mistake and maybe no going back if something was to happen. Commissioner Almond said with the decrease in revenue we need to fine away to save money wherever we can. Mayor Almond said that with the jump on leaf pick up we needed to take it out of play and revisit later that the increase seemed high with maybe only a dozen or so people using the service. Commissioner Reavis said that the leaf pick up took a lot of work with what all must be done.

Commissioner Reavis made the motion to keep O'Neal's Lawn Care – motion died.

Commissioner Almond made the motion to go with Advance Property Solutions – motion died.

Mayor Almond said we would have to revisit at the next meeting in February.

Aaron started off by saying this is a long and very detailed budget revision. He said that he's trying to close out the 10-510-00 law enforcement section of our budget and that most of the bills for while the department was functioning has been paid and that everything else will not be paid out of town hall department. Biggest plus is now we have money inside the budget to cover the cost of the recycle that was originally not plan to take place and would request that \$20,000 from the salaries line me moved over to cover that cost and being the biggest one of the movements. The total movement will be \$39,861.04 and once this is done Aaron said he can see what's left over and see what else can be moved over to other areas of the budget.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to accept the budget amendments in the amount of \$39,861.04 to start closing out the law enforcement accounts.

Second by Commissioner Almond 3-0

Aaron said it was time for Davie County Parks and Recreation grant to be filled out and is due by February 10th. Mayor Almond said she would like to see the seesaw be removed and replaced with something safer like a modern day merry go round like the county has at the park. Also have the old jungle gym replaced with something safer as well. Aaron presents two options for jungle gyms and the spinner that the mayor picked out. Aaron said that he felt with the two items, installment, shipping should come in round \$24,000.

Motion to apply for the Dave Park and Rec grant to replace outdated playground sets for safer sets made by Commissioner Reavis

Second by Commissioner Taylor 3-0

Aaron said during a recent meeting with the county commissioners and manger the take of the new year state apportions. During that time Aaron made mention of wanting to remove the old pool and replace it with a community center as that idea had been talked about in past. Commissioner Taylor said it would be great to have one in town here. Commissioner Almond asked the question of what do you even request. Commissioner Reavis said he would guess somewhere around the \$500,000 mark to get everything taken care of. DC Commissioner Finney was in attendance, and she said you can always go for one about and if they don't give the full amount of asking request the second half the following year. She told Aaron she would get the contact information over to get the request submitted.

Aaron said the contract is up for renewal on the website and emails. There is a price increase up to \$320 from the \$306 we are paying now. Commissioner Almond raised the question about the Davie County Blog and social media being part of the contract. Aaron said himself and Jessica were the admins on the towns page and handle most of the post on that page. Commissioner Reavis pointed out if we could switch to the annual fee and not have to worry about everything else and still be in the good and the website and emails work just fine. Aaron said he would reach out to find out what all the intel was and what we could do.

Commissioner Almond made the motion to accept on contact with word master media group to control the website and emails either by switching to the \$1200 annual or if not able to switch to the \$1200.

Second by Commissioner Taylor 3-0

Commissioner Almond said the cars have been stripped by the county fleet maintenance and ready to go. Commissioner Reavis said he wanted make sure that the maintenance that had been spent out was recovered with sell on the one car with the new motor. Aaron tried to explain that the maintenance section was not just that car that it was maintenance on the three together and other needs to get the cars outfitted to be up to standers that required. Mayor Almond and Commissioner Taylor understood what Aaron was saying. Mayor Almond suggested \$500 start on the v6 and \$1000 on the two v8s but said it was up to everyone else to set. Both Commissioner Reavis and Almond said \$1000 on v6 and \$1500 on the v8s. Commissioner Taylor said she was good with whatever would get the cars gone and out of the way.

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to run cars for two weeks ending on February 3rd with v6 starting at \$1000 and the v8s starting at \$1500.

Second by Commissioner Reavis 3-0

Mayor Almond said a motion was needed to enter close session to discuss the matter with a board member.

Motion to enter close session at 7:39 pm by Commissioner Taylor

Second by Commissioner Reavis 3-0

Motion to return to regular meeting at 8:01 by Commissioner Almond

Second by Commissioner Reavis 3-0

Motion to accept Commissioner White resignation from town board by Commissioner Almond

Second by Commissioner Reavis

Motion to post the position for the open board member to finish out the term by Commissioner Almond

Second by Commissioner Reavis

Commissioner Taylor asked if we could revisit the mowing contract before we left for the night. She said it was on her mind and wanted to get a better understanding of the matter. Taylor also asked if only getting two bids was an issue when normally matters like this, we need to have three bids. Commissioner Almond and Reavis both said a stander will be held to whoever gets the contract to make sure nothing is missed. Commissioner Almond said far as the trash Aaron could check the cans and if need to be empty then a phone call needs to be made.

Motion to end meeting at 8:35 by Commissioner Almond

Second by Commissioner Reavis 3-0

2-hour 35minutes Meeting Time

Mayor, Jessica Almond

Clerk, Aaron Thies

Close

Mayor Almond addressed the board that on January 6th herself, Aaron and Wendy had a quick meeting with Commissioner White. She said the meeting was related to charges he had pending on him. She stated that someone reached out to her via Facebook to let her know what happened. Wendy had a conversation with him and explained it all out to him about being in the public eye and whether these charges against him were true or false till they are cleared up maybe best to step down. Commissioner White said he agreed and for the time being he would step down till everything settled down and was solved. The next afternoon Mayor Almond said White reached out wanting to retract his stepping down and wanted to stay. She said it was up to the board. Almond said you can either take the resignation or say he can stay but you must vote once we return to the open section and if you accept it then we will post the spot to be filled. All Commissioners said it for best that he steps down and if he gets everything straightened out run again in November.