

Regular Meeting

Town of Cooleemee
October 16, 2023

Absent: Mayor Almond
Comm. Taylor

Minutes

Mayor Pro-Tem Reavis called the meeting to order at 6:00PM
Commissioner Fleming led the room in the Invocation.
Mayor Pro-Tem Reavis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mayor Pro-Tem Reavis welcomed a room full of guests.

The clerk notified the board that a quorum was present with the 2 absents he asked that the Mayor Pro-Tem refrain from making motions or seconds but could still vote as the Town needed 3 votes on record.

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to add the Lynch Group agreement to the agenda as an email was received the day of meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Fleming, motion carried (3-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to approve the new agenda along with the consent agenda including financial reports and minutes from meetings held 9-18-23 regular meeting. 8-2-23, 8-10-23, 8-21-23, 8-24-23, 9-4-23, 9-25-23 Special called open meetings. 7-31-23, 8-2-23, 9-18-23, 9-25-23 Closed session meetings.

Seconded by Commissioner Fleming, before voting took place the Finance Officer pointed out and explained certain points of the financial report including reports from the bank and software where number traditionally match but now with updated bank recons happening this numbers were currently off but by the end of the proper numbers being fixed these numbers should be much closer to each other. Motion carried (3-0)

Public Comment Period saw 1 speaker this month.

Bobby Rycroft had 3 questions or concerns to present 1. Still looking for some kind of update on the case and wondering why no arrest has been made. 2. Is there a new press release coming soon? 3. Questions rather the board is meeting with a quorum in the absence of Mayor Almond and Commissioner Taylor.

Attorney Wendy Terry spoke that with the SBI investigation there unfortunately were not many updates that can be given, as far as an arrest the Town nor county is handling the investigation so therefore had no control over the arrest and charging in case. But that is why the Town elected to pursue the Civil case to the actions stated. However again in doing so this means there is an investigation going on and legally can't be openly discussed until after.

The Clerk added that 3 Town board members were a legal quorum and he had asked Mayor Pro-Tem Reavis to refrain from motioning, but he was allowed to vote on subjects at hand.

Updates:

RiverPark, Ron Bivens came to give this update. The Park has had a great year, he did not yet have full numbers for the summer, but as past monthly updates would show it has been a great year. He updated the board on hours of current and changing operation for winter months, which are 10AM-6PM Wed-Sun until Nov. then will change to Fri-Sun 10AM-4PM. There is no current fee to get into the Park. A new ¼ mile trail has been added to the park and a new shelter is in the works and coming soon.

Law Enforcement:

Sergeant Crotts came to give an update to the Town on numbers and what they mean for the month of Sept. As the Town is contracted at 400 hours per month of County coverage, the county had served 504 logged hours in Sept. with 140 total CAD calls. He stressed this does not mean 140 crimes were within our Town Limits this means that with security checks, dogs at large, traffic stops, EMS assistance and the crime number all totaled 140 logs into town. Crime was not out of control it was actually a very small portion of what was being handled within the numbers provided.

Town Hall:

The Clerk stated almost everything had now been officially switched over so that normal operations should become easier for the Town at this time. Bills are all caught up somewhere ahead due to being invoices in drawer that had been paid but we were unaware, also some had not and were delinquent but caught up now. Gave the update we still have a little work to complete before the audit can be performed on 22/23 year this including issues and problems from last year's audit that had to be corrected to have a true number to start 22/23 with. So, we reperformed 21/22 banking recons finding many mistakes and yes, some fraudulent transactions, but we would have that done and ready in coming weeks. He felt the audit would be delayed past the due date, in speaking with the LGC this would not be an issue as they simply wanted either the auditor or the SBI to make the call on the delay not the Town.

Lynch Group:

Commissioner Reavis received an agreement from the company about placing items and dirt on Town Property from work being performed at the new Water Treatment Facility on Main St. Attorney Terry asked for a broader understanding on the liability portion of the agreement first and foremost and then be concerned if the agreement would allow for any type of compensation.

Motion made by Commissioner Fleming to enter into an agreement with the Lynch Group based on recommendations from the Attorney and the current agreement and the amendments recommended by Attorney Terry being approved by the Lynch Group.
Seconded by Commissioner Almond, motion carried (3-0)

NC DOT gave a presentation to the board on a Comprehensive plan with Davie, Surry, and Yadkin Counties and their Municipalities. (hand out included in minutes) Attorney Terry asked if other Towns within Davie had adopted this plan to which they stated Mocksville had Bermuda Run was DOT partnered with Forsyth Winston area so would not be part of this plan. The Board asked what this meant to the Town financially. The Clerk stated the Town has entered into such

plans before it does not cost the Town to be part of the plan it puts them within the drawing of making some of the DOT recommendations come to light. It would mean the Town would not get any consideration of these events if it didn't adopt the DOT plan. But either way no funding would leave the town only potentially enter through roadway updates and such.

Motion made by Commissioner Fleming to adopt the NC DOT Comprehensive Plan.

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

The Finance Officer handed the board a budget amendment which would see \$20,000 being added to Attorney Fees line 10-410-04 coming from the General Fund raising the total budget for the year from \$435,345.00 to \$455,345.00. He explained to the board and the public what that meant and that amendments are not "spending" they are placing money so can be spent as needed. He also explained this was necessary to continue to pay not only for your Town Attorney but also your Attorney handling the Civil Case. This number does not mean we will be spending \$20,000, it just means we can pay up to that amount to keep these services going. If we in fact do not spend \$20,000 the remaining balances will simply be placed back into the General Fund automatically 6-30-24 and the new budget will in fact be based on a board voting a new budget in place to begin 7-1-2024.

Motion Commissioner Almond to approve said budget amendment for \$20,000 for Attorney Fees.

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

ABC Audit:

The Clerk had ABC Audit handouts at the table to be handed out and reviewed. There was no need to vote nor really discuss this at this time as this was simply for their review and if they had questions, they could bring up to the ABC board or manager.

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to enter -closed session sighting 143-318.11(3) Attorney-Client Privilege.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Fleming to enter open session.

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

Open Session 1 hour

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Interim Clerk, Steven Corriher