

Regular Meeting
Town of Cooleemee
February 19, 2024

Minutes

(open session)

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.
Commissioner Reavis gave the Invocation.
Mayor Smith led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mayor Smith welcomed a room full of attendees.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to add under Old Business planning board appointment updates.
Seconded by Commissioner Tippett; motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt the Agenda as edited.
Seconded by Commissioner Almond; motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to accept the January Financial Report.
Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (4-0)

3 signed up to speak during Public Comment.

Jonathan Vizard questioned why he would not be allowed to own Chickens within Town and Questioned some traffic on Center St.

Alyssa Thomasson Spoke on behalf of the swimming pool that could be taken out in the coming months, hoping to find funding and more support to get updated and ready for opening and maintaining.

Ron Bivins spoke on behalf of the pool as well but questions the funding coming together soon enough not to interfere with what the Town is working on. Also wanted to state that the Grant Funding coming in from the State would not be allowed to be used towards the pool as sate grant money is allocated for certain items and in this case being a Community Center/Library.

Ron Bivins updated the board on River Park stating still getting many visitors in the off-season additions have been added in the off season, the Executive Board met with Mayor Smith and Clerk Steve recently to discuss the Parks history as well as the future felt those talks went well.

Sgt Crotts gave an update from Law Enforcement 502 of 400 contracted hours had been logged within Town 121 calls coming in mostly serving Paper, School Checks, and Traffic. Still no real crime Cooleemee is safe but if there are issues that arise, please inform him or the Sheriff Dept.

The clerk gave an update on Town Hall everything is finally running smoothly, the \$30 difference in the banking from last month was 2 bank fees that have been reimbursed and it was caused by over the limit transactions. He would later in the meeting discuss options to avoid those moving further. The Streetlight project is ready and much cheaper than originally planned at first the Own allotted \$7000 for this project, it looked as if we could get for \$5500 after talks and after stating the clerk had felt more than 6 lights in Town were already LED he felt it would go down and it in fact did, so the invoice from Duke to convert all lights now stands at only \$4160.

The Mayor updated the board about a meeting with River Park, Terry Bralley, has a meeting with PTRC Wednesday, and Davie Respect coming up. He and the Clerk are attending a training session on the 5th in Winston and another on the 6th here in Mocksville. Steve and Ron Bivins are looking at a Mic system for the board to use hopefully we will have that soon. Spoke on options for placement of the Community Center.

Commissioner Tippett spoke on the need to prepare a planning board and too wanted to make folks aware the planning board acts solely as an advisory board to the Town Board, her request for the ETJ is based on the possibility of tax revenue. It does not guarantee that, but it makes it more possible.

ABC appointment had 2 applicants Josh Nail and Mark Hancock the Mayor asked the board their thoughts and seeing how a couple members knew one well but not the other it was decided to attempt to meet with both applicants and get to know both on a small level to make the appropriate decision. The clerk will contact them and attempt to set this up so the board can decide at the March meeting.

Mayor Smith spoke briefly to the Board that he and the Clerk have spoken with County officials to get assistance as needed in the Zoning areas; nothing yet was on paper but hopefully soon for the board to review.

The Finance Officer gave the Board an idea of how to avoid the Banking Fess he talked of earlier. By going to semimonthly payments verse bi-weekly for bill pay and payroll and making one transaction then placing 1 for tax purposes, and 1 for retirement plans, having 1 for deposits into the account would put us at 5 per month. He also explained it would take him from 26 pay periods per year to 24 so it would appear to have a pay increase when in fact he would not as he would be receiving 2 less checks per year so that "increase" per pay period was making up that difference.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to allow the Finance Officer this change to keep the Town from paying any fees.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (4-0)

A citizen at 237 Center St. had petitioned the Board through the Clerk to have a Curbside Mailbox installed for medical reasons at their house. This is a case-by-case approval by the board to allow.

Motion made by Commissioner Ferrell to allow the Mailbox.
Seconded by Commissioner Tippet; motion carried (3-2) mayor Smith was the deciding vote as Commissioners Almond and Reavis were against.
The Clerk would send a letter and permit of approval.

Street Signs have been missing or damaged and the Clerk looking at replacing just decided to look at replacing all street name signs. The cost for the 46 required signs to replace was 2691.57 with hardware and shipping. He passed a picture around the room to show the idea, the Board seemed pleased with the outcome. The Clerk asked the Board to refrain from voting as he wanted to order one sign just to see how it looks and then order the bulk after they approved.

Code Ordinance Book update can be performed by the very company and person who performed this current book for the Town in 2002, reviewing everything including updates to see what changes may be needed and if updates were properly installed. The fee for this sits at \$6000 but really depends on the pages and books requested. Could be a lower number could be higher but that is the expectation. Also, they offer a service of storing minutes from meetings and they can run with ordinance changes to make those easier to locate in we ever changed any. The mayor asked to get a quote for that as well and the board could go from there. The clerk stated it was \$50/ year plus \$1 per page of minutes for us as the Clerk gets wordy is typically about 3 pages so if that was the case the cost would be \$86 per year. But we will get that to the board as well.

Southern Software contract is coming up soon and as many discussions have been on new updated software to better serve the Town that can be better trusted for research. NCLM has Black Mountain and Southern Software has FMS we can switch mid-stream with SS but if we were under contract with them may be hard to switch to the BM through NCLM however they both had waiting list to convert and join so for the time being CitiPak may need to remain in place. Gathering more information until decision is made.

The Board selected March 4, 2024, at 5PM for their first budget meeting here at Town Hall.

Commissioner Almond stated the Sheriff Dept. is needing the Town to assist with finding area for a cell tower to boost their service (along with everyone else's) as they have trouble receiving or sending calls from cell phones.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to enter closed session 143-318.11
Seconded by Commissioner Tippet; motion carried (4-0)
Commissioner Almond excused himself from the meeting as part of his agreement not to hear the matter of the civil case currently.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to enter open session.
Seconded by Commissioner Tippet; motion carried (3-0)
**Almond absent due to agreement with Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Ferrell to Adjourn the Meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (3-0)
**Almond absent due to agreement with Board.

1 Hour 10 minutes.

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher