

Regular Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

March 18, 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 ABC Board to Old Business E, Civil Case update to New Business E, Community Update to Old Business F.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt agenda with consent agenda that included the Financial Report and Minutes from Feb 19, 2024, meetings.

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

Public Comment saw 2 participants.

Bobby Rycroft, spoke on the ban of mailboxes within Town limits, thinks this needs to be looked at as he keeps getting packages sent back due not being able to be delivered to PO Box nor being allowed to be delivered to his House.

Teresa Bivins spoke on the new board members being so eager to train and learn their new positions properly and thanked them for that as it is important. Also asked the Board to consider updates to the Cook Shack as it is run down quite a bit and could be utilized if brought up to date.

Ron Bivins gave an update to River Park weather has been good warmer temps had already brought traffic to the Park they expect bigger numbers than last year.

Sgt. Crotts gave an update on Law Enforcement saying the Town received 498 logged hours for Feb 118 total calls, most of which are just simple security checks, some traffic stops and papers served. He had spoken to the driver of the loud Mustang to let him know he was disturbing neighbors and to please settle down. Also the Sheriff Dept has been working on the squatters at Cross St and he believes that has been handled but will maintain and eye to be sure.

The Clerk gave an update to the Town Hall. The audit is getting closer each day should be no issues completing by April 30 Deadline. The new method of banking seems to be working great as of last month's meeting 5 transactions have taken place of the 6 allowed (we did not go over) we were at only 3 this month with only 1 required and 1 maybe needed due to grant being received. But that leaves 1 that we can complete, if necessary, which was the plan with the change.

Mayor Smith updated the Town on various items throughout Town he had toured Health and Human Services Building, now on the Advisory Board with Senior Services, Senior Games will start this week. Will be meeting with a Tiny Homes Rep this week just for discussions and learning more about what they do. Met with Davie Respect learning about what they are and what they are trying to keep doing. They would like to be on the agenda for the next month the Clerk will add. Acknowledging the Town had received the full grant this past week from the State and would be ready to start projects very soon.

Duke Energy funds were approved last month for the new Street Lights the Clerk wanted to make all aware of the contract and process. Each 5 years we have a contract for these lights, that will renew for this package and the clean up (if any) will be the Towns responsibility not Dukes, this is standard, and Attorney Terry has reviewed and OK with that contract.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to retain Southern Software as the Towns Financial System for the 25/26 year.

Seconded by Commissioner Almond; Motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to accept the contract for Code Ordinance updates for up to \$6000 and include the extra funds for this company adding minutes to their website that would be tagging Ordinance changes as they happen. Fees for this range at \$50/year for storage and \$1 per page of minutes posted.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to retain Word Master Media for another year through March 2025 at \$400/Month.

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

(All above contracts were approved by attorney before meeting)

Motion made by Commissioner Ferrell to nominate Josh Nail to the ABC board on a term that expires July 2025.

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

Mayor Smith asked that the Clerk post another ABC position for the unexpired term left by Grimes Parker and allow applicants until April 12.

Commissioner Tippett has compiled many of the input meeting forms and is preparing to present finding soon the Clerk will post dates and times once she is ready.

The Clerk handed out packets that included a PA system for the board to use during meetings to allow better hearing for the audience. The Mayor suggested that we also look at TV screens to be able to give presentations and view agendas without having to print those.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to allow up to \$1500 to purchase both a PA system and TV for such use.

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

Commissioner Almond presented a quote for \$12,875 for labor and materials to replace the soffits under the eaves and porch at the Zachary House where some wood was rotting. The question was asked if quote was replacing with wood, he stated it would be vinyl coverings. The board elected to wait to move on this action to get other options and ideas before awarding out any work.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to allow Carolina Arber to remove dying tree at the entrance of the Zachary House for \$2300 the Clerk had also had him look at the tree at the Park as it too was dying. Derek with Carolina Arber suggested calling Duke (which the clerk had done) but waiting for a call back.

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

Mayor Smith announced a Mediation was set for April 9 for the Town to hear attorneys and defendants on the civil matter.

An additional Budget Meeting is set for May 6 at 5:00PM.

Board comments Commissioner Almond asked Commissioner Tippet to explain ETJ and what the purpose was. She explained it was not an annex forced or voluntary it was a process to make zoning right outside of Town easier then if that area wanted to ever annex the process would as well be easier as they would already potentially be forming to our Zoning Ordinances. But they would not be within the Town Limits without themselves still volunteering to be annexed into the limits.

Commissioner Tippet discussed reaching out to multiple sources looking for more Grant Fundings for various reasons, rather beautification, zoning, etc. She hoped to find something she could report on soon.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippet to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

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

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher