

Regular Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

May 20, 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.

Seeing no necessary changes to the Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt the Agenda along with the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes from March 18 & April 15 regular meetings and March 4 & April 23 special Budget Meetings.

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

Public Comment had 5 speakers:

Linda Bourne was first up with concerns at the Post Office and an employee being unprofessional towards her and others in Town. She had made this known to Postmaster at USPS in hopes of having some corrective actions. She also wished the Town would consider having street side mailboxes to help elders with cost and convenience. Would like to see a Grocery Store close by so not have to drive to Mocksville.

Sue Steele Correll spoke on the Town Charter Section 37 D in hopes the Town would make themselves familiar with the Charter and what it is meant for.

Tronia Gibson spoke on the departure of Lynn Rumley, former board member and Mayor also serving the CHA and RiverPark boards and in their development throughout the years. Hopes the new Community Center could perhaps be named after Lynn and Jim Rumley who have contributed so much to Cooleemee.

Ron Bivins spoke on how great he feels things are going like seeing so much movement by the Board and Leaders of the Town he believes and hopes it will remain this way. Thanks to them all as well for participating in training sessions try to learn all they can about their roles and proceeding properly.

KC Smith spoke on how the Town could fix up portions of the old Police Dept building to make it into a potential Community Center believes the funds required to take down the pool would be enough for such a project; she presented the Board with pictures showing her thoughts.

Tony Brewer came in to present the 22/23 Audit, although late for obvious reasons it is complete it is submitted, and we are ready to begin looking forward to the 23/24 audit starting soon. 97.28 of tax funds have been collected for the 22/23 year the state average annually is 97% so we are

right in line with that. Spoke to the board about the fund balance and reason to keep that up to certain %'s and careful not to overspend but spend to your comfort zone typically 70-130% of your total budget. There is no real this is it number or percent to stay you want comfort for an emergency, but you want to use funds for needed services as well being it is the people's money not a Town retirement account. Towns do not retire they serve.

Ron Bivins updated the board on River Park, new shelter in place, new grills, ash collectors, new picnic tables, just a lot going on in a good way at the Park currently fees will begin this weekend \$10 Saturday - Sunday per car \$5 Wednesday -Friday per car 100 ton of new gravel was added donated from Martin Mariota.

Sgt Crofts updated on Law Enforcement stating nice quite month of April logging 493 of the contracted 400 hours, 85 total calls mainly school checks and traffic, mentions missing stop signs that the Clerk and Commissioner Tippet had discussed that will be fixed this week. Asked of the Audience if there were any issues he may not be aware of no one had anything to add at this time.

Clerk Steve gave a brief update to the board stating someone had kicked in a Bath House door at the pool it was just a screw holding it closed now he had put a latch and lock hoping this would help it was not bulleting proof but better. He was going to run 1 extra batch of checks next week we usually run checks the 1st and 15th to keep transactions under 6 at the bank due to fees but he would only have 4 transactions this month so wanted to run a few soon to cover some audit fees and tree trimmings that had recently taken place.

Mayor Smith gave an update that he wanted one more Public meeting for bid opening and Community Center discussion. Asked the Board to please read over the RFQ and let him or the Clerk know if there were any questions as he explained what the RFQ was. He and the Clerk had been working on getting a quarterly Newsletter started up we have now budgeted for that to take place in the next fiscal year. Wants to add River Park and CHA for some updates throughout as well.

The board ask the Clerk to get some price ideas for building up the columns for the new Welcome Sign that will be placed at Watt St. one will be columns only one will include a plant/flowering base at the bottom.

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to adopt the new updated Project Ordinance for the ARP Grant so it could properly be closed out.
Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis for a budget amendment to finalize payment for the discovery portion of the fraud in preparation of the audit.
Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Tippet to approve the 23/24 audit contract that will begin in July 2024 at \$7000.
Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to move forward and receive a contract from ACE for Nuisance Code Enforcement.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0) Commissioner Almond was not aware of the proposal so did not vote on this matter. The Clerk is looking at why the email perhaps had not gone through everyone else had received and upon looking Comm Almond was indeed included but somehow, he still cannot see the email. We are investigating the situation.

The Board elected not to act on a County Interlocal Agreement proposal questioning the Zoning Fees included. The Mayor will follow up with the County before the board votes to agree.

The Family Dollar store requested a variance on the parking situation at the new store with the parking lot falling short 5 total spots of meeting the Zoning 4 spots per 1000 sq/ft regulations. The Clerk did explain to the board that not much information had been properly shared early in the event and until he reached out to County officials, they were not even aware the Store was being built and the process had well begun before Clerk Steve had come back on board in August. So, there was much miscommunication early on that he tried to work through with them. He said he was not by any means trying to defend the situation, only explaining how he felt early on. The Board will speak further with Attorney Terry and perhaps need to investigate further before deciding how to move forward.

The Board seems comfortable with the current budget numbers and are ready to take the next steps in posting Public Hearing and having the Finance Officer prepare the Budget Message and Ordinance and having ready for the Pubic to review by June 1st, 2024, well before the June 17th scheduled Hearing.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to enter closed session for 143-318.11 Attorney Client Privilege on the Civil matter.

Seconded by Commissioner Reavis motion carried (4-0)

Commissioner Almond excused himself from Closed Session as previously agreed to by him to the Board. 7:15PM

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to enter open session.

Seconded by Commissioner Tippett; motion carried (3-0) 8:35PM

Commissioner Tippett did pass out an updated site plan for Community Center and surrounding areas and announced having a meeting scheduled with DOT and asked the Clerk to attend for potential Grants.

A Special Called Meeting will be set for Tuesday May 28 at 6:00PM for opening of Bids discussions of the bids perhaps awarding a contract and further discussions on the Community Center.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0) 8:55PM
