

**Regular Meeting**

Town of Cooleemee

August 19, 2024

**Absent:**

Attorney Wendy Terry

Comm. Reavis (work)

Minutes(open session)

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Mayor Smith 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.

Mayor read the conflict-of-interest statement to ensure no board member had any conflicts they should withdraw from at tonight's meeting, seeing none

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to adopt the Agenda along with the Consent Agenda which includes the July Finance Report, and minutes from July 15, 2024, regular meeting and July 29, 2024, special called meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0)

**Public Comment:**

Linda Bourne, spoke of neighboring dogs owners leaving dog waste in and around multiple yards on Watt St. They have been seen by many, including Law Enforcement and given warnings hopes that this will resolve the issue. She is glad to have proper Code Enforcement back in Town thinks this will help in many areas. Talked about the River Park doing a Senior Citizen Day so older residential folks can enjoy the Park without the large crowds.

Ron Bivens gave an update to River Park, They are looking to do more with the Cooleemee, Davie, Woodleaf areas they are discussing these things now to see what they may can provide, large amounts of rain caused massive flooding that closed the Park for a week, other storms allowed the Park open but prevented swimming. Number of Park visitors are continuing to grow many times they have to close the gate not allowing further cars in due to parking restrictions.

Comm Almond gave a Law Enforcement update stating 512 hours were logged in Town 131 events counted.

The Clerk gave an update that the Audit was near complete, waiting for a few items to come in and clear. He had reached out to the PTRC to enquire about Board of Adjustments selections and perhaps making the Town Board that Board as well Towns around the area has began doing this recently due to BOA has final say in some areas of discissions in Town in the Past the Planning Board acted as the BOA, but they do not have too. Comm. Tippett asked if we made this change what would be the benefit. The Clerk stated that the People select the Town Council the Town Council selected the Planning Board and BOA and he felt if anyone was going to have a final say in any appeals process truly it should be the Town Council due tot the fact that they were selected by the People to make these types of decisions.

He felt like the new welcome sign would be up this week weather permitting, every time they get scheduled to come out it rains in the past weeks so fingers crossed it will go up this week. The tree at 268 Duke St. has been removed that fell on the deck of the property from the Hollar Park estimates coming to repair the deck soon. Not a lot of damage, mainly to the railing.

Code Enforcement has sent out 34 notices in July full violations started August 1 we will get the updates monthly and they will be provided to the board for review. Several properties abated their issues before the violation stage began thankfully for those that did not, they are officially on the clock now.

Mayor updates, meeting with John Fuller as he was selected to begin designing and overseeing the Community Center Project, next steps are surveys of the property to ensure the Town is selecting the correct location for the building. ABC Board and Kris Howell have changed the method of ABC revenue collections it was going to be based on store sales which would have been about a 75-25% profit split, the town of Mocksville has agreed to not perform this method and instead do a general profit split of 60-40% which will greatly benefit the Town of Cooleemee while giving Mocksville the shares the hoped to have moving forward. The board is thankful for the ABC Board, the Town of Mocksville, and Kris Howell, Manager of ABC stores, for their efforts in making this happen and benefiting the Town so much.

Planning Board, we had 5 folks sign up for the 5 spots 2 currently did not live within Town Limits but are in the process of moving as of this meeting 2 others are considering signing up as well, this will be added to the Sept agenda for selection.

Community Center Construction there are 3 methods you can decide to perform in the selection process (see Packet) the board is familiar with the traditional bidding process which is one method and like the Construction Management at Risk where they would have a better method of who they would like to oversee construction verses it being strictly based on price it will be based on past work, past projects, and what they plan to bring to this project.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to table this item until Sept to allow better understanding of each process.

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

Mayor Smith asked for a 3-person team to assist Mr. Fuller moving forward with a main contact seeing as the board cannot meet as a 3-person team he asked that it be 2 board members and the Clerk with the Clerk being the point of contact. So, Clerk Steve, Mayor Smith, Comm Reavis are going to be that team for now.

County Rec Grant \$5800 for painting Shuffleboard, Basketball Tennis Courts, and Pickleball courts. Decisions still be thought of for Tennis and Pickleball can we start with Shuffleboard and Basketball. The Clerk stated he understands not much thought went into the process this year as a lot was happening in January when this opened and it was not for certain we could apply given the circumstances the Town was under, once it was determined we could apply we had about a week and I applied with the first items brought to us which was painting of the courts. Decisions will be made about adding Pickleball to one side of tennis or build from scratch, before we move fully in that direction.

Josh Ijames presented an idea to the board of placing a Billboard on his property on HWY 801 next to Dollar General, one sided only seen when traveling 801 towards Rowan County, below the tree lines, approx. 24 feet wide. Josh will submit further documentation on Specs to the Clerk prior to the next meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to table this item until Sept to allow Mr. Ijames time to get that information gathered.

Seconded by Commissioner Ferrell; motion carried (3-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Ferrell to Adjourn meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Tippett; motion carried (3-0)

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Mayor, Jeff Smith

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Clerk, Steven Corriher