

**Regular Meeting**  
Town of Cooleemee  
October 21, 2024

**Absent:**

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.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to add Quotes to New Business F to the agenda per the request of the Clerk.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt the revised agenda along with the consent agenda which includes a Financial Report and Minutes from Sept 10 SC meeting and Sept 16 Regular Meeting.

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

Public Comment seen one person Johnathan Vizard of Center St. spoke of neighboring houses being in potential violation of some Code Ordinances in town. He thinks the house will be vacated soon and asked what it may become if that happens, also asked about any updates to the investigation on the case.

Ron Bivins gave the Board a River Park update, stating yet another flood had closed them up and caused crews to come in again and clean up before the Park could reopen, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest water level (on record). Beginning on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, no fee to enter the Park and it will only be open Friday-Sunday until March.

Sgt. Crotts gave an update on Law Enforcement showing 473 hours logged 99 calls 30 of that traffic related, 12 security checks, some med calls and a few for papers served. Talked about 25 MPH speed limit he and the Clerk had been talking and there are many streets with no or very limited signage for speed limits. Sheriff Hartman also spoke about Grants to aid in purchasing equipment for them to track speed on some streets so they can tell 1 in every 20 cars are speeding or if the cars just appear to be speeding visually and perhaps not in reality. These tools can go a long way in determining that.

The Clerk gave an update on the Audit which should be prepared for a typical Nov presentation, quarterly reports from grant to taxes are all complete. He mentioned that even though it was virtually impossible to call in and take part of a meeting in particularly voting as you could during COVID now they have completely cut this out there are no circumstances to which this would be allowed. He has been working on necessary changes to the Employee Handbook as many things in the book is for Police which we no longer have, also mentions the chain of command going to department heads before the Board or Mayor he felt being he was the only Full-Time employee even if we hired seasonal or part-time perhaps the chain of command should be the Board and or Mayor.

Mayor Reports he attended the PTRC meeting last week they gave presentations and updates about the situation in the Mountains with the flooding, announced the Town conducted its first Planning Board meeting in some time and it seemed to operate smoothly. Has a meeting set with the Community Foundation, is set for a Q&A session at the Senior Center, met with the Code Enforcement person that morning to get some insights as to what pertains to a violation, and what steps are taken when some is complying verses when they are not. Talked about the quarterly Mayor/Manager Meeting where everyone seems to be working through the same scope of ideas with Code and Zoning Ordinances throughout the County. Working on transferring the old storage unit out by the cook shack to the River Park as they are in need of more storage and could utilize that more so than the Town. Trying to figure out a method to have a satellite office for the Sherriffs Dept for reports, and out of the car items they can address with a little more comfort, could be in the Old Police Dept, or in the Community Center.

A Public Hearing was called to look at the proposed change of having the Town Board act as the Board of Adjustment verses the Planning Board that had been doing this in the past. The Clerk researched as well as the Mayor many small Towns have started this a few others are looking at this very thing in the near future so again we are right in line with what others in the area have begun incorporating. No one spoke during the hearing.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to accept the changes of making the Town Board the BOA for future decisions of appeals and other areas spelled out in the zoning book.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to paint the Tennis/Pickleball Courts Green with White lines for Tennis and Black lines for Pickleball.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to paint the Basketball courts Blue with White lines.

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

Motion by Commissioner Almond to paint the Shuffleboard Green with White lines.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to accept the Planning Boards recommendation to not allow a billboard at this time on the property located on HWY 801.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to surplus and sell the Aluminum Car sheds next to the Zachary House as the Twon was not using these any longer. This being closed bid or silent auction with bids starting at \$500.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to appoint the Clerk Steven Corriher as the ABC Zoning resolution signee for future use. This is not the Clerk given approval for alcohol sales it is the Clerk signing off stating those sales are allowed in the district he is being presented. This form is required by the State and final approval comes from the State no the Town.

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

The Mayor and Clerk are creating a posting for a part-time position to assist the Clerk/Finance Officer when he is in training or on vacation and perhaps other times of need and availability to keep tasks moving in a positive direction. Once created, it will present to the Board for approval to post.

Motion made by Commissioner Almond to move forward and allow up to \$1000.00 to purchase and post new 25 MPH speed limit signs where need throughout Town to give Law Enforcement more grasp on speeders.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt a Stipend for the Clerks increasing Insurance rates. Being the Town provides Full-Time Health Insurance per their Policy Book to the Full-time employees he had added himself to his spouses as the Town Heath Care was \$1330 and the Spouses Family care was \$598 he subtracted the Spouse and Kids plan from his leaving \$380 in just his plan. Though the request was for half the motion was for a full payment of \$380/month to be paid out in June and December each year.

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

Motino made by Commissioner Reavis to accept quotes from Truman Services for some Electrical work, Brick work, and flashing work at the Old Police building and Tennis court for a total of \$3000.00.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to Adjourn the meeting.

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

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Mayor, Jeff Smith

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Clerk, Steven Corriher