

## **Regular Meeting**

Town of Cooleemee

December 16, 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 additions to the Agenda

A Statement of conflict read by Mayor Smith, seeing no one with a conflict of interest, Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adopt tonight's amended agenda along with the consent agenda that includes a financial report and minutes from the November 18, 2024, meeting.

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

Public Comment no one signed up.

Tony Brewer presented the Board the 23/24-year Audit, the Town had a very good year financially and the Audit was performed and submitted to the LGC on time. A few questions were asked about the Fund Balance and an appropriate amount to stabilize that at, most Towns carry 75%-130% of the previous year's budgeted expenditures to allow themselves room to operate should something ever arise, and they could not collect funds for a period or to save for bigger projects you can certainly have a higher percentage saved up.

Lisa Reynolds from Davie Family Promise came to present what Family Promise is and does for the County. Updated the Town on actual stats of homelessness, and what they perform to assist these families. You can find out more at [familypromisedaviecounty.com](http://familypromisedaviecounty.com)

Ron Bivins gave a brief update on River Park a Bridge Study being conducted, hoping for a Community Meeting in March, looking for State maybe Fed Grants to assist with project. Just awarded \$25,000 from Duke Energy. New trail coming below the Dam with new walking bridge upstream away from most flooding.

Sgt. Crotts gave the Law Enforcement report 421.5 hours logged in Cooleemee 86 calls mostly school checks or traffic. 37 calls of action of some type which is 1.2 calls per day average.

The Clerk gave an update to Town Hall speaking of the LGC meeting to get removed from the UAL listing went well, he also suggested to the Board perhaps investing in their own Cones and Barricades to block off streets, the Fire Dept would not assist in this aspect of the Parade as they usually do siting being understaffed. Davie Sheriff Dept did assist but we had to borrow the traffic trailer, and we could have all the necessary items to keep right here in Cooleemee for \$975.45.

Motion made by Commissioner Ferrell to purchase the Cones and Barricades for future use, Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (4-0)

The mayor spoke of things accomplished in the first year of his term along with 2 other terms and the current members while things seemed to move slowly once put on paper he was surprised and proud of the accomplishments made. From hiring a firm for Code Enforcement, getting Code and Zoning Books up to date, partnering with Davie County on Zoning, updating the Employee Handbook, getting a Clerk/Finance Officer hired, receiving a Grant to get the Community Center moving, partnering with and Architect and hopefully later tonight with a Contractor to really be moving on the project. We have agreed to pave 2 streets now and 2 in the Spring, hung new street signs, Commissioner Tippett added, building or rebuilding relationships in the community and with other affiliates in the County, and even though not always a popular movement added the Pool Demo as something that a decision needed to be made years ago and it was now made and the Town can move forward.

Motion by Commissioner Tippett to accept Davie Constructions response to the RFQ and partner with them to move forward with the Community Center Construction.

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

Motion by Commissioner Reavis to accept keeping meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each Month at 6:00PM in 2025 with exception for January 20, 2025, being moved to January 27, 2025, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

Board Comments: Commissioner Reavis spoke of a Town Citizen that had been paying Oneal's Lawn to display Christmas Flags in Town unable to continue to fund this program asked if the Town would like to take on that tradition to keep them up for about 2 weeks each year at Christmas time, Mayor Smith asked about the American Flashes that get hung as well it was stated the VFW pays for those events, Mayor Smith asked but can the Town take that on as well as it shows a full representation of the Town, the Finance Officer said yes the Town can pay for these events to take burdens off VFW and Citizens if desired.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to approve the Town paying for the annual hanging of American and Christmas Flags throughout Town.

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

Commissioner Almond spoke about the upcoming Law Enforcement contract with Davie County Sheriff Dept. said he hoped to get a 5-year agreement in place similar to Mocksville and feels we are looking at about a 10% increase from previous years with the standard 3% increase during each of the years of the agreement. But the negotiations are just starting but this is similar to other Towns having these agreements.

Motion by Commissioner Reavis to Adjourn, Seconded by Commissioner Tippett, motion carried (4-0) Mayor Smith asked everyone to stay and enjoy Christmas Refreshments.