

**TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Budget Work Session
Thursday, March 20, 2025**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled budget work session on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

Members Present:

Mayor Chris Coats
Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell
Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert
Commissioner Shirley Allen
Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
Commissioner Jerry Beasley

Staff Present:

Barbara Hollerand, Town Manager
Connie Lassiter, Finance Director/Town Clerk
Ken Storicks, Police Chief
Wes Blount, Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Mayor Chris Coats called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Coats delivered the invocation and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Chris Coats asked if the Board had any comments.

Commissioner Kevin Gilbert inquired about the contract renewal date for trash and recycling services with Carolina Trash.

Commissioner Jerry Beasley suggested adding \$1.00 or \$1.50 fee to each customer's water bill each month to cover AMI equipment repair cost instead of charging customers when damage occurs.

Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell inquired about discussion in regards to contracting out water services to the county. Commissioner Shirley Allen commented that she had received favorable feedback from Erwin residents when Erwin sold theirs to the county. Commissioner Jerry Beasley mentioned that it would be worth it for the right amount to get interest off the sale.

Wesley Blount, Public Works Director, requested the following:

- Mini Excavator and Trailer - \$76,725
- Additional employee for the Public Works Department
- Minimal increases in various goods and services line items due to anticipated price increases

Ken Storicks, Police Chief, requested the following:

- Vehicle – approximately \$52,200
- Body Cameras for officers – estimated \$8,200
- Salary increase of \$15,000 each for all Police employees

- Minimal increases in various goods and services line items due to anticipated price increases

Board discussion followed regarding purchasing body cameras now out of current year budget with consensus of Board that this was needed as soon as possible. Chief Storicks responded that he would get quote and noted that he thought there would be enough to cover it out of current budget year.

Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell asked about the ratio of current number of police vehicles to the current number of police employees. Chief Storicks replied that there were currently 10 vehicles and 8 approved positions with 6 current employees and 2 vacancies.

Board discussed the actual number of vehicles needed for the department and the maximum mileage amount before considering replacement taking into consideration both mileage and vehicle hours.

Consensus of Board was not to purchase a police vehicle in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Board acknowledged that Parks and Recreation did not currently have a director and asked about the hiring status.

Town Manager Barbara Hollerand stated that she was putting together a survey to get a sense of what recreation programs the community desired before putting out the advertisement. The Board expressed the urgency in hiring now.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the work session.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

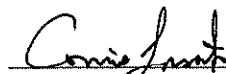
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

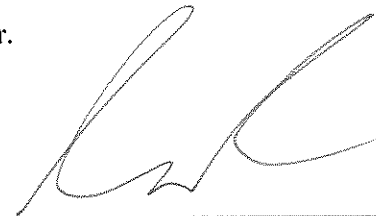
The attached documents of reference are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Minutes prepared by Finance Director/Town Clerk Connie Lassiter.

ATTEST:



Connie Lassiter
Finance Director/Town Clerk



Chris Coats
Mayor