

TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, June 12, 2025

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 12, 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 Jerry Beasley
Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert
Commissioner Shirley Allen
Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Alton Bain, Town Attorney

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Coats called for a motion to approve agenda.

RESOLVED, to approve the agenda.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2025
2. Approval of Attorney Bill – Services Rendered May 1-31, 2025
3. Request Approval of Resolution 2025-06.12 Surplus Property
4. Request Approval of Task Order #3 for Electrical Engineering Services with WithersRavenel for Downtown Project
5. Request Approval of Annual Agreement with Harnett County for Computer Support Services
6. Request Approval of Contract for Code Enforcement Services with N-Focus

7. Request Approval of Fire Code Enforcement Agreement with Harnett County Emergency Services

Commissioner Jerry Beasley noted that the date for the meeting on the first consent item should be May 8, 2025.

Mayor Coats called for a motion to approve consent agenda as amended.

RESOLVED, to approve Consent Agenda.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Coats asked if there was anyone that would like to speak.

Lila Lanier, 144 N McLean St, Coats NC, inquired about the reason for grass that was previously cut by the Town that is no longer being done.

Joyce Toy, 252 E Lemon St, Coats NC, asked why the Town did not have a bank and about the process for handling complaints.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parks and Recreation Committee Appointments

The Board voted by prepared ballot consisting of a list of Commissioners and applicants to appoint five applicants and one Commissioner Representative to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mayor Chris Coats tallied votes and announced that Commissioner Shirley Allen would be the Commissioner Representative and that committee members would be Tony Morrison Jr, Jessica Fisher, Ronald Avery, Christina Martin, and Drew Bryant.

Commissioner Shirley Allen received three votes from Commissioners Beasley, Powell, and Allen. Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg received two votes from Commissioners Gilbert and Warren-Clegg.

Commissioner Shirley Allen will serve as the Commissioner Representative on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The votes for applicants were as follows:

Tony Morrison Jr – 5 votes (Commissioners Gilbert, Warren-Clegg, Allen, Beasley and Powell)
Jessica Fisher – 4 votes (Commissioners Gilbert, Warren-Clegg, Beasley and Powell)
Ronald Avery – 4 votes (Commissioners Warren-Clegg, Allen, Beasley and Powell)
Christina Martin – 3 votes (Commissioners Allen, Beasley and Powell)
Drew Bryant – 3 votes (Commissioners Allen, Beasley and Powell)

Turner Matthews – 3 votes (Commissioners Gilbert, Warren-Clegg and Allen)
Leigh Matthews Byrd – 2 votes (Commissioners Gilbert and Warren-Clegg)
Angela Postma – 1 vote (Commissioner Beasley)
Dustin Miller – 1 vote (Commissioner Gilbert)
Kelly Wood – no votes

There was a three-way tie for the fourth and fifth committee member. Run-off votes were as follows:

Christina Martin – 4 votes (Commissioners Gilbert, Warren-Clegg, Beasley and Powell)
Drew Bryant – 4 votes (Commissioners Gilbert, Allen, Beasley and Powell)
Turner Matthews – 2 votes (Commissioners Warren-Clegg and Allen)

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert commented that there was frustration with previous committee members due to the lack of written guidelines and duties for the committee members. Town Manager Hollerand responded that she wasn't aware of anything like that currently in place but that it could be developed with the assistance of the new Parks and Recreation Director and other staff along with the committee.

2. Public Hearing for FY 2025-2026 Budget and Fee Schedule

Town Manager Barbara Hollerand gave the following highlights for the proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget and Fee Schedule:

Revenues

- No increase to ad valorem tax – remains at \$0.49 for fourth year
- No increase to the solid waste rate
- \$1/month increase on water flat rate and addition of \$1/month water equipment fee

Expenditures

- Mini-excavator and Trailer \$77,000 to be taken fully from unappropriated surplus as directed by the Board at the previous meeting
- \$49,030 Contingency line item added in Parks and Recreation Department which is the balance of the difference in what was needed in the previously proposed budget draft and taking the full amount of the Mini-excavator and trailer fully from fund balance as directed by the Board at the previous meeting
- \$300 increase for Code Enforcement Services which was a change from the previous draft due to information received after the meeting
- Staff pay adjustment or bonus for all full-time employees with a merit pay program beginning in January 2026
- New part-time Finance position
- Reallocation of a portion of staff compensation from General Fund to Water Fund

Town Manager Hollerand pointed out that an additional change was made to the fee schedule since the previous meeting which added a Site Inspection Fee to help recover direct cost from the contracted engineer services.

Commissioner Shirley Allen commented that the authorized employee positions listed three part-time employees in Public Works. Finance Director Connie Lassiter indicated that was an error and should be three full-time technicians.

Mayor Chris Coats opened the Public Hearing for comments.

Vicki Ingersoll, Coats Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, asked if there was an increase in the budget for the Chamber.

Town Manager Hollerand confirmed that \$2,000 had been allotted to the Chamber.

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLVED, to close the Public Hearing.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

3. Adoption of FY 2025-2026 Budget and Fee Schedule

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adopt the FY 2025-2026 Budget and Fee Schedule

RESOLVED, to approve the FY 2025-2026 Budget and Fee Schedule.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg

APPROVED: Ayes (4) Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell, Commissioner Gilbert, Commissioner Shirley Allen, Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg; Noes (1) Commissioner Jerry Beasley

MANAGER UPDATE

Town Manager Barbara Hollerand communicated that the Planning Board met last week and recommended that the draft future land use plan be presented to the Town Board at the July meeting. The Planning Board cancelled their July meeting due to the July 4th holiday.

Ms. Hollerand gave the following department updates:

- Acknowledged Finance Director Connie Lassiter for all her work on the budget and expressed appreciation for the information given regarding things needed
- Reported that the Public Works Department worked on a waterline break last week and was able to quickly provide a temporary fix; however, there would be a permanent repair made by a contractor within the next couple of weeks
- Communicated that the Police Department had a significant drug arrest last week as a result of a routine traffic stop; they also had a successful dunking booth event which raised nearly \$1,000 for Special Olympics
- Announced the hiring of the new Parks and Recreation Director that will start next month; a meet and greet will be held to introduce the new director to the community

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert commented in regards to the citizen's question about process of complaints that the first step should be to contact the Town Manager and if not resolved it could be brought to Commissioners. He also addressed the request for a bank noting that the Town could not make a bank or any other business come here.

Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell asked if Ms. Toy was still in audience and inquired if the flea market issue was resolved. Ms. Toy responded yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell relayed information he came across in studying what it would take to bring a grocery store to Coats and that it would take roughly a population of about 15,000 in the area before a major grocery store would consider a location here.

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert asked Lila Lanier to come to the podium and tell the board what the Town Manager told her about the grass cutting situation. Ms. Lanier said the Town had been cutting the grass for 48 years on Gail Spears Drive in front of the meter, and the Town Manager said they were not going to do it anymore. Town Manager Hollerand stated that she met with Ms. Lanier and Ms. Spears and was not conclusive that the Town would or wouldn't do it but that it was being investigated as to whether or not it was Town property. She apologized for any misunderstanding of that communication.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

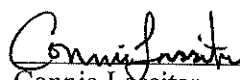
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

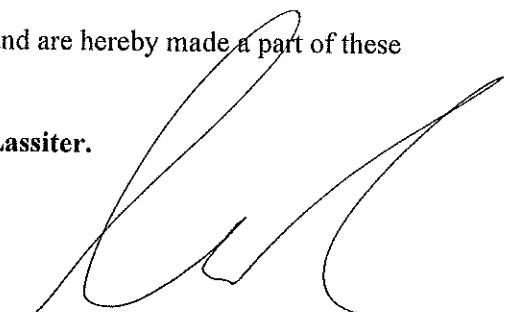
The attached documents of reference are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Minutes prepared by Finance Director/Town Clerk Connie Lassiter.

ATTEST:



Connie Lassiter
Finance Director/Town Clerk



Chris Coats
Mayor