

**TOWN OF COATS**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, August 14, 2025**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 14, 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  
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 Chris Coats called for a motion to add "Mowing Right of Ways" as Item 2 under New Business.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the amended agenda.

**MOTION BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Shirley Allen

**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- March 3, 2025 Special Called Meeting
- March 5, 2025 Emergency Meeting
- March 17, 2025 Special Called Meeting
- March 20, 2025 Budget Work Session
- July 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

**2. Approval of Attorney Bill – Services Rendered July 1-31, 2025**

3. Approval of Resolution 2025-08.14.1 Designating the Planning, Zoning, & Subdivision Administrator  
**RESOLVED**, to approve Consent Agenda.  
**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Shirley Allen  
**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg  
**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

## **PRESENTATION**

Officer Ricardo Anderson was presented with a Life Saving Award for his courageous and quick thinking that saved a life on July 11, 2025.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lila Lanier, 144 N McLean St, Coats NC, expressed dissatisfaction with grass in her neighborhood not being cut and with the way it was cut when she was told it was done as a courtesy.

Gale Spears, 120 Gale Spears Dr, Coats NC, agreed with her sister about the grass not being cut.

Andy Cole, 1420 Abattoir Rd, Coats NC, questioned the order of the public forum and business items on the agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request Approval of Public Comment Policy

Town Manager Hollerand mentioned that Board members had expressed interest in coming up with a clear policy regarding public comment. The proposed policy was created with guidance from the Town Attorney in compliance with State law and best practices used by the School of Government.

Mayor Coats asked if the same rules would apply to both the public forum and public hearings. Manager Hollerand responded that there could potentially be a need to give additional time at a public hearing and changes could be made in the future if needed. Mayor Coats said he thought this would be a great start.

Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell said that from what he understood, the policy outlined that speakers couldn't yield their time to someone else. Ms. Hollerand replied that was correct, and that the Mayor could grant additional time at his discretion. Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell responded that it made more sense to him to give someone more time to finish rather than them yielding their time to someone else.

**RESOLVED**, to approve.  
**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Jerry Beasley  
**SECOND BY:** Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell  
**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

## 2. Mowing Right of Ways

Manager Hollerand stated that some residents had shown interest in having the Town maintain right of ways that have been maintained in the past. The town attorney was asked to look into the matter to find a clear, definite answer regarding right of ways.

Town Attorney Alton Bain explained that Statutes indicated the Town was responsible for keeping the roadway in a safe condition. The Town was not legally required to mow the right of way. Mr. Bain noted that when he looked at the lots that surrounded Gale Spears Drive, the property owners own to the edge of right of way, creating a “no man’s land” from the street to the edge of right of way. He referenced a policy he came across for the Town of Cary which was to maintain major thoroughfares only.

Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg expressed agreement with Ms. Lanier’s comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell said he knew Public Works maintained downtown and Highway 55, but he had never heard of anyone who expected their grass to be cut.

Public Works Director Wes Blount told the Board that it would not be a problem to cut grass anywhere in Town but that Public Works staff just needed direction from the Board.

Mayor Coats inquired if any other policies were discovered. Mr. Bain responded that he came across Cary’s, but he has not seen any other policies. Mr. Blount noted that the standard that he has seen for other municipalities is maintaining major thoroughfares and anything else would fall on the property owner. He reiterated that Public Works staff would do whatever they were directed.

Commissioner Gilbert asked for clarification on what Public Works was responsible for. Director Blount listed McKinley Point, the cemetery, and a spot on West Main Street that is used to dump leaves, as they are all owned by the Town. He said the Town was responsible for maintaining sidewalks on the length of Highway 55, and should be maintaining Highway 27, but it was dangerous on a zero turn lawn mower. Mr. Bain noted the Town was responsible for maintaining sidewalks.

Commissioner Beasley suggested continuing to mow until the Board could come up with an ordinance. He said he had recently looked through the book of ordinances, and there was nothing regarding right of ways.

Attorney Bain suggested a policy rather than an Ordinance.

**RESOLVED**, to go back to cutting all of the streets where there are no existing property owners, or vacant lots, upon availability of the Public Works Department to do so until a policy is put in place.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Shirley Allen

**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

Commissioner Beasley asked Mayor Coats to confirm with Lila Lanier and Gale Spears that this would help matters in the meantime. Both confirmed that it would.

## MANAGER UPDATE

Ms. Hollerand gave the following updates:

- National Night Out organized by Officer Hawkins was successful regardless of the rain
- Visioning meeting went well, which was the first step in economic development strategic plan
- First meeting of work group for economic development strategic plan had taken place; the group expressed interest in meeting more often than monthly
- Progressing with downtown project
- Announced hiring of Police Officer Sarah Martin

Ms. Hollerand introduced Sarah Goldsmith, newly hired Parks and Recreation Director, and asked her to give a brief introduction and update on what she had been working on. Ms. Goldsmith gave the following updates:

- First Recreation Committee meeting went well; next meeting scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Volunteer opportunities available – QR code at front desk of Town Hall
- Winter sports would be taking place (basketball)
- Looking into registration software
- Received input from citizens at National Night Out

## 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

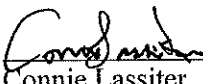
**APPROVED:** Unanimously Approved

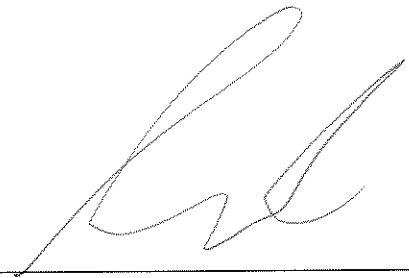
Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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

**Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Mikayla Johnson.**

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Lassiter  
Finance Director/Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Coats  
Mayor