

TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, September 11, 2025

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 11, 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
Sarah Goldsmith, Parks & Recreation 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 approve the agenda.

RESOLVED, to approve the agenda.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

- April 17, 2025 (recessed to April 28, 2025) Budget Work Session
- August 14, 2025 Regular Meeting

RESOLVED, to move items 2-7 out of consent agenda and under New Business.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hearing no one, Mayor Chris Coats closed the public forum.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request Approval of Ordinance 2025-01 Residential Bulk Item Collection

Town Manager Barbara Hollerand explained that the proposed Ordinance would provide clarity on bulk collection procedures, driven by practices of neighboring towns and standards set by the landfill. She said the ordinance would outline that pick up was for residential collection and not commercial property items. It would also outline that construction debris, rental property clean outs, and landscape debris left by contractors would not be the Town's responsibility for disposal.

RESOLVED, to approve the 2025-01 Ordinance.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

2. Approval of Attorney Bill for Services Rendered August 1-31, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell expressed concern, saying about 80% of attorney fees for the year had already been used.

Ms. Hollerand responded that she had been using the Town Attorney for questions that needed research done or questions that have further implications than just the question itself. She mentioned having more public hearing preparations than normal and that she believed it would be cycling back down to normal.

Commissioner Beasley commented that he believed the League would be helpful in answering questions and suggested Ms. Hollerand call them for some things. She responded that when questions are Town of Coats specific, it may be harder to do but that she would consider that in the future.

Finance Director Connie Lassiter mentioned the possibility of needing a budget amendment and that she and Ms. Hollerand would meet to discuss prior to the next meeting. She said depending on how much the next attorney bill was it could exhaust the remainder of the Attorney Fees budgeted.

Attorney Alton Bain expressed that he believed he was underutilized in the past, and if you were to look at services rendered in Coats it would probably be less than any other municipality in the area. He also explained that he had reduced his hourly rate, as his regular hourly rate was more than twice what he charged the Town of Coats.

RESOLVED, to pay the bill.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

3. Accept Petition for Voluntary Noncontiguous Annexation – The Stephens Center Inc

Ms. Hollerand explained that this item was the administrative action to accept petition, certificate of sufficiency, and adopt resolution to set the public hearing date. Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell questioned if this would be annexed regardless of the builder coming or not, or would it be contingent on the builder coming. Ms. Hollerand responded that the approval of this next month would be a separate action than the rezoning.

RESOLVED, to approve.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

4. Set Public Hearing for 1380 Abattoir Rd Rezoning (RZ 25-01)

Ms. Hollerand explained that a date needed to be set for the Public Hearing and the proposed date was October 9 during the next regular scheduled meeting.

RESOLVED, to set the public hearing for October 9.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

SECOND BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

5. Set Public Hearing for 126 E Jay St Rezoning (RZ 25-02)

Ms. Hollerand explained the item would be the same type of action as the previous Business Item.

RESOLVED, to approve.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

6. Approval of Right-of-Way Mowing Policy

Ms. Hollerand said the proposed policy was intended to reflect that the Town would maintain the right-of-ways of major thoroughfares only. She brought up that non-thoroughfare roads such as residential streets could possibly be mowed based on available staff resources and department priorities and that the policy was generic intentionally so amendments wouldn't need to be made constantly.

RESOLVED, to approve the right-of-way mowing policy.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

7. Approval of Quote from Paving Professionals for \$7,491

Ms. Hollerand explained that since Sarah Goldsmith came on board as Parks and Rec Director she had looked at the state of parking at the Park and got some high quotes for repaving, but she received a quote for a treatment on the lower lot that would preserve the life of the concrete.

Ms. Goldsmith recommended to go ahead with the seal coating on the lower lot and re-striping throughout the parking lot.

Commissioner Beasley asked if Park Lane was considered a street in the Powell Bill. He also mentioned Town Hall being treated some years in the past and if they could be considered to do the work. He voiced concern with only having one quote to which Ms. Hollerand explained a third company had said they would provide a quote and didn't. Ms. Goldsmith explained that the second company refused to do the singular project of seal coating and crack sealing because of the condition of the concrete. She recommended going ahead with the treatment that cost around \$7,000 to preserve the life of the concrete rather than waiting and having to re-do both lots with just one of them costing around \$107,000 to repave.

Commissioner Beasley again brought up the company who had done the parking lot of Town Hall in the past. Police Chief Ken Storicks spoke up and said the person who did the work was Johnny Jackson out of Erwin who no longer did resurfacing. Commissioner Beasley again mentioned the Powell Bill and Ms. Hollerand said it could be looked into and inquire if it would qualify, even if it's only a portion of the work.

Commissioner Gilbert expressed that \$7,000 was a great price for the work to be done. He said ideally the concrete would be in a condition that it could be overlaid rather than tearing it up and repaving. He brought up a bump at park entrance that he had mentioned in the past, saying the bump was a priority for him before looking at paving anywhere else.

Commissioner Beasley recalled being told that the bump/dip was from Harnett County putting in a sewer line. Public Works Director Wes Blount said Park Lane was a state road, but he would inquire if anything could be done about the bump.

Mayor Chris Coats asked about the time frame and Ms. Goldsmith responded work could be done in two to three months.

RESOLVED, to get at least one more quote.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley

SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: Ayes (3) Commissioner Jerry Beasley, Commissioner Shirley Allen, Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell; Noes (2) Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg

MANAGER UPDATE

Ms. Hollerand gave the following updates:

- Parks and Rec volunteer workday on September 13, 10am-1pm
- Dunk-A-Cop/Ice Cream With A Cop raised approximately \$1500 for Special Olympics
- Tip-A-Cop on September 18th
- 2nd meeting of economic development strategic plan workgroup had taken place; looking at scheduling more meetings in October for citizen input
- CPN Institute out of Charlotte looking at reuse of downtown buildings on November 13-14
- Harnett County Parks looking at feasibility of trail system
- Branding will be introduced at Farmer's Day

- Meeting with Coats Elementary School Principal Ms. West to discuss SRO situation

Mayor Pro Tem Powell inquired about the proceeds from the \$75 fee at the upcoming Community Yard Sale. Manager Hollerand explained proceeds could go toward netting. Commissioner Beasley expressed dissatisfaction with having a fundraiser and asked Finance Director Connie Lassiter if a project wasn't setup wouldn't the proceeds just go into General Fund. Ms. Lassiter explained that there was a line item for park rental fees in the General Fund. Commissioner Beasley pointed out that park rental fees are already figured into the budget, so the event wouldn't give Ms. Goldsmith any additional funds in the park department budget. Ms. Goldsmith explained that the event was not a fundraiser to raise her budget, but a community event where citizens could have an opportunity to clean out their homes and yards.

Commissioner Beasley inquired about the SRO contract. Ms. Hollerand responded that the County was expecting the Town to renegotiate it, and they were interested in finding out whether or not the Town wanted to continue to provide an SRO or have the County provide one. Commissioner Beasley expressed that the Board needed to decide if they wanted to sign a contract or give the position to the County.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Beasley commented that he disliked having so many items under the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell agreed. Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell commented in regards to the Abattoir Rd rezoning request that he would like to see curb and gutter per the Town's Ordinances before his consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

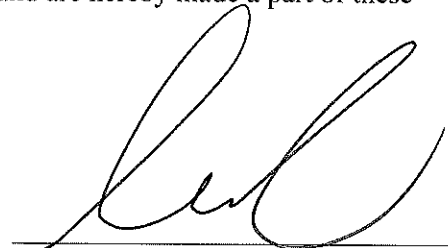
SECOND BY: Commissioner Monique Warren Clegg

APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

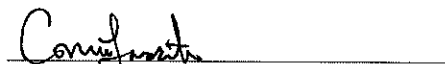
The attached documents of reference are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Mikayla Johnson.



Chris Coats
Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Lassiter
Finance Director/Town Clerk