

**TOWN OF COATS**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, November 16, 2023**  
**Budget Workshop**

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled budget workshop session on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager  
Connie Lassiter, Finance Director/Town Clerk  
Mike Collins, Parks & Recreation Director

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Allen Mosby

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Mayor Chris Coats called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**II. RESPONSE LETTER - FPICS**

Town Manager Nick Holcomb reviewed the copy of the letter given to the Board to be sent to the LGC in response to the Financial Performance Indicators of Concern (FPICS) of the Water and Sewer Capital Assets Condition Ratio. (Reference attached) Board signed letter.

**III. PARKS & RECREATION**

Town Manager Holcomb asked the Board for reasonable goals that they would like to see for the Parks & Recreation Department based off the Town of Coats current population and budget.

The following items were mentioned:

- More kids playing sports
- Weekend tournaments
- Parking issues
- Create other park areas around town; not just the current ballfield park
- Walking trails
- Splash pad
- Community Center

Parks & Recreation Director Mike Collins commented that grant funding would be needed to accomplish some of the items mentioned and that all Parks & Recreation grants were matching grants.

Town Manager Holcomb added that we would need an official plan which would require more planning, engineering and community input that could be used as supporting documentation to attempt to acquire grants.

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley suggested that Mr. Collins put the plan expense in a budget presentation for next year.

Mayor Chris Coats mentioned previous talks of a walking trail from Campbell to Coats. Town Manager Holcomb responded that if that was the Board's number one priority he could bring options to the table and reminded them of the CAMPO agreement.

Mayor Chris Coats inquired about the Parks and Recreation Committee. Town Manager Holcomb stated that there had been no response to the advertisement seeking committee members.

Town Manager Holcomb directed the Board's attention to the list provided to them of short term 3-month goals and medium term 1-3 year goals. (Reference attached) He asked the Board what they wanted to see done that would utilize the current labor force we already had available and that would cost only a minimal amount that was within the current budget.

The general consensus of the Board was that the short term 3-month list should be done as it was part of the normal scope of operations for the department.

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert asked if McKinley Point was part of the recreation department. Town Manager Holcomb explained that for the current budget year it was being maintained under the appearance line item and added that it was up to the Board to determine to use it for recreation.

Discussion ensued about previous failed attempts to decide on use of McKinley Point. Town Manager Holcomb communicated that if the Board wanted to dedicate McKinley Point to use for parks and recreation, the Board could discuss doing a master plan with professionals on what McKinley Point could be under the Parks and Recreation umbrella.

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert conveyed that he was not sold on McKinley Point being used for parks and recreation due to safety issues with it being in a high traffic area. He suggested instead that it could be used for a Farmer's Market and a stage area. Commissioner Shirley Allen and Commissioner Marc Powell voiced agreement.

Commissioner Marc Powell mentioned the possibility of a set of small shops on the property.

Mayor Chris Coats suggested that Town Manager Holcomb speak to Harnett County Economic Development for assistance with options to present to the Board regarding possibilities for McKinley Point.

Mayor Chris Coats announced that he was able to obtain a \$500,000 grant for the Downtown Project with the assistance of Senator Jim Burgin and Representative Howard Penny.

#### **IV. ADJOURN**

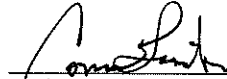
**RESOLVED**, to adjourn the work session.

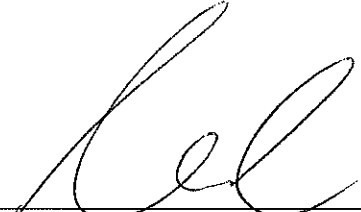
**MOTION BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen, SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert**

**APPROVED: 4-0, 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.

  
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Connie Lassiter, Town Clerk

  
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Chris Coats, Mayor