

TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, December 14, 2023
Official Minutes

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7:00 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

Others Present:

Nick Holcomb, Town Manager
Connie Lassiter, Finance Director/Town Clerk
Ken Storicks, Police Chief
Rodney Pleasant, Public Works Director
Al Bain, Town Attorney

Members Absent:

Commissioner Allen Mosby

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Marc Powell, SECOND BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert

APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting & November 16, 2023 Work Session
- B. Approval of Attorney Bill – Services Rendered November 1-30, 2023
- C. Review of Financial Statement
- D. Approval of Holiday Schedule

RESOLVED, to approve Consent Agenda.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley, SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Coats Police Officer Anthony Kolaya presented Army National Guard Sergeant Jessy Dakota Garcia with a Lifesaving Award in recognition of his actions taken during an emergency situation involving a gunshot victim during an incident on October 30, 2023. Officer Kolaya thanked Sergeant Garcia on behalf of the Coats Police Department and the Town of Coats for his valor and heroic effort. Army Colonel Ed Wallace commended Sergeant Garcia for utilizing his training in the situation. Mayor Chris Coats and the Board of Commissioners echoed appreciation for Sergeant Garcia.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Operational Hours

Town Manager Nick Holcomb reported that the lobby at Town Hall has been temporarily closed to customers at 4:30pm each business day since August 1st to allow staff to balance cash drawer and prepare daily deposit without interruption; staff hours had remained the same; and public complaints had been non-existent. Mr. Holcomb recommended making the change permanent.

RESOLVED, to approve the permanent change in time.

MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Beasley, SECOND BY: Commissioner Marc Powell

APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

V. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to re-elected Mayor Chris Coats, Commissioner Mark Powell and Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert by Harnett County Register of Deeds Matthew Willis.

B. Mayor Pro Tempore

Commissioners voted by ballot and elected Marc Powell to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

VI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A. Planning Board

The Board reviewed the applications to fill the two in-town seats on the Planning Board. The term for Hazel Stephenson had expired, and she applied to be appointed to serve another term. The term for Walter Weeks had expired, and he did not wish to be considered for another term. Ally Fouts had applied for the vacant seat.

RESOLVED, to approve Hazel Stephenson and Ally Fouts.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Jerry Beasley, SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen

APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

B. Board of Adjustment

Town Manager Nick Holcomb explained the structure of the Board of Adjustment and presented the potential appointments as follows:

In-Town (4 members)	ETJ (1 member)	Alternates (2 members)
Hazel Stephenson	Misty Gil - ETJ	Ally Fouts – In-Town
Don Plessinger		Alan Pope - ETJ
Lawrence Denning		
Clint Latham		

RESOLVED, to approve Board of Adjustment as presented.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

C. Cemetery

Town Manager Nick Holcomb recommended appointing the following five volunteers to serve on the Cemetery Committee:

- Sondra Smith
- Michelle Godwin
- Margaret House
- Andrea Watkins
- Kathy Weeks

RESOLVED, to approve Cemetery Committee as presented.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell

APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Chris Coats opened the Public Forum; and after hearing no one, Mayor Coats closed the Public Forum.

VIII. MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Department Updates

Police Chief Ken Storicks informed the Board that \$7,400.13 had been raised for the Special Olympics fundraiser and that due to the efforts of Officer Hawkins and Officer Kolaya the Town of Coats ranked 49th out of 113 agencies that raised money for the event.

Chief Storicks reported that he had been trained and certified to administer Narcan which is a opioid reversal for overdose victims. He noted that he intended to have all officers certified; and the program was at no cost to the town and provided free Narcan.

Officer Anthony Kolaya announced that a digital radar speed limit sign had been obtained through a grant that provides valuable data to the department for combating speeders coming in to town. He reported that in the 8 days the sign had been in place that the average speed had been reduced by 24 percent. The free sign was valued at \$6,000 and included a free two-year software trial valued at approximately \$3,000.

Public Works Director Rodney Pleasant reported that the Christmas lights had been put up after a delay caused by Duke Energy. He stated that they could only put receptacles where there was street lights and recommended putting up more street lights. Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert inquired about the number and cost of additional street lights. Mr. Pleasant responded that he would research and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Pleasant informed the Board that three contractors came to the pre-bid meeting for the waterline project and five were online.

B. Manager Report and State Grant

Town Manager Nick Holcomb reported on the following:

- Street Paving – asphalt should be put down tomorrow
- Directional signage had arrived; more posts were needed to install signs
- Water Meters – Harnett County should be completed by end of February and then they will start in Coats
- State Grant – Letter received for \$500K awarded for Downtown Revitalization Project; Board will have some flexibility in options
- Christmas Party – Friday, December 22, 1pm-3pm

IX. ADJOURN

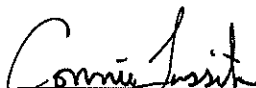
Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn.


MOTION BY: Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Marc Powell
APPROVED: 4-0, unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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



Connie Lassiter, Town Clerk



Chris Coats, Mayor