TOWN OF COATS
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, July 9, 2026

The Town of Coats Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

Members Present:
Mayor Chris Coats
Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
Commissioner Marc Powell
Commissioner Shirley Allen
Commissioner Monique-Clegg Warren
Commissioner Todd Pope

Staff Present:
Barbara Hollerand, Town Manager
Wesley Blount, Public Works Director
Jade Stone, Town Clerk / Human Resources

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 stated additional matters need to be added to the agenda, to include: an informational discussion with Chris Short, director of engineering and construction with Lumos, to answer questions about the company's upcoming fiber project as Business Item 3; to add a Request for approval of the annual Powell Bill map as Business Item 4; and to move Consent Agenda Item 3 – Request for Approval of Contract for Engineering Services with Meyers Engineering - to Business Items as Item 5.

RESOLVED, to approve the amended agenda.
MOTION BY: Commissioner Marc Powell
SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Attorney Bill for Services Rendered June 1 – 30, 2026 – was amended to reflect a total of $715.00.

1. Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2026, Regular Meeting, recessed to June 29, 2026.

2. Approval of amended Attorney Bill for Services Rendered June 1 – 30 – 2026.

RESOLVED, to approve the amended consent agenda.
MOTION BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen
SECOND BY: Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Holly Rothe, 137 E. Odum Street - Wished to complain about new cable lines being put in. Was upset at previous contractors running wires and is concerned about the potential damage caused by the new contractors to her yard. Also requested to know about the status of the police department.

Andy Cole, 1420 Abattoir Road - Wished happy birthday to the United States; requested changes to current development ordinances and holding developers accountable; reminded board that they are not required to make decisions at every meeting and can table matters to allow further time to review matters prior to placing a vote; expressed appreciation for all that board members do for the town.

Joan Harmon, 1390 Abattoir Road - Wished to revisit the survey from the comprehensive land plan; states the board only heard the summary and did not see the presentations by KCI; 78% of completed surveys were by people who lived or owned property – residential development considered low priority, commercial development was a high priority, strong desire for preservation of agriculture and rural heritage; top land use plan 1) protecting natural resources, 2) more shops and restaurants, 3) more economic development and employment opportunities. In 2024 – citizens voted for #1 preference was for large lot developments, 2) mixed use housing, 3) infield development, 4) medium density. Stated public wants well planned, quality development. Provided commissioners with copies of the printed PowerPoint survey results.

Lila Lanier, 144 N. McLean Street, stated rights-of-way look nice; wanted to know why rates were raised; states her neighborhood does not have enough bushes and trees to justify additional cost for yard waste pickup; requests town newsletter be included in water bills.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Farmers Market Location

Information presented by Town Manager Hollerand; out of necessity market was shifted from former location due to the downtown square construction; several vendors requested at the ribbon cutting to return to the old location now that the square is open. Ms. Hollerand requested that the downtown space be opened to the farmers' market moving forward at no cost with the market season concluding in or around October.

No formal action was taken. The Board expressed unanimous consensus to allow the Farmers Market to return to its previous location for the remainder of the season.

2. Administration of the Oath of Office – Acting Police Chief

Mayor Coats administered the Oath of Office to David Register as Acting Chief of Police.

3. Informational Discussion with Chris Short with Lumos

Stated he would work with the town and residents to address any issues that may arise during the process of running fiber optic cable lines; timeline for completion will vary depending on circumstances as they proceed with the project; advised his company offers a responsive customer service 1-800 line that addresses any complaints in a timely fashion and requests residents to please feel free to contact them with any problems they may experience. Mayor Pro Tem stated to Mr. Short that the town would hold them accountable for any issues on behalf of town residents.

4. Request for Approval of the annual Powell Bill map.

Ms. Hollerand presented the new annual map and requested the board approval; stated the map reflects the new annexation; no streets added as subdivisions have not turned those over to the town as of yet.

RESOLVED, to approve annual Powell Bill map.
MOTION BY: Mayor Pro Tem Kelvin Gilbert
SECOND BY: Commissioner Marc Powell
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

5. Request for Approval of Contract for Engineering.Services with Meyers Engineering.

Ms. Hollerand explained the item was on last July's board meeting as well and is a proposal for as-needed engineering/code enforcement services; is town's access to engineering services and even the hiring of a planner would not negate the need for these services in the future.

RESOLVED, to approve the Contract for Engineering Services with Meyers Engineering.
MOTION BY: Commissioner Marc Powell
SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Hollerand gave the following updates:

- Expressed thank you to everyone who attended the square ribbon cutting on July 4th and recognized Parks and Recreation Staff, Sarah and Kevin, for their hard work in organizing the event.
- CAMPO representatives met with town staff last week and are willing to provide a presentation to the board. Will be scheduled for August or September.

CLOSED SESSION: Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to §143-318.11.(a)(6)

RESOLVED, to enter into closed session.
MOTION BY: Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
SECOND BY: Commissioner Todd Pope
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

The Board of Commissioners entered into Closed Session at 7:36 p.m.

The Board of Commissioners reconvened in open session at 10:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Chris Coats called for a motion to adjourn.

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION BY: Commissioner Monique Warren-Clegg
SECOND BY: Commissioner Shirley Allen
APPROVED: Unanimously Approved

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

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

Chris Coats, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jade Stone

Jade Stone, Town Clerk