

**TOWN OF COWPENS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
180 Foster Street  
Cowpens, SC 29330  
January 19, 2021**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular council meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Timken Community Center. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Council Member Roy Logan, and Jarred S. Spencer. Absent: Mayor-Tem Brenda J. Adair and Thomas Voelker. Absent.

Mayor Hamrick called the meeting to order and Jarred S. Spencer held prayer and included a moment of silence for the families of area residents who had lost loved ones and those who have sickness in their families.

**Approval of Agenda**

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the agenda for January 19, 2021, second by Roy Logan and carried.

**Approval of Minutes & Financial Statements**

Council reviewed the minutes of November 10, 2020 and December 29, 2020, purchase journals, accounts register, and monthly bank statements.

Roy Logan made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Jarred S. Spencer and carried.

Roy Logan made a motion to approve the purchase journals, accounts register, and monthly bank statements as presented, second by Jarred S. Spencer and carried.

**One Spartanburg – Alan Smith and Timothy Bush**

Alex Smith, One Spartanburg, provided town council with information on what is happening in Spartanburg County. Topic included business, tourism, and economic development. Metrics from 2020 demonstrates \$433 million in investment, 446 new jobs, 135 projects interested in Spartanburg County (with 10 countries represented), and an increase in multi-housing. There are 43% new interest in development and 57% interest in expansion.

Timothy Bush stated that hotel demand had declined by 26.7%. There was an increase in hotel room supply by 3.8%, a 29.3% decrease in occupancy, and a 38.0% decrease in revenue per available room. Mr. Bush stated the next 18 months will be important in the recovery from COVID-19. Council was encouraged to explore the website: <https://www.onespartanburginc.com>

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget Comparison**

Steve Bolin reviewed the 2020-2021 budget comparison with town council. Entries are accurate for this time of the budget year. Tony Blanton, Fire Chief, also reviewed the Fire Department budget comparison. No action was taken at this time. Mr. Bolin stated the police vehicle concerns will be discussed during the next council meeting and he notified town council that the Street Department truck was ordered.

Jarred S. Spencer thanked the Cowpens Fire Department and other responding departments for their efforts during the Cowpens First Baptist Church fire.

Chief Blanton was thankful for the food, water, and refreshments brought in and donated during the fire.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Cowpens Middle School Property**

Steve Bolin provided rough diagrams on how the Cowpens Middle School could be developed. Mayor Hamrick spoke about the current layout and projected use of the building. Discussion was held about the use of the baseball/football fields for Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation, the boiler, the gym, and the use of the library area for Spartanburg County Magistrate Court. Mayor Hamrick suggested some cost sharing ideas for the Town of Cowpens, Spartanburg County Magistrate Court, and Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation. He also mentioned that he had been talking with some developers about other uses for the land, including walking trails. Mayor Hamrick will be meeting Spartanburg County School District Three on January 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Steve Bolin stated he would be meeting with as many developers as he could over the next few months to obtain ideas. Jarred S. Spencer is concerned about the cost, demolition of portions of the property, and upfitting of the building. Roy Logan

believes the citizens and the children will benefit from the possible programs that we can have in this building. Mayor Hamrick feels that we are lucky the property sits beside the Timken Community Center. Both facilities will bring synergy to each other with unlimited potential.

**Façade Improvements**

The Town of Cowpens applied for a \$25,000 Façade Grant for the past two years and our application did not qualify by a tenth of a point. Mayor Hamrick wants to use \$10,000 of Hospitality Tax funds to jump start our own project. Discussion included matching funds, colors, awnings, etc. Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the \$10,000 for the façade project with a 50% match from property owners and with criteria to be approved in a future meeting, second by Roy Logan and carried.

**Cemetery Property**

Steve Bolin has been working with our town attorney, Larry Flynn, and Floyd Cemeteries about the property lines. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to adjourn, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Mayor Michael D. Hamrick

Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda J. Adair

Council Member Roy Logan

Attest:

Council Member Jarred S. Spencer

Teresa Carter, Town Clerk

Council Member Thomas Voelker