

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 2020**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular council meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Mayor-Tem Brenda J. Adair, Council Members Roy Logan, Jarred S. Spencer and Thomas Voelker.

A public information meeting was held to give notice of a proposed ordinance that would require owners of vacant real property to file a registration statement with the town. The statement contains the owners address, mailing address, phone and/or facsimile number and email address. Proposed filing fees would be required after the first year. The ordinance requires the property owner to secure the property and post signs and contact information of the owner until the time the property is occupied. The ordinance will be used to create a list of contact information for the owners of vacant real property to be used by the police and fire personnel for matters of safety and for town administration to manage property upkeep.

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 February 18, 2020, adding the election of a mayor pro-tem and progress of street paving projects, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Approval of Minutes & Financial Statements

Council reviewed the minutes of January 21, 2020 and February 3, 2020, purchase journals, accounts registers, and monthly bank statements. Brenda J. Adair 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 registers, and monthly bank statements as presented, second by Jarred S. Spencer and carried.

Department Reports

Steve Bolin mentioned the storms, wind, and heavy rain that came through recently. He thanked all departments for their cooperation.

Steve Bolin reported the number of calls for the police department. The police department issued 67 citations during the month of January and 70 warnings. Fines collected totaled \$1,433.00 The town's portion was \$393.97.

The fire department answered 25 calls for the month of January 2020. Ten calls were in the town, seven calls in the fire district, six calls were mutual aid in Spartanburg County, and two in Cherokee County.

Mileage for each department included: Police – 6,980 Street Department –1,927 and Fire Department – 992.

Chief Swofford informed council that our two officers had graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. He also pointed out that the department has been approved to have the prescription drug, Narcan. Since we are first on the scene in many cases we will be able to assist the public in some situations.

NEW BUSINESS

Hanging Baskets

Steve Bolin reminded council that spring was right around the corner and it was time to plan for the hanging baskets on Main Street. Roebuck Greenhouses has been making the baskets for the town each year. In 2019 the cost was \$112.00 per basket for the plants and \$28.95 per basket for the coco liners. There are 12 baskets and the cost will be the same for 2020. Mr. Bolin will proceed contacting Roebuck Greenhouses to prepare for the baskets.

State Contract Purchasing

The current purchasing policy doesn't include information for state purchasing. Mr. Bolin presented information recommended by MASC to include in the town's policy. An ordinance will be presented at another meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Second Reading – Vacant Property Registration

Mayor Hamrick made a recommendation to carry forward until the March council meeting. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to conduct the second reading at the March meeting, second by Jarred S. Spencer and carried. Steve Bolin was instructed to send letters and a draft copy of the ordinance to the property owners affected by the proposed ordinance.

Umbrella Insurance Policy

George Johnson Insurance has reviewed the town’s liability insurance and feels that the town needs an additional \$1,000,000 in coverage. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to add the additional coverage through 6/30/20, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Comprehensive Plan Proposal

Steve Bolin provided information for beginning the Town’s 2020 Comprehensive Plan. He met with Chip Bentley and Jennifer Visage, of SC Appalachian Council of Governments. They will have a detailed plan in place by mid-March for the Comprehensive Plan. The payment has been deferred until the next budget year. Cowpens will be hosting a continuing education course for the Planning and BZA Boards at the Timken Community Center on June 9, 2020. It will be six to eight months before the Comprehensive Plan is completed. Mr. Bolin also updated council on the meeting he attended in Columbia regarding grants.

Street Paving Projects

South Linda Street has been in need of paving for quite some time. At one point we had it approved for paving during 2019. Our share at the time of approval was \$150,000. Update information was received and the new cost for repairs is \$594,000 and our share is \$297,000. Mayor Hamrick is asking council if they would allow him time to speak with Representative Tallon to ask for assistance keeping the original cost to the town at \$150,000. Council agreed for Mayor Hamrick to contact our senator and representative.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tem

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to nominate and approve Brenda J. Adair as Mayor Pro-Tem, second by Roy Logan and carried. (Four in favor and Brenda J. Adair abstained.)

Jarred S. Spencer mentioned that our Congressmen will be at the Timken Community Center on Friday, February 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Hamrick thanked those who made the Winter Market a success. The Winter Market was held on February 8, 2020 at the Farmer’s Market building.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to adjourn, second 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