

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
5330 N. Main St.
Monday, March 20, 2023**

The Town of Cowpens held a regular meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Mayor Pro-Tem Jarred S. Spencer, and Council Members Pam Camp, Thomas Voelker, and Erin P. Wofford. Staff present included: Steve Bolin, Town Administrator, Teresa Carter, Town Clerk, and Fire Chief Tony Blanton. Mayor Michael D. Hamrick called the meeting to order, and Erin P. Wofford held prayer, including a moment of silence for families who lost their loved ones during the month.

Approval of Agenda

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve and amend the agenda for March 20, 2023, seconded by Pam Camp, and carried.

Presentation of Financial Statements Ending June 30, 2022 – Tammy Grice of Elliott & Painter, LLP

Tammy Grice, of Elliott & Painter, presented the Financial Statements for the Town of Cowpens ending June 30, 2022.

- ✚ As of the close of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2022), the towns governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$959,203 a decrease of \$145,787 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 74 percent of this total amount, or \$707,791 available for spending at the government's discretion (assigned and unassigned fund balances).
- ✚ Long term debt decreased by \$84,887 during the fiscal year.
- ✚ Ms. Grice noted the following key economic indicators which reflect the growth and prosperity of the Town:
 - Property tax revenues increased as the assessed value of property within the Town increased, and millage rates remained at 101.4 mils.
 - Property tax revenues increased as the assessed value of property for the Fire District increased, and the millage rate remained at 29.4 mils.
 - Intergovernmental revenues increased \$296,678 primarily due to American Rescue Plan funds received.

Ms. Grice concluded their presentation and thanked the Council for allowing Elliott & Painter to audit the financial statement of the Town of Cowpens.

Approval of Minutes, Purchase Journals, and Bank Statements

The council reviewed the minutes, purchase journals, accounts registers, and monthly bank statements.

Pam Camp made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023, seconded by Erin P. Wofford and carried.

Erin P. Wofford made a motion to approve the purchase journals for February 2023, seconded by Jarred S. Spencer, and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the February 2023 bank statements as presented, seconded by Pam Camp, and carried.

Department Reports

Steve Bolin reported the number of calls for the police department. The police department issued 55 citations during the month of February 2023, and 48 warnings. Fines collected totaled \$7,032.50. The town's portion was \$2,607.98.

The fire department responded to 26 calls during February 2023. Seven calls were in the Town of Cowpens, 11 in the Cowpens Fire District, four in Spartanburg County Mutual Aid District, and four in Cherokee County Mutual Aid District.

Mileage for each department was 8,320 in the police department, 2,847 in the fire department, and 1,095 in the street department.

Mr. Bolin also reported that CC&I Services had issued multiple building permits and the town's portion is \$220.85. This also generated additional business license revenue. CC&I issued an invoice for code enforcement from September 9, 2022-March 9, 2023, in the amount of \$1,875.00. Mr. Bolin and representatives from CC&I met with Mr. David Peeler, Jr., and will develop a timeline for cleaning up the property at 101 S. Linda St.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Hospitality Grant Request – Mighty Moo Fireworks and Portable Restrooms

The town council reviewed a request for funds to assist in paying for the fireworks show and supplying portable restrooms for the Mighty Moo Festival. Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$9,000.00, seconded by Thomas Voelker, and carried.

Guest Present: Tammy Grice, of Elliott & Painter, LLP, Tony Macomson, and Rich Ashford

B. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Fire Department (Approval of Resolution)

A Resolution to adopt the Spartanburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented to the town council. The Town of Cowpens is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damage to public and private property. The Town of Cowpens desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances. The development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards. It is the intent of the mayor and the town council to protect its citizens and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan. It is also the intent of the may and the town council to fulfill its obligation under Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting the Town of Cowpens. The Town of Cowpens , in coordination with Spartanburg County has prepared a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the Spartanburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and have approved the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures.

Pam Camp made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented, seconded by Jarred S. Spencer, and carried. Jarred S. Spencer reiterated that the town must be in compliance to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting the Town of Cowpens.

C. MASC Local Revenue Service Programs – Ordinance 1st Reading

The Town Council was presented with the first reading of an ordinance authorizing and directing the Town of Cowpens to enter into an intergovernmental agreement relating to the South Carolina Local Revenue Services; to participate in one or more Local Revenue Service Programs; to execute and deliver one or more participant program supplements; and other matters relating thereto. For many years, the Municipal Association of South Carolina has offered collection programs for certain business license taxes. These programs include the Insurance Tax Collection Program, the Brokers Tax Collection Program, and the Telecommunications Tax Program. The Municipal Association of South Carolina has collectively rebranded these programs as Local Revenue Services. As a result of the Local Revenue Services rebranding and the adoption of new local business license ordinances under Act 176, the Association is required to update the ordinances and agreement by which municipalities may participate in Local Revenue Services.

Pam Camp made a motion to approve the first reading of this ordinance, seconded by Jarred S. Spencer, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Fire Department Update Chapter 7 of the Town of Cowpens Ordinances – 2nd Reading

Chief Tony Blanton reviewed with town council the proposed update of the Fire Department Ordinance. Chief Blanton explained that most of the updates were just housekeeping updates. The main change was adding a paragraph in Section 7-74 “Each fiscal year the Town of Cowpens shall designate at least 27 mills of ad valorem taxes to fund the fire fund and the budget for the fire department.” Pam Camp made a motion to approve the second reading of this ordinance, seconded by Erin P. Wofford, and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Erin P. Wofford, and carried.

Mayor Michael D. Hamrick

Mayor Pro-Tem Jarred S. Spencer

Council Member Pam Camp

Attest:

Council Member Thomas Voelker

Teresa Carter, Town Clerk

Council Member Erin P. Wofford