

**TOWN OF COWPENS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
May 15, 2017**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular council meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda J. Adair, Council Members Roy Logan, Jarred S. Spencer, and Thomas E. Voelker.

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 May 15, 2017, second by Roy Logan and carried.

**Approval of Minutes & Financial Statements**

Roy Logan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2017, April 25, 2017 and May 2, 2017, second by Jarred S. Spencer and carried.

Brenda J. Adair made a motion to approve the purchase journals, account registers, and monthly bank statements, second by Roy Logan and carried.

**Department Reports**

The Police Department issued 28 citations (12 speeding tickets were included). There were 10,008 miles accumulated on the police vehicles. Revenue collected was \$3,830.50 and the town's portion was \$1,600.97.

The following was reported for the Cowpens Fire Department: Fire Calls in Cowpens- five; Cowpens Fire District- 16; Spartanburg County Mutual Aid -eight; Cherokee County - three. There was 1,943 miles accumulated on the fire department vehicles.

The Street Department had 433 miles on two vehicles.

**Fire Department – Written Request for Structural Firefighting Gear**

Council reviewed a request from Chief Blanton to replace nine sets of structural firefighting gear. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to accept Chief Blanton's recommendation to purchase this equipment paying one-half with budgeted funds and one-half from franchise fees, using the quote submitted by Safe Industries, second by Roy Logan and carried.

**Old Business**

**Budget Workshop**

Council reviewed a proposed budget for 2017-2018. A yearly maintenance contract was added in the amount of \$3,500 for the Court Management System under Judge's Expense. Mr. Bolin reviewed the police expenditures and determined that salaries would be \$222,000 to cover a chief and a four-shift day, allowing more coverage and room in the budget. He will

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adjust medical expenses, matching social security, retirement, workers comp and unemployment to the salary cost.

Council reviewed fire department expenses and Mayor Hamrick will call Chief Blanton regarding the audit expense.

Mr. Bolin has worked on the salaries for the street department and will adjust salaries and contract labor as necessary.

Council agreed to add \$3,600 in the budget for employees' Christmas Bonuses.

Approximately \$35,785 of prior year funds will need to be budgeted making the proposed budget income and expenditures \$999,370 for the fiscal years 2017-2018.

Brenda J. Adair made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2017-2018 proposed budget, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a) (1), for discussion of employment or appointment. Motion was second by Roy Logan and carried. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to come out of executive session, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to hire and appoint George Wayne Meredith as the new Chief of Police, with the salary as discussed by council and Mr. Meredith providing his own insurance, effective June 1, 2017. Motion was second by Brenda J. Adair and carried unanimously.

Brenda J. Adair made a motion to adjourn, second by Thomas Voelker and carried.

Mayor Michael D. Hamrick

Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda J. Adair

Council Member Roy Logan

Attest:

Council Member Jarred S. Spencer

Teresa Chadwick, Town Clerk

Council Member Thomas E. Voelker