

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
5330 N. Main St.
May 16, 2022**

The Town of Cowpens held a special meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Mayor Pro-Tem Jarred S. Spencer, Council Members Pam Camp, Thomas Voelker, and Erin P. Wofford. Michael D. Hamrick called the meeting to order, and Jarred S. Spencer held prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the agenda for May 16, 2022, seconded by Erin P. Wofford and carried.

Approval of Minutes & Financial Statements

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

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2022, and May 3, 2022, seconded by Erin P. Wofford and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the purchase journals, accounts registers, and monthly bank statements as presented, seconded by Thomas Voelker, and carried.

Department Reports

1. Police Chief Wayne Meredith introduced Jim Jenkins, of Patrol PC. Mr. Jenkins gave a presentation to provide in car computers for the police department. Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office and the City of Spartanburg Police Department are using the first version of the Patrol PC System, M1. The system has been improved and upgraded and the newest version is M2. Council received Mr. Jenkins presentation and had a question-and-answer session. Mayor Hamrick thanked Mr. Jenkins for providing valuable information to town council, which will aid council in making an informed decision.
2. Tammy Grice and Stephen Blanton, of Elliott & Painter, presented the Financial Statements for the Town of Cowpens ending June 30, 2021.
 - ✚ As of the close of current fiscal year (June 30, 2021), the towns governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$1,104,990 an increase of \$3,331 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 71percent of this total amount, or \$779,411 available for spending at the government's discretion (assigned and unassigned fund balances).
 - ✚ Long term debt decreased by \$69,730 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.
 - Business license revenues decreased by \$57,335.

Ms. Grice and Mr. Blanton concluded their presentation and thanked Council for allowing Elliott & Painter to audit the financial statement of the Town of Cowpens.
3. Mayor Hamrick presented a Proclamation to Police Chief Wayne Meredith and the Cowpens Police Department declaring the week of May 15, 2022 Peace Officers' Memorial week in memory of those law enforcement officers, who through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in their performance of duty, and to honor those law enforcement officers presently serving the community.
4. Steve Bolin reported the number of calls for the police department. The police department issued 51 citations and 26 warnings during the month of April. Fines collected totaled \$1,707.00. The town's portion was \$518.58. Mileage for each department included: Police – 6,063 Street Department –543 and Fire Department – 2,151. The fire department responded to 36 calls during April 2022. Fourteen calls were in the Town of Cowpens, five in the Cowpens Fire District, 13 in Spartanburg County Mutual Aid District, and four in Cherokee County Mutual Aid District.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Kristopher Chadwick – Painting Caboose and other items

Kristopher Chadwick provided council with quotes to have the caboose painted. He also provided council with pictures and other information for much needed repairs at the Cowpens Depot & Museum. Council reviewed and discussed the information. Pam Camp made a motion to proceed to having the caboose painted, not to exceed \$2,800.00, using funds from the Hospitality Tax, seconded by Erin P. Wofford, and carried.

B. Code Enforcement – Steve Bolin

Steve Bolin presented information from CC&I Services, LLC. Mr. Bolin is considering two components of the services provided by CC&I. One is Building Official Services. CC&I would assist the town with an experienced building official for a temporary or permanent basis. Certified Building Officials are used to consult with issues that may arise. The second is Code Consulting. CC&I would assist in providing an unbiased interpretation to questions that are of concern. This can help with the possible unwelcome response sometimes given to owners, designers and/or contractors. Town Council will continue to discuss these services at the next scheduled workshop.

OLD BUSINESS

A. ARPA Funds Discussion

Town Council discussed the use of ARPA funds for restrooms in Veterans Park. Alvin Fuller, of Summit Engineering, presented town council with additional specifications for a prefabricated unit and costs for public restrooms. Discussion was held by council and questions to Mr. Fuller. Erin P. Wofford made a motion to approve the specifications for the bidding process, seconded by Pam Camp and carried.

The Food Competition Area has been removed from the list of the ARPA Projects.

Town Council continued discussion of the Patrol PC Package for the police department. Chief Wayne Meredith answered questions for town council. Pam Camp made a motion to approve \$64,000.00 for computers and installation in eight police cars, using ARPA Funds, 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

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¹ Guest present: Jim Jenkins (Patrol PC), Kristopher Chadwick, Rich Ashford, Alvin Fuller, Dale Horton, Tony Makupson, Keith Cartwright, Chief Wayne Meredith, Tammy Grice, and Stephen Blanton (Elliott & Painter).