

**TOWN OF COWPENS  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
June 12, 2017**

The Town of Cowpens held a special council meeting on Monday, June 12, 2017, at 6:00 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.

Fire Chief Tony Blanton made a presentation to council to enter a lease agreement for the purchase of 24 sets of turn out gear. The gear would be replaced every seven years, as is currently done, but it wouldn't be a financial strain on the budget by entering a seven year lease agreement. The interest rate will be 2.6%. Chief Blanton has \$18,000 in the budget for the replacement of nine sets of gear, but if the council enters this agreement those funds will not be utilized. Chief Blanton would need to enter \$7,115 for each budget year for the lease.

Council reviewed the quotes made by each financial institution submitted by Chief Blanton. Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to enter a lease agreement with United Financial, Option #2 of their proposal, with a seven year term and an annual payment of \$7,114.29, second by Brenda J. Adair and carried.

Council reviewed the 2017/2018 proposed budget for the Cowpens Fire Department. Discussion was held regarding the fire department absorbing approximately 25% of the audit fees, the percentage of franchise fees being distributed to the street department, and budget highlights.

Brenda J. Adair made a motion to designate 40% of the franchise fees to the fire department, 40% to the police department, and 20% to the street department, on a permanent basis, effective July 1, 2017. All funds collected through June 30, 2017 will remain to the fire and police departments. The motion was second by Roy Logan and carried.

Chief Blanton updated council on the budget highlights as follows: Spartanburg County Fire District revenue increased from 175,000 to 183,000; audit cost of approximately \$4,300; salaries increased by position and not raises; an increase of seven percent on vehicle insurance due to the wreck; retirement increases; and no capital expenditures included at this time.

Chief Blanton also provided information on the Fire Service Area (FSA) to town council. More information will be available at a later date.

Brenda J. Adair made a motion to approve the first reading of the fire department 2017/2018 proposed budget in the amount of \$308,605.13, second by Roy Logan and carried. Second reading will be held on June 19, 2017.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to amend the agenda and to hear the information on the SBA Tower prior to the budget workshop, second by Brenda J. Adair and carried.

Mayor Hamrick provided information regarding the SBA Tower lease. The current lease terminates on 6/30/2028 (11 years). Carriers are hesitant to upgrade or install costly

equipment with only 11 years remaining on the lease. Mayor Hamrick discussed some options with town council and requested that we retain Attorney Ron Tucceri, who has extensive knowledge of these type leases, to negotiate the lease on behalf of the Town of Cowpens. Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to retain Attorney Ron Tucceri at a rate not to exceed \$2,500.00, second by Brenda J. Adair and carried.

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

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to increase the town administrator and town clerk salaries by five percent; the town clerk will become a salary employee; and to increase the budget for police fines by \$2,150, effective July 1, 2017, second by Thomas Voelker and carried.

Mayor Hamrick updated council on the new stop sign that was installed by the SC DOT. The sign was placed at the intersection of Highway 110 and Highway 29. Council suggested the town administrator call SC DOT and inquire about the sign.

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 Chadwick, Town Clerk

Council Member Thomas E. Voelker