

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
5330 N. Main Street
Cowpens, SC 29330
October 19, 2020**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular council meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Council Member Roy Logan, Jarred S. Spencer, and Thomas Voelker. Absent: Mayor-Tem Brenda J. Adair.

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 October 19, 2020, adding an executive session to the agenda, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Approval of Minutes & Financial Statements

Council reviewed the minutes of September 21, 2020, purchase journals, accounts registers, and monthly bank statements.

Roy Logan made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020, second by Thomas Voelker and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to approve the purchase journals, accounts registers, and monthly bank statements as presented, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Department Reports

Steve Bolin reported the number of calls for the fire department. Calls for the month of September 2020 totaled twelve. Two calls were in the town, two calls in the fire district, four calls were mutual aid in Spartanburg County, and four in Cherokee County. Mileage for each department was as follows: Police Department 5,385, Fire Department 2,547, and Street Department 956.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Board Recommendation

A public hearing was held on October 6, 2020 to gain information to rezone a portion of the property at 276 Foster Street from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to I-1 (Light Industrial). Mr. Bolin update council on the results of the public hearing and provided a copy of the board's minutes. After some discussion and written verification of the Zoning Board's decision, Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to accept their recommendation to change the zoning of a portion of the property at 276 Foster Street from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to I-1 (Light Industrial), second by Roy Logan and carried. (A public hearing was conducted, and the decision of the Zoning Board does not require further action. Once it is approved by town council the decision is final.)

Spartanburg County Fire District Audit

Fire Chief Tony Blanton updated council on the recent audit that Spartanburg County released on Fire Districts in Spartanburg County. The data includes response times, manpower, ISO ratings, etc. The audit was completed to improve fire service for Spartanburg County residents, their fire districts, and municipal fire departments. A Fire Advisory Board was created to speak on behalf of all fire departments in Spartanburg County. Chief Blanton reported that fire services are at risk as volunteers dwindle and it is our responsibility to provide fire protection to our community. Government standards require a minimum of four firefighters on a fire service vehicle responding to calls. Multiple options are available for the Fire Service in Spartanburg County; leaving the fire service as it is; merging with other fire departments; or Spartanburg County backing out of fire service agreements. Spartanburg County Council will review the data in the audit report and decide during their next council meeting. Chief Blanton will report the information to the Cowpens Town Council.

Paving Request 2021

Steve Bolin reported that OSI ratings had values which were a benefit to the Town of Cowpens this year. For the 2021 paving cycle the following roads will be paved: the portion of E. Church which belongs to the town,

Savannah Street, and Tumble Rock Dr. Carver Street was recently paved, and Wood Street will be listed in the 2022 cycle.

Telephone System

Council discussed the need for a new telephone system. Steve Bolin reported that he had obtained pricing three years ago. Our current system has early 1980's capabilities and will not allow forwarding calls to other numbers or cell phones. Beowulf is currently handling our telephone system and is in the process of changing our lines to a SIP system (internet based). Our contract with Total BC ended in September 2020.

Beowulf quoted \$3,203.00 for a new telephone system, which would bring us up to date. The system will include seven telephones and cabling. Mayor Hamrick feels the need to explore updating our system and Jarred S. Spencer agreed. Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to continue the discussion of a new telephone system until our next meeting, second by Thomas Voelker and carried.

Halloween Festivities

Steve Bolin provided new information about Halloween Festivities. Some cities and towns have cancelled all events. Mr. Bolin also spoke with the town attorney, Larry Flynn and with our insurance carrier/agent. Both are concerned about the liability issues such events would create for the town during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Chief Swofford is concerned about controlling social distancing, face masks, and manpower to assistance in the event.

The Governor's Summary of Executive Order 2020-50 is about the re-opening of South Carolina and includes information for festivals, activities with large crowds, waivers of liability, etc. This order should be taken into consideration when making our decision about events for the town. Most towns in South Carolina have cancelled large events.

Some area churches are doing Trunk or Treat. First Baptist Cowpens will be showing a movie. Roy Logan is concerned due to the outbreak in his community.

Thomas Voelker made a motion to cancel Halloween Festivities due to the Governor's Summary of Executive Order 2020-50, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Billboard Contract

Steve Bolin updated council on the proposed contract with Fruitland Outdoor Advertising, Inc. for billboard advertisement on the interstate. The contract is not complete, but he hopes to have it available at the next meeting.

Executive Session

Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a contractual matter, second by Roy Logan and carried. Jarred S. Spencer made a motion to come out of executive session, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Jarred S. Spencer 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 Carter, Town Clerk

Council Member Thomas Voelker