

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2019**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular council meeting on Monday, October 21, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Mayor-Tem Brenda J. Adair, Council Members Roy Logan, Jarred S. Spencer and Thomas 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 add Spots of Pride to the agenda and approve the agenda for October 21, 2019, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Approval of Minutes & Financial Statements

Council reviewed the minutes of September 16, 2019, purchase journals, accounts registers, and monthly bank statements. Roy Logan made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Jarred S. Spencer 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

Teresa Carter reported the number of fire calls for the fire department. The fire department answered 28 calls for the month of September 2019. Eight calls were in the town, eight calls in the fire district, twelve calls were mutual aid in Spartanburg County, and zero in Cherokee County.

Mileage for each department included: Police – 7,262 Street Department –1,019 and Fire Department – 2,753.

The police department issued 49 citations during the month of September and 22 warnings. Fines collected totaled \$4,004.50. The town's portion was \$1,520.80.

Chief Blanton reported that the sign project was complete.

Chief Swofford, with Steve Bolin's help, was able to get several properties condemned. The police department received 38 involvements on two properties that were condemned and an additional seventeen 911 calls.

Old Business

Short-Term Rental Ordinance – 2nd Reading

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the use of residential units as short-term rentals in order to protect the integrity of the town's neighborhoods and the quality of life of its citizens; establish a system to track the short term inventory in the town; to protect the health and safety of occupants of short term rental units; to ensure a level playing field for individuals in the short term rental market; and to protect the residential character of the residential districts of the town. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to approve the second and final reading of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Goal Setting List – Update

Steve Bolin reviewed the updated goal list with town council and provided them with a list of some abandoned houses in the area. Actions completed on the list include:

1. Short-Term Rental Ordinance
2. County Agreement to Recoup cost and fines on properties
3. Sign replacement on slow days (street department)
4. Hometown Grant application completed
5. Repairs to gazebo
6. Pressure wash sidewalk in Central Business
7. One Spartanburg Beautification Grant

New Business

Resolution – 2020 Census Partnership

The US Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a count of the population and provide a historic opportunity to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy. The Town of Cowpens town council reviewed a Resolution which supports the goals and ideas for 2020 Census, encourage the town to participate, provide Census advocates to speak to the Town of Cowpens and Community Organizations, support census takers as they help our citizens complete an accurate count, and strive to achieve a complete and accurate count of all persons within our towns limit. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to approve the Resolution pertaining to the partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, second by Roy Logan and carried.

Ordinance to Amend Business License Ordinance – Appendix A & B – 1st Reading

The Town Council has an ordinance establishing an annual license tax for the privilege of doing business within the Municipality. Appendix A establishes the rate schedule for the annual license tax. Rates are based on the classification of the business (the Class Schedule). The Class Schedule reflects the most recent federal statistical data relating to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS Codes). The Municipal Association of SC (MASC) has prepared an updated Class Schedule for municipalities, using IRS financial data. An ordinance was presented for first reading to update Appendix B, the Class Schedule. Brenda J. Adair made a motion to approve first reading of this ordinance, second by Roy Logan and carried. (Jarred S. Spencer opposed.)

Minimum Square Feet on Housing in All Residential Districts

Steve Bolin will provide more information to town council at a future meeting. We are seeing square footage structure drop to 380 square feet. Larger towns already have something in place. Brenda J. Adair made a motion, second by Jarred S. Spencer, to continue this discussion to another date.

Pedestrian Crossing

Merchants are concerned that drivers are not paying attention to the signs at the crosswalk in the center of the central business district. Steve Bolin has some suggestions for lights and signs at the crossing but wants to hear from SCDOT prior to the purchase of any signs.

Roy Logan mentioned again that there is a need for the pedestrian crossings at Old Pacolet Road and S. Highway 29. Steve Bolin will set up a phone conference with SCDOT. A caution light was also suggested.

Spots of Pride

Mayor Hamrick, Brenda J. Adair, and Steve Bolin met with the Spots of Pride Committee to learn what can be done in the Cowpens area. Mayor Hamrick would like to see some vegetation along S. Main Street. Steve Bolin will try to get an engineer to provide a quick drawing. This will require approval by SCDOT, and an encroachment permit will need to be obtained. Spots of Pride need sponsors to finance annual maintenance costs and to replace plants and flowers if they die or are damaged by vehicles. Brenda J. Adair suggested some vegetation that would be low standing, so traffic is not blocked and informed council that it's costly because of irrigation. Businesses that sponsor Spots of Pride will have their company's name — along with the year the spot was established — listed on a sign at the spot. Jarred S. Spencer would like to see a cost estimate.

Brenda J. Adair made a motion to adjourn, second by Jarred S. Spencer 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