

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
5330 N. Main St.
Monday, October 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular meeting on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Mayor Jarred S. Spencer, Council Members Lesa C. Bolin, Pam Camp, Danyelle D. Goode, and Erin P. Wofford. Mayor Jarred S. Spencer called the meeting to order, and Lesa C. Bolin held prayer.

The *agenda* for the October 28, 2024, meeting was presented to the town council. Pam Camp made a motion to amend and approve the agenda, seconded by Lesa C. Bolin, and carried.

The *minutes* of September 16, 2024, and October 9, 2024, meetings were presented to the Town Council. Pam Camp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Lesa C. Bolin, and carried.

The *purchase journals* for August and September 2024 were presented to the Town Council. Lesa C. Bolin made a motion to approve these items, seconded by Pam Camp, and carried.

The *bank statements* for August and September 2024 were presented to the Town Council. Danyelle D. Goode made a motion to approve these items, seconded by Lesa C. Bolin, and carried.

Department Reports

Mayor Spencer thanked the fire, police, and street departments for an outstanding job during *hurricane Helene*. It was a learning experience for everyone involved. The department heads are discussing issues during the storm and finding ways to resolve the outcomes of future emergencies. All employees worked diligently to secure the town.

Steve Bolin presented the *fire department report*. There were thirty-one calls for the month. Six were in the town, twenty-two in the Cowpens Fire District, five in the Spartanburg County Mutual Aid District, and two in the Cherokee County Mutual Aid District.

Mr. Bolin also presented the *police department reports* for August and September 2024, which included 116 cases and sixty-seven warnings during August. Sixty-seven of these cases were speeding charges, seven were uninsured vehicle violations, three stop sign violations, eight were driving under suspension, one child restraint violation, and thirty other violations. Fines collected totaled \$5,896.75. The town's portion was \$1,670.89. During September, the police department issued thirty-eight warnings, served six warrants, and issued fifty-three citations. Twenty-nine of the violations were for speeding, four were uninsured vehicle violations, two stop sign violations, five driving under suspension, and thirteen other violations. Fines collected totaled \$11,654.00. The town's portion was \$3,704.04.

Teresa Carter presented the 2024 *Setoff Debt report* to the town council. Each September letters are sent to debtors who have outstanding fines. The three-year total for 2024 is \$63,048.75. Since the initial mailing on September 23, 2024, \$1,758.50 has been collected. Another means of collecting debts is the NRVC mailings which eventually suspends the debtor's driving privileges, bench warrants are issued, and scheduled payments plans. These functions are used prior to going into the setoff debt program. On October 28, 2024, the debts were reported to the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC). On December 1, 2024, MASC will turn the debts over to the SC Department of Revenue (SCDOR). When debtors file their taxes with the SCDOR for 2024, any refund will be submitted to the town.

New Business

A. Hospitality Tax Grant Application – Boo Fest

An application requesting Hospitality Tax Grant funds for Boo Fest was presented to the town council, in the amount of \$799.60. Cowpens Area Merchants Association will be hosting Boo Fest at the Farmer's Market, and these funds will be used to purchase candy for the event. This is an annual event and brings tourism to the town.

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B. Follow Up from Hurricane Helene

Steve Bolin presented a report that reviewed the steps taken during the recent hurricane. The report included information that covered all the departments and the agencies and citizens that provided meals and help for the days following the hurricane. Fire Chief Blanton and Police Chief Meredith gave their insight on how the traffic was re-routed, the extra patrols in neighborhoods, and the lack of communication due to the 911 systems being affected by the power outage. Chief Meredith was able to contact a representative from First Net to provide a generator at the cell phone tower. Steps are now being taken to provide additional measures for future emergencies. More information will be provided to the town council as it becomes available.

C. Ordinance 1st Reading

An ordinance was presented to the town council waiving the requirement for an IGA and expressly consenting to the inclusion of certain property in a joint county industrial park within the Town of Cowpens, South Carolina; and other matter related thereto. Pam Camp made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance, seconded by Lesa C. Bolin, and carried.

Old Business

A. None

Erin P. Wofford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Danyelle D. Goode and carried.

Mayor Jarred S. Spencer

Council Member Lesa C. Bolin

Attest:

Council Member Pam Camp

Council Member Danyelle D. Goode

Teresa Carter, Town Clerk

Council Member Erin P. Wofford