

**TOWN OF COWPENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
5330 N. Main St.
Monday, April 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

The Town of Cowpens held its regular meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jarred S. Spencer, Mayor Pro-Tem Erin P. Wofford, Council Members Lesa C. Bolin, Pam Camp, and Danyelle D. Goode. Mayor Jarred S. Spencer called the meeting to order, and Erin P. Wofford held prayer.

The agenda for the April 22, 2024, meeting was presented to the town council. Erin P. Wofford made a motion to approve the agenda adding public comments, seconded by Pam Camp, and carried.

Elliott & Painter, LLP – Tammy Grice

Presentation of Financial Statements Ending June 20, 2023

Tammy Grice, of Elliott & Painter, presented the Financial Statements for the Town of Cowpens ending June 30, 2022.

✚ As of the close of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2023), the towns governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$798,871 a decrease of \$160,332 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 74 percent of this total amount, or \$586,656 is available for spending at the government's discretion (assigned and unassigned fund balances).

✚ Long term debt decreased by \$71,885 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 108.4 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.
- Intergovernmental revenues increased primarily due to American Rescue Plan funds received.

Ms. Grice concluded their presentation and thanked the Council for allowing Elliott & Painter to audit the financial statement of the Town of Cowpens.

Public Comments

Toney Proto - Mr. Proto is a mobile food vendor. He has set up several times at Cowpens Coffee and Creamery. His concern was the Town of Cowpens website has information for food trucks and not mobile vendors, causing him to be unable to advance to the next screen to make the payment. Mayor Spencer informed Mr. Proto that this will be considered.

Virginia Russell – Mrs. Russell's concern was the speeders on S. Main Street. The mayor and town council assured Mrs. Russell that the Cowpens Police Department will manage her concern.

Joe Long – Mr. Long discussed the perception of the work at the Potter's Store Building. He is concerned that work has ceased due to CC&I causing issues for the contractor. Mr. Bolin informed those present that the owner was in the process of some demolition and removing items from the building. A permit is not required at this point. The owner and/or contractor has not submitted any plans for approval and has not submitted any permit applications to conduct any work on the property.

Marlene Ezell – Ms. Ezell lives on N. Oakland Street and is concerned about the town street department vehicles failing to stop at the three-way stop in front of her home. The mayor informed Ms. Ezell that this issue would be addressed.

Approval of Minutes, Purchase Journals, and Bank Statements

Minutes of the March 18, 2024, and April 4, 2024, meetings were presented to the Town Council. Pam Camp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Danyelle D. Goode, and carried.

The purchase journal for March 2024 was presented to the Town Council. Lesa C. Bolin made a motion to accept the purchase journal as presented, seconded by Pam Camp, and carried.

Bank Statements for March 2024 were presented to the Town Council. Danyelle D. Goode made a motion to approve the Bank Statements as presented, seconded by Pam Camp, and carried.

Guest Present: Tony Proto, Eddie Dearybury, Wilma Dearybury, Marlene Ezell, Dale Horton, Virginia Russell, Joe Long, Joell'e Brawley, Ed Suttles, and Fire Chief Tony Blanton

Department Reports

Steve Bolin presented the department reports as follows:

The police department issued 30 warnings during March 2024 and 56 citations. Total fines collected were \$12,290.50 and \$4,289.15 was the town's portion.

Mileage for each department – Police Department 10,104 miles, Fire Department 1,738 miles, and Street Department 1,203 miles.

The fire department responded to 28 calls during the month of March 2024. Ten were in the Town of Cowpens, 18 were in the fire district, seven were in the Spartanburg Mutual Aid District, and four were in the Cherokee County Mutual Aid District.

CC&I Services – Eighteen permits were issued during the month of March 2024. These permits included re-inspection, Commercial Plan Review, residential construction, and electrical.

New Business

A. Floyd's Mortuary

Joell'e Brawley, Family Service Counselor, spoke with the mayor and town council regarding Daniel Morgan Memorial Gardens and the future plans to have a section of the cemetery for Veterans if there is potential interest. She also provided the mayor, town council, and those present with a Final Wishes Planner. Mayor Spencer thank Ms. Brawley for attending the meeting and providing information.

B. Radios (Fire & Police Departments)

Fire Chief Blanton updated the town council on the issues with the radio system. Spartanburg County recently updated the radio tower and there is a deadline for all departments to update their radio systems. Funding will be needed to replace radios and handheld devices for both the police and fire departments. The mayor requested that Fire Chief Blanton provide a quote for the necessary equipment. Police Chief Meredith will be instructed to provide a quote for his department as well.

C. New Information on Food Trucks

Town Administrator, Steve Bolin, provided the town council with information that includes how other municipalities are permitting their food truck vendors to operate. Discussion included hospitality tax, sales tax, business license, and locations. Mayor Spencer concluded that this information would be considered and discussed at the next meeting.

D. One Spartanburg Map

Information was provided to the mayor and town council to advertise in the Spartanburg Community Map through One Spartanburg. After reviewing the information, Pam Camp made a motion to opt for the Double Categorical Listing at a cost of \$699.00, using Hospitality Tax funds, seconded by Erin P. Wofford, and carried.

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Old Business

A. Farmers' Market

Steve Bolin reported that Ray Rogers, Architect, has drawings ready for the drainage issue. The easement has to be cleared before work can begin on this project.

Erin P. Wofford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lesa C Bolin, and carried.

Mayor Jarred S. Spencer

Council Member Lesa Bolin

Attest:

Council Member Pam Camp

Council Member Danyelle D. Goode

Teresa Carter, Town Clerk

Council Member Erin P. Wofford

Guest Present: Tony Proto, Eddie Dearybury, Wilma Dearybury, Marlene Ezell, Dale Horton, Virginia Russell, Joe Long, Joell'e Brawley, Ed Suttles, and Fire Chief Tony Blanton