

September 11, 2023 Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting

Meeting minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marla Thompson at 5:30pm.

2. Roll Call

Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, and Mayor Marla Thompson were all present.

3. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of the lives lost on 09/11/2001

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the lives lost on 9/11.

4. Invocation

Town Clerk Heather Minor gave the invocation in place of Alderman Allen Bumgarner

5. Approval of Minutes

-August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington, the vote to approve the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was approved unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

-August 23, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner, the vote to approve the August 23, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes was approved unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

6. Items for Discussion

a. New Finance Director Introduction- Town Manager James Cozart

The Town Manager, James Cozart, introduced Melissa Lalonde, who had been selected as the new Finance Director for the town following a thorough selection process. He gave some details about Melissa's background and qualifications.

b. Swearing in of Melissa Lalonde, Finance Director- Mayor, Marla Thompson

Mayor Marla Thompson then led Melissa Lalonde through her Oath of Office as the Town's new Finance Director.

c. Medical Center Lease Extension discussion- Town Manager James Cozart

Town Manager, James Cozart, brought to the board's attention an email from Catawba Valley Medical Center. They requested to extend their current lease, due to end on July 31, 2024, for an additional two years, with all terms staying the same. The board discussed whether they needed to sit down with the center to discuss further plans and the potential for cost changes in the future. They decided to extend the lease as is for an additional two years.

The motion to extend the lease as is for an additional two years was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The vote to extend the lease was approved unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

d. Surplus of Remington Shotguns- Police Major Justin Reid

Police Major Justin Reid brought forward a proposal to surplus two more Remington shotguns from the department's inventory. Following the surplus procedure, he aims to trade these in when purchasing new shotguns for the department. A motion to surplus two Remington Shotguns was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The vote to surplus the two shotguns was approved unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

e. Manger's Report/Finance Report

Town Manager Cozart stated that a surveying the site where the ATM will be place should take place in the upcoming days. An update was given on the Safety and Training Facility. The 30-foot entrance to the property has been paved, with paving appearing to be of high quality and should hold up against heavy equipment. The next steps, which include the grading of the grounds and hydroseeding, are proposed to be carried out in October.

Town Manager Cozart gave a current report of the town's General and Utility funds, the investments of the town, as well as, where the town stood with the collection of ad valorem taxes.

7. Public Comment

No public comment was made during the meeting.

8. Closed Session regarding a personnel matter

No closed session took place during this meeting.

9. Closing Remarks

In the closing remarks, the Police Chief TJ Bates thanked the board and staff for their support during the passing of Police Sgt. Dylan Smith's wife, Chelsea. Town Manager, James Cozart, also thanked the board and staff for their support during the passing of his sister.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The vote to adjourn the meeting at 5:48pm was approved unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

Staff in Attendance: Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Town Manager James Cozart, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Major Justin Reid, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Town Clerk/Human Resources Director Heather Minor, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde

Public in attendance: Genita Hill, Scott Lalonde, Janice Harrison