

TOWN OF COLUMBIA BOARD MINUTES

March 4, 2024

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Columbia met in regular session at 7:PM, Monday, March 4, 2024, in the meeting room of the Columbia Municipal Building. Attending were Aldermen Lloyd Armstrong, Sandra Owens, and Lynda Mastronardo. Mayor James W. Cahoon presided.

Mayor Cahoon called the meeting to order and asked Alderman Armstrong to offer a prayer for the Board. He welcomed those attending the meeting.

Upon motion of Alderman S. Owens the vote to approve the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. This included:

Minutes of February 5, 2024, Regular Session Board of Aldermen Meeting

Water/Sewer downward adjustments –

Glenn Selby	\$362.44
SS Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 37.00
GSM Properties	\$211.20
Inez Swain	\$ 46.00
Zion Grove Church	\$313.71
Griselda Araceli	\$518.36
Marianela Luz Segura Viliz	\$668.10
Jason Smith	\$ 46.00

Mayor Cahoon announced the Public Comment Period and invited remarks from the audience. There were none and he closed the comment period.

Deputy Sheriff Krissy Bowen presented the Law Enforcement Report for February. She said the Sheriff's Office is focusing on inside town limits areas, especially Railroad and Scotsville Streets. She said congregating and loud noise are a focus. There were 12 citations issued. There were seven investigations including one murder. Deputies traveled 4,527 miles patrolling the Town during February.

Town Manager Rhett White reported progress on two CDBG homes located on Scotsville Street. He said the State is holding firm on not allowing funds to be used to demolish derelict homes. He said McDavid Associates has identified another house on South Road Street that qualifies for replacement.

A Public Hearing will be scheduled at 7:PM, Monday, April 1, 2024, to consider comments on that option. It was noted that the State still wants a public space (park or garden) as part of the project.

Next on the agenda was discussion on the Free 'n Easy Plantation House and that property transfer. It was noted that Mike Johnson will provide a budget for using the \$300,000 that comes with the house. It is understood that will be necessary before funds will be released by the State.

Mr. White reported that Partnership for the Sounds is in agreement with leasing the pontoon boat to operate excursions on the Scuppernong River. A contract will be developed for this purpose.

Mr. White said there has been no information concerning the ZIP Line. He announced that the Harbor Town Ferry introduction to Columbia is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, April 24th.

It was reported that the FEMA heliport pad grant opportunity for fire departments is being investigated with the County and TVFD. Mr. White reported that a \$50,000 grant application to the Lowes Foundation has been submitted to demolish several old decaying houses within the Town.

Discussion on the Social District proposal was delayed until all Aldermen can be present. The Tax Collection Report indicated 80.18 % of taxes billed for the year have been paid, compared to 74.64 % at the same time last year. Taxes totaling \$72,999.09 are outstanding.

Monica Mauffray presented the budget report. She noted that General Fund revenues are at 84 % of expectations while expenditures are at 62 % of budget. The Water/Sewer Fund revenues are at 84 % of budgeted amounts. Expenses are at 61 % of budgeted amounts.

Upon motion of Alderman Mastronardo and unanimous vote five items were authorized to be sold as surplus equipment. attachment # 1

The Manager reported that close-outs on FEMA actions during and after Hurricane Dorian in September of 2019 have been completed. He reported the Planning Board authorized the final approval on the Inner Banks RV Park project clearing the way for construction to get underway.

He reported that a burial occurred in Oakwood Cemetery over the weekend. This information sparked a discussion about the cemetery and lack of information on plats for burials, plat ownerships and the status of a "closed" cemetery.

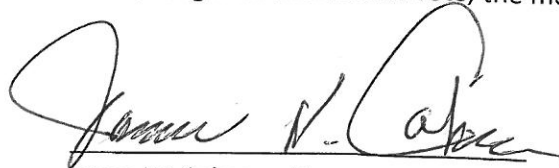
He reported that correspondence from 7-11 Corporation indicates the Speedway will continue to operate under the Speedway name.

Alderman Armstrong announced that he will move from Columbia and will resign his office at the end of June. Alderman S. Owens asked that the school be contacted regarding the contractor not properly closing the Road Street cut. Alderman Mastronardo reported on Library activities, but wondered why the "No Overnight Parking" signs had been erected on the parking lot behind the Library.

Mayor Cahoon announced a Fiscal Training workshop in Rocky Mount, March 14th and Good Friday Holiday March 29th.

With no other business and motion by Alderman Armstrong with unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Cahoon.

This the 4th day of March, 2024.


James W. Cahoon, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Rhett B. White, Clerk

SURPLUS SALE

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

**103 Main Street, PO Box 361
Columbia, NC 27925**

The following items have been declared SURPLUS and are offered for sale to the highest bidders:

1. 2005 Ford F150, VIN – 1FTRP189LYNB94382
2. 2003 Ford F150, VIN – 2FTRX18W63CA92357
3. New Holland Backhoe, Model # 55E-699000001
Engine, IC783787
4. Cub Cadet – Commercial, M80 Tank, O-TURN Mower
5. 2004 Chevy Silverado, VIN – 1GCEC19V142319460

None of the above items are operational.