

TOWN OF COLUMBIA BOARD MINUTES JULY 8, 2024

The Town of Columbia Board of Aldermen met in regular session at 7:PM, Monday, July 8, 2024 in the meeting room of the Columbia Municipal Building. Aldermen present were Sandra Owens, Lynda Mastronardo, Hal Fleming and Bryan Owens. Mayor James W. Cahoon presided and called the meeting to order. Alderman B. Owens offered a prayer for the Board.

Mayor Cahoon presented a plaque to Lloyd Armstrong who resigned to relocate to another area. He served as an Alderman for more than nine years.

Alderman Fleming moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote to approve was unanimous. This included Minutes of the June 3, 2024 Regular Session Board Meeting and the Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Recessed Session of the Board Meeting, including two corrections.

Also approved were five water/sewer downward adjustments as follows:

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|----------------|-------------|
| Judy Marner | \$ 107.98 |
| Twin Oaks | \$ 2,749.94 |
| Twin Oaks | \$ 636.00 |
| Lleymi Azucena | \$ 30.31 |
| Evelyn Betts | \$ 111.41 |

Mayor Cahoon announced the Public Comment Period and invited those attending to voice comments on any subjects of interest to the town. There were no comments and the comment period was closed.

Peter Thompson with Harbor Town Ferrys discussed the boardwalk renovations, oil company lot on N. Water Street, signage throughout the town and the proposed ZIP Line; also amounts available for waterfront projects. Tommy Everett, Tyrrell County Commissioner Chairman was also present.

Questions lingered about the planned projects. There were also questions about the status of the ferries and dinner boat

John Delucia with Albemarle Engineering presented his firm's engineering study on the drainage problems at the intersection of Bridge Street and Virginia Avenue. Several possible actions were presented with option 3 identified as the desired alternative. The estimated cost could be as much as \$380,000 with an additional \$150,000 if pumps are to be used. The \$20,000 engineering study was paid for by the Albemarle RC&D Council. Mayor Cahoon asked that discussion on the Bridge Street drainage project be on the next meeting agenda.

Town Manager Rhett White explained that the Free 'n Easy funding is still awaiting clearance from the State Legislature. This includes funds for a pontoon boat and other equipment. Upon motion of Alderman S. Owens the vote was unanimous to authorize purchase of the pontoon boat with Town funds, then get reimbursed when the State frees up the Legislative Appropriation.

An advertised 7:35 PM Zoning Hearing on the 10.23 acre Kendall Court subdivision was announced. Planning Board member Tim Nielsen spoke for the recommended change. With no further comments the hearing was closed.

Alderman B. Owens moved to rezone the 25-lot Kendall Court Subdivision from Multi-Family to Single Family Residential. The vote to rezone was unanimous.

Sara Phelps brought the Board up to date on the planned wayfaring signage project. After much discussion the topic was added to the August meeting agenda.

Mayor Cahoon announced that the issue of the inactive Friends of Oakwood Cemetery has been resolved. Town Attorney Will Crowe was asked to prepare a letter and any other documentation to dissolve the non-profit.

Tax Collector MaryAnn Hassell presented the tax report, noting that collections are at 89.1% at months-end verse 94.1% at the same time last year.

Fiscal Officer Monica Mauffray reported on year-end budget figures and announced that the auditors will be on site August, 5-9. Close-out budgets were addressed. Upon motion of Alderman Fleming the vote was unanimous to approve a \$23,400 General Fund Budget Amendment. Upon motion of Alderman S. Owens and unanimous vote, a \$7,400 water sewer budget amendment was approved.

Mayor Cahoon, noting that the Town gave employees a salary increase of 3% while the cost of living increased in the double digits, suggested a \$4,000 increase to all employees. It was noted that finding good candidates for jobs is increasingly more difficult due to higher salaries paid in nearby communities.

Attachments # 1 & #2

Ms. Mauffray explained that unexpected revenues - interest income, makes the salary adjustments possible. Upon motion of Alderman S. Owens and unanimous vote the adjustments were approved. Ms. Mauffray also asked the Board to verify an earlier decision to provide an extra \$5,000 to the Scuppernong River Festival, to help cover a shortage of revenue.

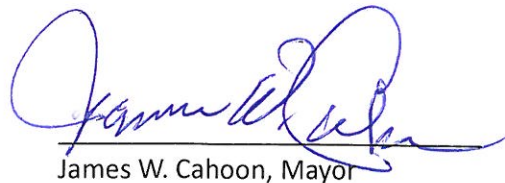
The Manager reported on the proposed Inner Banks RV Park which has acquired the Swain house and lot. He said the owners are cleaning up the former Highway 55 site, the town has experienced five water leaks within the past two weeks, Black Dirt and Royal Farms are expected to open prior to Labor Day and the town is seeking an acre of suitable land for a new water well.

Alderman S. Owens commented on the fiber optic installations that are being installed by Bright Speed. Alderman Mastronardo expressed surprise at the amount of street flooding following the Sunday afternoon rains.

Mayor Cahoon congratulated John McCann for the new Bed & Breakfast, announced that USDA will be in town with grant and loan application for homeowners and that a meeting will focus on the Red Wolf. Other announcements included July 18 – Economic Development Committee, July 20 – Christmas in July and August 12- Board of Aldermen Meeting.

With no other business and motion of Alderman Mastronardo, the vote to adjourn was unanimous. Mayor Cahoon adjourned the meeting.

This the 8th day of July, 2024.



James W. Cahoon, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rhett B. White, Clerk

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-2025 TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, the following resolution is introduced to amend the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget of the Town of Columbia in order to adjust departments for unanticipated expenses,

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE Town of Columbia Board of Aldermen that the following line items are amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUES:

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| Fund Balance Appropriated 10-392-0000 | \$23,400.00 |
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INCREASE General Fund EXPENDITURES:

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| Manager 10-410-0203 | \$4000.00 |
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| Finance Officer 10-410-0204 | \$4000.00 |
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| Tax Collector 10-410-0205 | \$4000.00 |
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| Admin Fica 10-410-0500 | \$2200.00 |
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| Admin Retirement 10-410-0600 | \$2800.00 |
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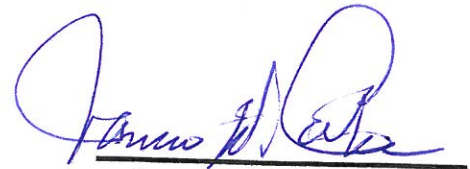
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| Street Salary 10-440-0200 | \$4000.00 |
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| Street Fica 10-440-0500 | \$1600.00 |
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| Street Retirement 10-440-0600 | \$800.00 |
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| TOTAL | \$23,400.00 |
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment will become effective upon adoption.
This the 8st day of July, 2024.


James W. Cahoon, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rhett B. White, Clerk

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-2025 TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, the following resolution is introduced to amend the 2024-2025 Water//Sewer Budget of the Town of Columbia in order to adjust departments for unanticipated expenses,

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE Town of Columbia Board of Aldermen that the following line items are amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUES:

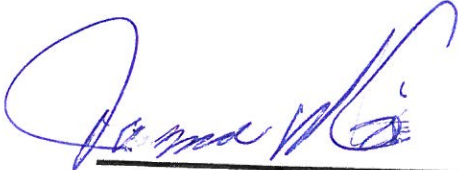
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| Fund Balance Appropriated 30-370-0000 | \$7,400.00 |
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INCREASE WATER/SEWER EXPENDITURES:

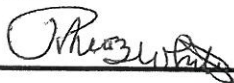
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| WWW TP Operator 30-410-0200 | \$4000.00 |
| WS Fica Tax 30-410-0500 | \$1800.00 |
| WS Retirement 30-410-0600 | \$1600.00 |

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| TOTAL | \$7,400.00 |
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment will become effective upon adoption.
This the 8st day of July, 2024.


James W. Cahoon, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rhett B. White, Clerk