

TOWN OF COLUMBIA BOARD MINUTES

December 2, 2024

The Town of Columbia Board of Aldermen met in regular session at 7:PM, Monday, December 2, 2024 at the meeting room of the Columbia Municipal Building. Aldermen attending were: Clydette Overton, Sandra Owens, Lynda Mastronardo and Bryan Owens. Mayor James W. Cahoon presided.

Mayor Cahoon called the meeting to order and asked Alderman B. Owens to offer a prayer for the Board. He welcomed those in attendance.

Upon motion of Alderman Overton with unanimous vote the Consent Agenda was approved. This included:

Minutes of November 4, 2024 Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting

Minutes of the November 21, 2024 Recessed Board Meeting

Water/sewer downward adjustment –

Elaine Young \$1.00

Mayor Cahoon called for the Public Comment Period and invited remarks from the audience. Ms. Christine Spencer of 147 Cypress Street offered two complaints. First she said that Cypress Street needs rock to address pot holes and she said she has complained monthly for five months without seeing any action. During discussion it was noted that the street does not extend onto the driveway which is the property owner's responsibility.

Ms. Spencer also said that her water meter is not being read monthly, showing several photographs of a fire ant infested water meter obstructing the meter being read.

Mayor Cahoon explained that the town can not put rock onto private property. He also said that at the next meter reading Ms. Spencer will be invited to see how the ants are brushed off in order to complete a meter reading.

Deputy Lewis stood in for Sheriff Sawyer in presenting the November Law Enforcement Report. He reported 36 citations, three investigations and two arrest warrants served. Officers traveled 3,779 miles during November.

Mayor Cahoon reported that he and the Manager will meet with Dr. Nick Didow and Peter Thompson to discuss waterfront projects funded by the Harbor Towns Ferries appropriation.

Town Manager Rhett White reported that Ben Solomon is working on the property transfer of the Free 'n Easy. Monica Mauffray reported on tax collections and the status of the budget. She reported that tax collections stand at 33.83%. Collections at the same time in the two previous years were 35.45% and 34.72%. She also announced that Donna Combs will begin work as Tax Collector on December 4th.

Ms. Mauffray reported that General Fund income is at 39% of budget while expenditures are at 43%. Water/Sewer revenues are at 52% of expectations while expenditures are at 31%.

The Manager reminded everyone that River Town Christmas begins December 5th and extends through the 7th. He said the van will be ready for the parade on Saturday and thanked the Tyrrell County employees who helped get decorations up and the Chamber of Commerce for new Christmas lights.

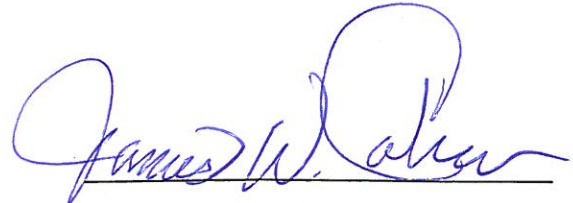
He reported that the Town is accepting applications for a vacant water/sewer position.

Alderman Overton reported a broken cap on the water line at Rowsom and Scottsville Street. Alderman S. Owens said a similar broken cover is at Howard and N. Road Street. Alderman Mastronardo called attention to several street lights that are out. Alderman B. Owens requested action to address the ferrell cat problem throughout town.

Mayor Cahoon, citing the age of Columbia's water system requested a session to address radio reader meters for the Town. He will contact Johnny Spencer about a presentation on the units. Alderman Mastronardo asked if there are grants available to fund the new meters.

With no additional business and motion by Alderman S. Owens, unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Cahoon.

This the 2nd day of December, 2024.



James W. Cahoon, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rhett B. White, Clerk