

# City of Saluda

## Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting Coon Dog Day Discussion Minutes

Board of Commissioners



Date 2/28/2023  
Time 05:30 PM  
Location Saluda Library Chambers Room

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### 1 - Call to Order

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:31 PM

### 2 - Roll Call

Attendance was taken, and those present were Mayor Tangie Morgan, Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Talbot, Commissioner Marion, Commissioner Oxtoby, City Manager Steven Orr, Assistant City Manager & Finance Officer Julie Osteen, City Clerk Pamela Waters

### 3 - Coon Dog Day Discussion

The Commissioners had a discussion on the Coon Dog Day Event. How to cut costs for the city

1. Cut the cost of the band. By looking for other bands that don't charge as much. But must be a certain type of music.
2. The cost of the Police Dept. By hiring a parking service to help cut down on the price of the police. The parking service is less money than the police.

The commissioners and feedback they got people were happy with the size of the parade and the visitors that came but may want to look at a few more food vendors and other vendors. They were happy with the parking out at the Mintz's field that they volunteered to let us use. The trollies shuttled people back and forth. All agreed the cost of the trollies was money well spent to keep people from parking on the sidewalks and out of people's yards. Would like that again if the Mintz would agree to it again this year.

Steps we need to take.

1. Is form a committee.
2. And give them some type of direction to grow or keep it the same as last year.

We need to find a way to finance it. When we have issues with wastewater treatment, sewer lines, water lines, sidewalks that's A lot of money.

Nettie Sweet, several years ago Duke power raised the rates of the lights, so the Commissioners chose to have the streetlights turned off I think they chose wisely at that point. I think you need to look at the price of streetlights that aren't being turned on. People are out and about walking around. you could get out at night and walk but now it's not that safe. Need to look at the cost of Coon Dog Day. We are still without streetlights. If we did without a Coon Dog Day we could turn back on the street lights. I would like you to think about that when it comes to taxpayers money.

Commissioner Walker responded to Nettie saying the price of the lights on a rough figure is 2,000.00 less than Coon Dog Day. Costing around 14,000.00.

Commissioner Oxtoby responded to Nettie. If we do turn on lights it won't be all of them it

David Thompson, I have heard you talk about the cost and everything. Does anyone on this committee have any idea indirectly of how much income comes in from people coming in for Coon Dog Day. Then they go and tell friends and then they come.

Mayor Morgan, they come and stay for a week. And spend money at businesses and buy artwork and stay at inns, hotel, and houses. So revenue is coming in. It's not just one day it's all week. More than two businesses are making a profit.

Commissioner Talbot's people plan their summer vacation that week just to come here for Coon Dog Day.

Commissioner Walker the only way to know is if we don't have it one year and see what the difference was in sales tax form that year to the next. We didn't have two years but we can't use that because of covid.

David Thompson, it wouldn't cost you money to call the Tv stations to advertise the event. If you want to do something like three weeks before bring in a tv station and do a thing on this is Saluda.

Commissioner Talbot, we chose not to advertise because we wanted to keep it small for the locals. We didn't want it so large and crowded.

David Thompson so your saying in need more income but you don't want to expand. If you are trying to do a fair analysis you got to figure where its coming from and what you get.

Who to be on the committee?

1. We need someone from the Police Dept.
2. One from the Fire Dept.
3. Tangie Morgan is going to do it again.
4. Steven Orr is doing it again.
5. Paul will reach out to someone from the Coon Club.
6. Paul will reach out to Rob Parsons.
7. Gina Burnett is doing again or one of the Burnett's.
8. Gina will try to get one more from the school.
9. Someone from the Planning Board.
10. Paul will get Someone from the TDA.

We are needing two things a committee and Volunteers. It will be the committee's job to help get volunteers.

We will get a committee together and you can vote on them for the March 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting if these people agree.

If the Coon Club doesn't want to get involved and participate, we can change the name. What about Home Coming?

Work on parking to cut costs.

Work on the Bands to cut costs.

Maybe for the night only close off from Greenville St to Cullipher St.

Commissioner Oxtoby just to throw it out there the food vendors make lots of money. And like at the BBQ in Tryon they sell tickets for the food. Maybe something to think about.

The Direction for the Committee is.

1. Keep it small.
2. Work on the Music /cut cost.
3. Work on the police cost / Outside parking services.
4. More Food vendors/ must post menu and pricing.

**Commissioner walker made a motion to accept the Direction for the committee made by the board. Commissioner Marion seconded all were in favor.**


#### 4 - Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Marion made a motion to Adjourn Commissioner Talbot second all were in favor.**

The meeting Adjourned at 6:21 pm on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Waters, City Clerk. Adopted this 13th day of March 2023.

  
Tangie Morgan, Mayor

  
Pamela Waters, City Clerk

