

Edenton Town Council Minutes
November 9, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High, Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Roscoe Poole.

Mayor Stallings called the meeting to order.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Roscoe Poole gave the invocation.

The minutes from the special meetings of September 27, 2021, October 25, 2021 and regular meeting of October 12, 2021 were presented for approval.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a public hearing for the 2020 Census Data review and Town Voting Ward(s) Redistricting options.

Mayor Stallings opened the floor for public comment. There was no one present to speak on this item. Mayor Stallings closed the public hearing.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the item for approval was the Cares Act-Premium Pay for Employees.

Councilman High stated that on November 1st, 2021 the Finance Director received confirmation and acceptance from the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO) for the amendment to the original municipal plan (approved by council 9/28/2020). As guided by NCPRO, this revised plan was also submitted to Chowan County for their record keeping requirements. The incentive pay payments to employees will be issued based on hours worked during the time that the Town was under a State of Emergency for the pandemic. Payments will be deposited into employee's accounts by the end of November.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the premium pay payments to Town employees. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Finance Committee had three items on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the first item was a budget amendment for the Coronavirus Relief Fund Incentive Pay.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the second item was a budget amendment for the Town Administration Vehicle.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the last item was a budget amendment for ARPA Funding Phase I AMR Infrastructure.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was the Town Voting Ward Redistricting.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve proposal #2 for redistricting. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was the Colony Tire Building Reuse Expansion.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that on November 2nd 2021, staff submitted the Job Certification form and the Progress and Fiscal Report Form documents to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Economic Division to complete the Colony Tire Corp/Project Colony 2 – Building Reuse Expansion. This was a major milestone for both the Town of Edenton and The Colony Tire Corporation because this expansion allowed for the creation of 40 new full-time jobs. No action was needed on this item.

The third item was the amendment to the Classification Schedule to add the position of Assistant Town Manager.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that staff is requesting the creation of a position for Assistant Town Manager. The position would be part of the Administration and Planning division and recommended pay grade 30. This position will allow the administration to create additional opportunity to increase the towns involvement in grant writing and long-term planning for the Town and its ETJ.

Councilman High stated that he would be interested to see if any of the candidates that submitted applications for the Town Manager position were interested in filling this new position.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the amendment of the classification schedule. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was items considered timely and important.

Councilman Miller stated that he has received numerous complaints for loud noise and speeding on West Queen Street and Broad and Granville Streets.

Town Manager Gooden stated that he will share this concern with the Police Department.

Councilman High thanked staff for the debt calculation report and requested that this be submitted to Council every six months. Town Manager Gooden stated that he would make sure that is done.

Councilman High reminded Town Council of the Edenton Cares program and he and Councilman Coleman worked on and would like to work on another campaign in the coming year to remind people of respect, courtesy and manners.

Councilman Bond requested an update on recruitment of a second grocery store for Edenton.

Mayor Stallings stated that recruitment efforts have slowed down due to issues with the existing shopping center owners not wanting to upgrade the building.

The Council requested information on how to legally require the property owner to keep the property in decent shape instead of it deteriorating to the point that it would have to be demolished.

Councilman Dixon stated that the Town needed to educate the residents on the Crepe Myrtle blight to help save the trees.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Jessie Rivers, resident of Hawthorne Road, spoke about the confederate monument and stated that she felt the statue was a symbol of white supremacy and should be removed.

Trevor Miles, resident of Edenton stated that he wanted to see the Town move the Statue but not destroyed.

Kathy Miller, resident of Edenton stated that she felt it was time to move the Statue, it does not need to be in the center of town and for the harmony of residents and visitors needs to be relocated.

Sherrone Battle, resident of Edenton stated she wanted to see the statue moved. She wanted to see the town move forward.

Robert Lassiter, resident of Edenton, stated that unity and courtesy starts in the heart.

Councilman Miller made a motion for the Town Council to enter into closed session to consult with Town Attorney regarding NCGS 100-2.1(b) Protection of Monuments; and NCGS 143.318.11(3) for preservation of attorney-client privilege. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High made a motion to exit the closed session. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no action taken during the closed session.

There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Offically approved by the Edenton Town Council at the December 14, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting.