

Edenton Town Council Minutes
February 8, 2022

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 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 and Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Roscoe Poole.

Mayor Jimmy 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 regular meeting of January 11, 2022 and special meeting of January 24, 2022 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 were presentations.

The first presentation was for Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award presented to Attorney John Morehead. Mayor Stallings made this presentation to John Morehead.

The second presentation was for the FY 2020/21 Audit. Greg Adams with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co. Pa was present via Zoom to give the presentation to the Town Council.

Mr. Adams stated that there was one finding on the FY 2020/21 audit related to the Segregation of Duties within the Finance Department. It was noted that this finding was corrected during the FY21/22 timeframe with the addition of one (1) new staff member to the billing and collections group and with the creation of the Assistant Finance Director position.

Mr. Adams stated also that there was one change for the Town from previous audits in that it is no longer the auditor's responsibility to report to the LGC corrective actions as Council recommends but up to the individual municipality. A corrective action plan was included in the agenda packet for the Town Council to approve. The corrective action plan will be uploaded into the LGC portal by Virginia Smith, Finance Director.

Next on the agenda was public hearings.

The first item was the rezoning request for 110 Old Hertford Road.

Elizabeth Bryant, Planner was present to review the rezoning request with the Town Council. She explained that the request was for rezoning from CU-CH, Conditional Use Highway Commercial to R-5, Residential. She noted that the applicant seeks the rezoning for the purpose of selling this property for use as a single family residential property. The property is currently zoned CUCH, Conditional Use Highway Commercial and does not allow for residential use of the existing brick home, although the building was originally constructed and used for residential purposes.

Ms. Bryant stated that the Edenton Planning Board met on January 10, 2022 and unanimously recommended approval of this rezoning request. She reminded the Town Council that when adopting

or rejecting any zoning text or map amendment, the Town Council shall approve a brief statement describing whether its action is consistent or inconsistent with an adopted comprehensive plan and When adopting or rejecting any petition for a zoning map amendment, a statement analyzing the reasonableness of the proposed rezoning shall be approved by the Town Council. The statement of reasonableness and the plan consistency statement required by this section may be approved as a single statement.

Mayor Stallings opened the floor for public comment.

Susan Inglis asked what was the definition of R-5 district.

Ms. Bryant stated that it was a low density residential zoning.

Mayor Stallings closed the public hearing.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the rezoning request and to approve the statement of reasonableness and the plan consistency. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second public hearing was for 803 North Oakum Street.

Elizabeth Bryant, Planner stated that the request was to rezone the aforementioned parcels from R-5, Residential to CN, Neighborhood Commercial. The applicant seeks this rezoning to for the purpose of using the existing block building for office/commercial purposes. The property is currently zoned R-5, Residential and does not allow for commercial use of the existing block building, although the building was originally constructed and used for commercial purposes.

Ms. Bryant stated that the Edenton Planning Board met on January 10, 2022 and unanimously recommended approval of this rezoning request.

Councilman Coleman stated that he had concerns with the property being rezoned CN.

Mayor Stallings opened the floor for public comment.

There being no comments the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the rezoning request and to approve the statement of reasonableness and the plan consistency. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The final public hearing was for the Confederate Monument Resolution Draft.

Councilman High reviewed the draft resolution with the Town Council.

Mayor Stallings opened the floor for public comment.

John Mitchener, resident of West Queen Street, stated that he wanted to see the monument relocated, an appropriate replacement be considered for the location such as a nice water fountain. He stated that

an architect should not be hired but to involve the community with ideas for relocation. He stated that these changes would enhance the Town's waterfront.

Ellen Colondney, resident of 301 Court Street, reviewed history of the monument and white supremacy, she stated that the monument has a negative impact on the community and business owners. She asked the Council to consider the negative impact this monument has on the community.

Ted Stricker, resident of 106 Cypress Drive, stated that the monument represents a time in history where people died in wars for their country and that you cannot erase history but explain the history.

Susan Inglis, resident of 101 East Water Street, asked that the statement from John Collins be included in the official record. She stated in those comments it states that the statue has no specific relevance to Edenton and there is an opportunity to use this space for specific relevance to Edenton. Something that is celebratory of healing would be more appropriate for the times.

Jessie Rivers, resident of Hawthorne Road, stated that she wanted to reflect that she has been a member of the Edenton Reconciliation Group and emphasize that even though there were not many of her African American friends present to speak but do not think the current location is appropriate. She felt that it should not be destroyed but relocated to another location and that she felt so strongly that that the monument should be moved and will personally pay for the removal.

There being no further comments from the public, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was the Housing Authority Candidate Appointee.

Councilman High stated that Annie Nofsinger has requested to serve another five-year term on The New Edenton Housing Authority Board.

Councilman Bond made a motion to appoint Annie Nofsinger to The New Edenton Housing Authority Board. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the second item was the Confederate Monument Resolution draft.

Councilman High stated that prior to December 2021 the Town Council discussed individually what the thoughts were on the issue and then at the regular meeting in December, Councilman Coleman requested that the Town Council start the procedure of voting on the matter.

Councilman High stated that Councilman Coleman requested that the item be placed on an upcoming agenda for a vote which was done at the January committee meetings and now was on the current agenda for a full council vote. He stated that a resolution has been drafted for the Town Council approval.

Councilman Coleman made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bond stated that the Utilities Committee had one item on the agenda, the Electric Rider CG1, Customers with solar update.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager reviewed this update to the Electric Rider with the Town Council. The update was needed because it referred to old technology in the language of the rider.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Electric Rider. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the Finance Committee had two items on the agenda. He stated that the first item was a budget amendment for the CARES Grant Airport Phase III.

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

Councilman Dixon stated that the second item was the budget amendment for Queen Anne Bulkhead Project.

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

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was the approval of FY20/21 Audit.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the audit. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was the underground service installation charges.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager, stated that currently the Town charges a flat rate for installation of underground electric. He stated that with the increase costs in materials this rate needed to be increased. Currently the Town is charging customers \$ 300 for the 1st 100' & \$ 2.85/ft over the 100'. The proposed change would be Up to 100' = \$ 600, anything Over 100' Will be calculated @ an additional \$ 5.85/ft.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the underground service installation charges. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The third item was the UNC School of Government Lead Application.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager reported that he submitted an application to the UNC School of Government for the NC Fellows program.

This item required no action.

The last item was the Josephine Napoleon Leary Proclamation.

Clara Stage, Chair of the Edenton Historical Commission was present and read the proclamation to the Town Council.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the proclamation and designate February 22 at Josephine Napoleon Learn Day. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was items considered timely and important.

Councilman Miller asked staff about citizens being able to receive the Town Council packet information.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that redaction was needed to be completed on Town Council Packets and staff was working through this process so that future packets can be shared with interested citizens.

Councilman Bond asked for an updated on grocery store recruitment.

Mayor Stallings stated there was no new information to report on this item.

Councilman Coleman reported that N95 masks were received and will be distributed to citizens who are interested.

Councilman Coleman thanked everyone who spoke at the meeting in regards to the monument.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

There were no comments from the public.

Elizabeth Bryant gave an update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Walkway Plan.

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