

Edenton Town Council Minutes
June 9, 2020

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 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 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 special meeting of May 26, 2020 were presented for approval.

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

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council approve agreement for Strategic Communication Marketing Services as presented. This agreement is for year two of services with Tyler Bream to perform the social media marketing services aimed at recruiting new residents. The campaign strategy going forward will include more video – interviews with people who live and work in our community – and target people of ages between 35 to 70 years old. The campaign will stress that everything that made Edenton great before the pandemic, makes it even better today. Tyler will also focus on a strategy to reach young mobile workers in the urban areas we are targeting.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the agreement for marketing services. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the next item was a recommendation that Council adopt ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances to update Minimum Housing Standards as presented.

Saiorse Scott, Lead for NC Fellow Intern gave a brief update on work she has completed to educate the public on the minimum housing standards.

Councilman High made a motion to approve amending the code of ordinances. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Finance Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that it was recommended that Council approve the NC Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant Agreement for Nebraska Plastics as presented.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the building reuse grant agreement. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the next item was the review of Proposed FY2020/21 Budget.

Ms. Knighton stated that she would be distributing the proposed budget with no tax increase. There were some new initiatives included. She planned to meet with the Finance Committee soon to review the proposed budget and planned to hold a public hearing at the June 22 Council meeting.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was a Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process for the Sale of 304 East Church Street.

Saiorse Scott, Lead for NC Fellow, discussed this item with the Town Council. She stated that a bid for \$8,000 was received for this property.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bond. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was budget amendments for the airport fund and electric fund.

Ms. Knighton stated that she missed including the airport fund budget amendment in the packet and she would place that on the next agenda.

She reviewed the Electric Fund budget amendment. She explained that there were additional payroll expenses due to the replacement of Utility Account Specialist. This highly technical position required significant training. The town was fortunate to have had Darlene Carter work alongside the new Utility Account Specialist Karen Castelleo to facilitate training. She also explained there were additional postage and printing expenses for the TTHMs Quarterly Notification Letters to water customers. The Budget Amendment proposes to increase revenue in the Sale of Merchandise account. The Town budgeted to receive \$7,500 in revenue from sale of merchandise however received \$33,000, thanks to Electric Director Mike Nichols setting up systems to make sure that costs for services are recovered by the Town. The costs for extending service to Taco Bell and costs for repairs to system damage due to vehicle accidents are examples of revenue recovered in this revenue line item.

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

Next on the agenda were Items Considered Timely and Important.

A motion was made by Councilman Bond and seconded by Councilman High to adopt the Statement of Solidarity. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stallings read the statement aloud.

**STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY
TOWN OF EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

The past week we all have seen much pain, outrage, fear and grief throughout our country in response to the horrific murder of George Floyd. The cruelty and disregard for human life displayed in that video

was the result of systematic racism, proof that the biases, whether implicit or explicit, that we carry as individuals and as a society have grave consequences for Black citizens. What happened to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery were tragedies whose publicity has called attention to their regular occurrence and we utterly condemn these unspeakable acts of violence.

However, unlike most unforeseeable tragedies that we carry ourselves through by means of our faith and resiliency, these deaths exemplify why we **must** grow and change as a society. What has shocked and disgusted so many White citizens is a reality that our Black colleagues, Black friends, Black friend's children and loved ones face every day.

Systematic racism and the resulting violence against Black citizens must be spoken of, must be acknowledged and must be dismantled. North Carolina Mayors of small towns and large cities, including our Mayor, have signed a letter pledging to make every effort within their power to fight systemic racism within our police forces, cities, in this nation and within ourselves. We, as a governing body, collectively affirm this pledge as well. And collectively, all of us, this Council and every citizen must all work to be a better Edenton, a more equitable and just community. As an initial step, the Mayor and Town Council pledge to establish a Human Relations Commission to assist our community in addressing issues of justice and equality, including concerns expressed to us this week and in the recent past related to the Confederate Monument.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently stated, "the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." There are challenges in Edenton that we know will generate controversy. But all of us must be brave enough at this moment in time to recognize the need for change.

Unanimously adopted on the 9th day of June 2020

by the Edenton Town Council.

Councilman High commented that the Town has the opportunity to make sure that it is using best practices when it comes to excessive force and training that the police officers receive and are the officers receiving the tools that they need. Chief King will be asked to give the Council a presentation at an upcoming Town Council meeting on these items.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Joe Leotta was present to discuss the High School Renovations/Replacement and the bond referendum.

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