

Edenton Town Council Minutes
June 30, 2020
Special Meeting

The Edenton Town Council met in special session on Tuesday, June 30, 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.

The first item on the agenda was the adoption of the FY 2020/21 Budget Ordinance.

Ms. Knighton stated that Finance Officer Virginia Smith prepared the budget ordinance for consideration. She stated that two changes were made to the proposed budget that was reviewed by the Finance Committee. First, an amendment to the Electric Power Budget to include \$40,000 for the purchase of a machine that assists crews to more efficiently locate “bad” underground cabling. Electric Director Mike Nichols reviewed this request with the Finance Committee. \$40,000 for this capital outlay expense was added to the Electric Fund’s 830 budget. \$40,000 was reduced from the Power Purchases Line Item, which includes a cushion of funds in case extreme weather causes purchases to increase beyond what the Power Agency projects.

Ms. Knighton stated that the second change to the proposed budget pertains to the Police Department. Councilman Coleman met with Chief King and the Town Manager to review the proposed budget. Councilman Coleman was concerned that the ammunition line item budget was recommended to increase to \$10,000 and the current year to date expenditure was a little over \$5,000. Chief King explained that the line item included a purchase of a simulator that will serve as a training tool to help officers with their fire arms recertification. It was agreed that putting the simulator in a separate capital outlay account more clearly documents the expense.

The second item was the budget amendments to the General Fund & Airport Fund.

Ms. Knighton stated that the Town received a \$30,000 grant from the Federal Government through the COVID-19 CARES ACT. Thanks to Airport Manager Harry Davis on working on this with the State Division of Aviation and Finance Officer Virginia Smith pulling together all the required paperwork. The funds were officially deposited in the Town’s account late on Friday. There is also a General Fund budget amendment in case there are any last-minute amendments as we work to close out this fiscal year.

The third item was an update on the brew pub from Dawson Tyler, Down East Preservation, Inc.

John Glover has hired Dawson Tyler, Down East Preservation to restore and repurpose the Conger Building into a brewery and brew pub. Dawson Tyler reached out several weeks ago and requested assistance in planning the next steps for the project. In order to finalize the layout and functionality of the interior of the building, a proposed exterior change is being requested. The covenants require prior written approval from the Town and the Edenton Historic Preservation Commission for any

modifications, alterations or changes to the exterior of the building. Dawson reviewed the proposed change. It involves changing the windows on the south side of the building, facing Edenton Bay.

The rehabilitation of the building will require a variance from the Town's Flood Ordinance. The variance application will be heard by the Board of Adjustment. The request for variance is supported by a letter from the NC State Historic Preservation Office that says the building is historically significant and the variance is necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure. Hood Ellis is advising staff on how to proceed with quasi-judicial hearings under COVID-19 and social distancing. We have developed a plan that would utilize the former arts council space in the Municipal Building to be set up with Zoom video and audio so more people can attend hearing in person. We will share the plan with Dawson – then he and Mr. Glover will have to decide if they are ok moving forward or choose to wait until social distancing requirements are relaxed.

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