

Edenton Town Council
August 24, 2020

The Edenton Town Council met on Monday, August 24, 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 Stallings called the meeting to order.

The Administrative Committee was first on the agenda with five items for discussion.

Councilman High stated that the first item was a presentation from Albemarle Regional Health Services on COVID-19.

Battle Betts and Ashley Stoop were present via zoom to give an update to the Town Council on case counts and trends.

Councilman High stated that the second item on the agenda was Review of Police Department Use of Force Policies, Best Practices & Training.

Police Chief Henry King gave a report to the Town Council on the Police Department's review of the Department's Use of Force Policies and an update of best practices for de-escalation, implicit bias training and procedural justice.

Councilman High stated that the next item was a review of the Crime-Free Community Initiatives which includes Land Lord – Tenant References and Vehicle Tag Readers.

Councilman High stated that Chief King has requested an amendment to the draft 2020 Vision Statement regarding the initiative to publicize to landlords the availability of a tenant reference center through the police department. The Police Chief recommends we publicize the availability of a free NC Department of Public Safety website that will let landlords know who has criminal history in our state, who has been sentenced to prison or is on probation.

Councilman High stated that Saoirse Scott prepared a great brochure entitled "A Guide to Property Maintenance Standards" that includes information on what the landlords are responsible for and what tenants are responsible for.

Councilman High stated that the Police Chief has been researching a License Plate Reader System that will help the Town with shots fired incidents. The Police Chief gave an overview of this system and how it might help with shots fired but also with other criminal activity.

Councilman High stated that the next item was 2020 Vision Statement. He stated that the Town Council updated and reviewed the 2020 Vision Statement in February and March and then COVID-19 hit so Town Council decided to pause the adoption until the Town knew the extent of COVID and possible impacts. He thought it was appropriate to review the Statement and consider adopting and moving forward.

Councilman High stated that the last item was the East Gale Street Neighborhood Virtual Walking Tour.

Councilman High stated that there is a video that shows the virtual walking tour. The video is located on the Town of Edenton website. This video shows the redevelopment activities taking place now on the 100 block of East Gale Street.

Councilman High suggested to the Town Council members to consider allocating some of the funds received and too be received from the sales of town properties in the North Oakum Street Neighborhood Redevelopment Zone to the Kadesh Redevelopment Project.

Councilman High stated that the Town can contribute to the Edenton Historical Commission's Foundation that was serving as the fiscal agent for the Kadesh Redevelopment/Restoration effort. The Commission was trying to raise funds to hire professional fundraiser to raise funds needed to serve as local match for national private foundation funding. Staff was instructed to review with the Town Attorney to make sure the Town can contribute money to the restoration efforts. It is envisioned that Kadesh Church would be used as a cultural community center.

The Finance Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the first item was COVID-19 CARES ACT Relief Funding Plan.

Ms. Knighton stated that the Federal Government designated funding to be distributed to local governments with expenses incurred preparing for and protecting communities and employees from COVID. She stated that the Town Council approved an interlocal agreement between the Town and Chowan County regarding the \$186,866 of funding the Town is eligible to receive from the Federal Government's CARES Act. She stated that the Town is required to submit a plan to Chowan County by August 25. Chowan County in turn has to submit to the NC Pandemic Recovery Office by September 1. She stated that the good news is the plan can be amended between now and December 31. All funds must be by December 31. Ms. Knighton stated that the Town's plan includes grants from the Town to the Edenton Chowan Partnership for businesses and non-profits impacted financially by COVID and a grant to Emergency Aid to assist individuals impacted by COVID and in need of financial assistance to pay utility bills.

Councilman Dixon stated that the last item was a Budget Amendment, Capital Projects Ordinance, Final Design Parallel Taxiway Project.

Councilman Dixon stated that the Town Council approved the work authorization for the Final Design of the Parallel Taxiway project at a previous meeting and Finance Officer Virginia Smith has prepared the budget ordinance for this project. NC Division of Aviation funds a 100% reimbursable grant for the design and engineering work required. The budget ordinance reflects the \$99,148 to be received from DOA and the expenditures made to for the engineering and design work.

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