Edenton Town Council Minutes

January 12, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 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, Jr. gave the invocation.

A presentation by Jennifer Harriss, Executive Director of Destination Downtown Edenton, Inc. was given to the Mayor and Town Council to update on the past year’s accomplishments and progress of the downtown.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was the COVID-19 Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy.

Tammy Woodley, Assistant to the Town Manager, explained to the Town Council that the Federal Government adopted Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave that mandated all employers to pay 80 hours of sick leave for employees that meet specific criteria pertaining to COVID-19. The federal mandate expired December 31, 2020 and was not part of the CARES ACT legislation approved by Congress and signed by the President in late December 2020. A Town Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy was drafted to continue the COVID paid sick leave for employees that needed to use leave for COVID until June 30, 2021. If the Federal Government adopts legislation that extends the Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave, the Town’s policy would become null and void.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the Town of Edenton COVID-19 Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the NC Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement

Ms. Knighton stated that while working with FEMA on our grants for reimbursement for damages incurred from Hurricane Isaias, we learned that the State updated the Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement. This agreement outlines local government entities responsibilities when requesting mutual aid. The Town’s 2009 Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement is still valid and was accepted by FEMA however we want to have the most up to date agreements in place. Ms. Knighton recommend approval of the 2017 NC Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement. Cord Palmer, Chowan County Emergency Management Coordinator is the primary contact for when we request mutual aid. In the rare event Cord is not available, then it is recommended the Town Manager be the first alternate contact, and Fire Chief Bass be named the second alternate contact.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the NC Statewide Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the General Fund Small Capital Project Ordinance, NC Public Safety Grant.

Ms. Knighton stated that back in August the Town Council approved grant agreement from Governor’s Crime Commission for purchase of rifles to replace aging rifles maintained by the Police Department. She stated that $21,600.91 in grant proceeds is shown in the revenue line item and the like amount in an expense line item.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the Small Capital Project Ordinance. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Crime Free Community Initiative.

Ms. Knighton stated that she and Chief King have reviewed an initiative for a Vehicle Tag Reader System. The system would deploy cellular based cameras at various traffic intersections to collect photos of vehicle tags and vehicle color/model. The investment is estimated to cost approximately $200,000 and would cover six locations. She stated that staff is seeking Council’s approval to solicit proposals from banks to finance this purchase. A five-year loan would cost approximately $43,000 a year. There are annual licensing fees ($600 per camera = $16,200), and an annual extended warranty $7,560. So in addition to the $43,000 debt service payment would have $23,750 in yearly on-going costs. She estimates that taxes would have to be raised at least one cent to cover these costs.

Councilman High made a motion for staff to seek proposals from banks to finance the purchase of the vehicle tag reader system. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item was the adoption of the annual meeting schedule.

The schedule follows the declared schedule – Regular Meetings held on the second Tuesday and Committee Meetings on the fourth Monday with exception of the fourth Monday in December, due to Christmas Holiday.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the annual meeting schedule. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on agenda was Items Considered Timely and Important.

Councilman Miller asked Public Works Director Corey Gooden for an update on the bulkhead project.

Councilman Bond asked for update on helping the resident on Old Hertford Road with the drainage issue.

Councilman High expressed concern about litter on the exits leading into and out of town.

Councilman Poole asked for updates on the street paving project and second grocery store.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Ms. Knighton stated that no public comment was received.

Next on the agenda was closed session.

Per NCGS 143-318-11(a)(3) to preserve attorney client privilege regarding Vincent Burgher, III vs. Town of Edenton & per NCGS 143-318-11 (a) (6) personnel matter.

Councilman Miller made a motion to enter closed session. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stallings reported that no action was taken on the closed session items.

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