

Edenton Town Council Minutes
May 24, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for committee meetings. 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 Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman Miller stated that the first item was a request for Amendment to Covenant, Craft Beer Brewery with Restaurant, 119 W. Water Street (Conger Building).

Councilman High stated that the new owners of the Conger Building, Stephanie and Joe Wach & Dawson Tyler had requested an amendment to the covenants for the building. The owners recently reviewed with staff changes that have evolved in the brewery industry and the spacing challenges encountering trying to accommodate a brewery on site. The current covenants call for the building to be only used for a craft beer brewery with a restaurant. Any other use is prohibited. There is a provision that allows the Town to reserve the right to amend the covenants, conditions and restrictions with the express approval of the owner of the property.

This item was recommended for approval at the next regular meeting.

Councilman High stated that the second item was NC Senate Bill 722, Revise Municipal Redistricting/Census.

Councilman High stated that Edenton is one of 41 cities in North Carolina subject to Redistricting after the release of US Census data. Because Edenton has residency districts, where candidates must reside in the district from which they wish to run Edenton is required to review Census data and determine if there are population imbalances. A population imbalance would trigger the obligation to redistrict or adjust the boundaries of the wards. In determining whether there is a substantial equality in population we would need to apply the "10 percent rule".

Councilman High stated that if the total is 10 percent or more, the town should consider redistricting. He shared that Edenton redistricted wards in 2000. In 2010, no change was warranted. Due to significant population loss over the last 10 years it is anticipated the need to redistrict.

Councilman High stated that Census data has been delayed due to COVID. Supposedly the data will be released in September. Filing for November 2021 municipal elections is mid-July. It is conceivable that someone who files in July to run for one of the two ward seats (4th Ward Mayor Pro Tem Bond and 3rd Ward Councilman Poole) might not reside in the ward, because of redistricting.

The redistricting process requires analysis, public input and when proposed plan is developed, public hearing is required. There is concern that the town will not have enough time to thoughtfully analyze and develop fair plan to redistrict in time for the November 2021 Municipal Elections. Legislation has been introduced in the General Assembly that would give municipalities options to delay the November 2021 election. A bill delaying municipal elections to the 2022 primary elections seems to me to be a

reasonable option. The 2022 state and county primary elections are scheduled to be held in the spring of 2022. These elections could very well be delayed due to redistricting.

It was recommendation of the staff for Council to consider adopting resolution supporting Senate Bill 722, that provides city councils additional time to evaluate existing ward (district) boundaries.

Council decided to continue to monitor this situation and discuss again at a later date.

The Finance Committee had three items on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the first item was Budget Amendment, General Fund, Insurance Proceeds Hail Storm

Councilman Dixon stated that the budget amendment was to handle insurance proceeds received from the NC League of Municipalities Insurance Trust. He stated that the recent hail storm caused damage to the Fire Department Roof and equipment (\$13,102).

This budget amendment was recommended for approval at the next regular meeting.

Councilman Dixon stated that the second item was Budget Amendment, Electric Fund, Insurance Proceeds, Hail Storm. He stated that damage was also done to vehicles assigned to the Electric Fund (\$8,789.61).

This budget amendment was recommended for approval at the next regular meeting.

Councilman Dixon stated that the third item was the Electronic Funds Transfer Policy.

Councilman Dixon stated that the policy was prepared for Town Council review and consideration. State Statutes require local governments to have a written policy prescribing the accounting and control procedures under which funds are allowed to be moved by electronic funds transfer, including direct deposit, wire transfer, withdrawal or investment. This policy formally establishes process the Town has been following.

This item was recommended for approval at the next regular meeting.

The Public Works Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman Miller stated that the second item Review of Proposed Phase I Automatic Meter Reading Program would be deferred until a later date.

Councilman Miller stated that the first item was the Bid Award Recommendation, Maintenance of Cemeteries.

Councilman Miller stated that the town approved to contract for the maintenance of the Town's two main cemeteries and the historical African American Burial Grounds of Providence Church that the Town maintains. The Council authorized a contract to private contractor for a one-year term. Proposals were

solicited for the 2021/22 Fiscal Year, which begins July 1. The low bidder is the current contractor, Jimmy Jacks Lawn care.

This item was recommended for approval at the next regular meeting.

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