

Edenton Town Council Minutes
August 10, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High, Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Roscoe Poole. Absent was Mayor Jimmy Stallings.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond called the meeting to order.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Roscoe Poole gave the invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond stated that the agenda would need amending to hold closed session at the end of the meeting for the purpose to continue discussion regarding applicants for the Town Manager vacancy.

Councilman High made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Michael Sasscer, Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools attended the meeting and gave a presentation of Resolution from the Board of Education to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton thanking her for her support to the children and school system.

Elizabeth Bryant, Planner gave a brief presentation of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Acceleration Plan kick off.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had four items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council designate proposed Athletic Accomplishment Signs to be of local historical significance per the Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 17 Section 4 (e) (10), Miscellaneous Exemptions as presented.

Councilman Hackney High made a motion to approve the athletic accomplishment signs. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the second item was a recommendation Council host Special Meeting to meet with applicants for appointment to the Young Folks Committee as presented.

Councilman High made a motion for the special meeting with applications of the Young Folks Committee be scheduled. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the third item was a recommendation Council approve Classification of Positions (Assistant Finance Officer and Customer Service Representative/Accounting Technician) as presented.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Classification of Positions (Assistant Finance Officer and Customer Service Representative/Accounting Technician) as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the last item was a recommendation that Council extend the COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Policy as presented.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the extension of the COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Policy as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Finance Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that it was recommended Council adopt Resolution approving Financing Terms for the Pierce Enforcer Pumper (Fire Truck) as presented.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Public Works Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman Miller stated that the first item was a recommendation Council formally accept the Water System Asset Inventory & Assessment Report as presented by Stroud Engineering. It was noted the report was presented and reviewed at the Town Council's Committee Meeting held on July 26, 2021.

Councilman Miller made a motion to accept the water system asset inventory and assessment report. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Miller stated that the second item was a recommendation that Council interview applicants for the Mayor's Task Force on Litter Prevention, Recycling & the Environment as presented.

Councilman Miller made a motion that the interviews be scheduled with applicants for Mayor's Task Force on Litter Prevention, Recycling & the Environment. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

Ms. Knighton stated that the first item was a budget amendment for the Water & Sewer Fund, NCDEQ Loan Closing Fee.

Ms. Knighton explained that the Town was notified from NC Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Infrastructure that the Wells Rehabilitation & New Ground-Level Storage Tank's bid documents have been approved. The Town was awarded a \$1.8 M 20-year loan for the project.

Ms. Knighton stated that water rates were raised this fiscal year to account for the debt service payment which likely will be due in the last quarter of the budget year. The approval stipulates payment of the 2% loan closing fees by the Town to the State. Proceeds from the loan cannot be used to pay the closing fees so a budget amendment was prepared appropriating funds from Water & Sewer Reserves to Fund Balance Appropriated that transfers the \$36,387 to the Capital Project Budget Ordinance for the project.

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

The second item was a Budget Amendment, Capital Project Budget Ordinance, Water Supply Wells Rehabilitation & Ground Storage Water Tank.

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

Ms. Knighton stated that the next item was the Bond Counsel Services, USDA Loan, Renovations to Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ms. Knighton stated that NC DEQ approved the Town's application for the permit modification to perform improvements to the existing lagoon and sprayfield at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. She stated that the next step is for USDA, the funding agency, to review and approve the plans and specifications the Wooten Company has prepared. Once USDA gives approval, the Town can then advertise the project for bids. After bids are received, we then have to go to the NC Local Government Commission for approval of issuance of debt. The financing transaction requires the services of Bond Counsel. The LGC will assist with issuance of a bond anticipation note that will be purchased by a bank, which will be repaid with the proceeds of the purchase of the revenue bond by USDA upon completion of the renovation project. McGuireWoods served as Bond Counsel to the Town for the Water Treatment Plant Renovations Loan. She stated that it was her understanding that because the bonds are also secured by, and payable from, the Water and Sewer System Revenues, they will be on parity with the 2019 Bonds. That Bond Order will cover all bonds the Town issues that are secured by the water and sewer revenues. The proposal has been received. The fees (\$20,000) are on par to what their fees (\$17,500) were for the 2019 WTP project. The USDA approved budget for the project includes funds to pay for Bond Counsel.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the bond counsel services. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Knighton stated that the last item was the adoption of Capital Project Budget Ordinance, American Rescue Plan.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Capital Project Budget Ordinance. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Items Considered Timely and Important.

Councilman High stated that he recently was able to present the resolution adopted to honor Dr. Hornthal and he stated that it was appreciated by the family.

Councilman High requested a spreadsheet from staff to summarize the loans and payments that the Town currently has.

Councilman Coleman asked for an update from the Human Relations Commission. Ms. Knighton stated that she anticipates a report to be given from the Commission at the August 23 meeting.

Councilman Miller asked if there were vacancies on the Town's Boards and Commissions. Ms. Knighton stated yes there are some vacancies and asked if anyone is interested to please submit an application.

Councilman Dixon inquired about having a crosswalk at the Farmer's Market painted yellow.

Councilman Poole commented how nice the new trolley looks with the paint and decals. Councilman Dixon encouraged Council members to take the trolley tour to be reminded of the history of Edenton.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Jonathan Tobias, spoke to the Council about his concerns with truck traffic in Edenton.

Ms. Knighton commented that there was a long history of the Town trying to address truck traffic. She would talk with NCDOT about the concerns and signage.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond asked for a motion to enter into closed session per NC GS 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider personnel matter regarding applicants for the Town Manager position.

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

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

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