

Edenton Town Council Minutes
August 23, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met on Monday, August 23, 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 Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

The Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was a report from the Human Relations Commission.

The Human Relations Commission presented their report to the Town Council concerning the Confederate Monument. A timeline of the Commission's work was presented. Commission members were on attendance in person and via Zoom. The Commission respectfully requested that the Town Council review the report in its entirety, including the appendices which include links to research, data and information the Commission reviewed and took under consideration during their extensive deliberations. Also included are links to the Commission meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

In addition to the Commission's report, there was a Staff Report that summarized the minor subdivision and historic district approval process should the Council accept the recommendation of the Commission to relocate the monument.

Councilman High stated that the Town Council will review the report presented to Council and report back at the September meeting on a plan of action.

Councilman High stated that the second item was the NC League of Municipalities' Legislative Advocacy Issues.

Councilman High stated that the League has requested members to consider advocating with legislators regarding non-budgetary policy provisions included in the House version of the Budget Bill that will "damage" local control and local government's ability to balance development and other land-use related interests with property owners and taxpayers. It was noted that several of the policies could impact Edenton. The policy issues pertaining to Tree Ordinances, Stormwater Rules, Short-Term Rentals and Small Cell Wireless are concerning for Edenton.

It was recommended that the Mayor send a letter of concern and send to Senator Steinburg and Representative Goodwin.

The Finance Committee had four items on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the first item was the debt management policy.

Ms. Knighton and Finance Officer Virginia Smith provided a copy of the Town's Debt Management Policy that was adopted in 2019. The Finance Officer also prepared a schedule of current debt and projected debt.

Councilman Dixon stated that the second item was the financing proposals for the AMR Water Meter Project.

Councilman Dixon stated that two responses were received from the Town's request for proposals from banks for the financing of the Water & Sewer Fund's Automatic Meter Reading project. Southern Bank's proposal is the most favorable. The investment in this project will greatly improve operational efficiencies and offer 21st century service to town customers. Customers will be able to view real-time consumption and billing data.

Councilman Dixon stated that the third item was the budget amendment for improvements to Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Project Ordinance.

Councilman Dixon stated that this budget amendment reflects the USDA Grant and Loan presented to the Town in 2020. It was reported recently that NC DEQ has approved the Town's application for permit to operate the new system designed by the Wooten Company. Staff is waiting for USDA to review and approve the plans and specifications so the project can be put out to bid. This budget amendment reflects the project as approved for funding by USDA.

Councilman Dixon stated that the last item was the capital project ordinance for Daedalus Yachts Building Reuse Grant.

Councilman Dixon stated that the grant agreement, promissory note and performance agreement have all been executed and sent to NC Department of Commerce. Daedalus has until July 2022 to make improvements to the building and create and maintain for six months 67 full time jobs. At that time, the Company will be eligible to be reimbursed \$500,000.

The Public Works Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Miller stated that the item for review was the property acquisition for 119 West Hicks Street.

Councilman Miller stated that the Public Works employees have been parking personal vehicles on this property for years. Staff has previously stated that the property was owned by the Railroad but recently the property owner, Terry Jones, approached the Town to see if they would be interested in purchasing the lot. The Town needs the property for parking plus it is adjacent to the rail property and property the State owns (newly acquired Golden Frinks House).

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