

Edenton Town Council Minutes
January 11, 2022

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High, Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Roscoe Poole. Absent was Councilman Elton Bond.

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

The minutes from the regular meeting of December 14, 2021 were presented for approval. Councilman High made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was the Mayor's Task Force on Litter Prevention, Recycling and the Environment Appointees.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager, explained that before the December 14, 2021 Council meeting Town Council members and staff conducted a meet and greet session with eight (8) candidates and one (1) alternate for the special initiative directed by the Mayor to help assist and to provided recommendations on Litter Prevention, Recycling, and Improving the Environment for the Town of Edenton. Town staff recommends that all interested citizens be appointed to represent this group. The applicants appointed were Patricia Rand, April Lane, David Herlong, Karen Mastin, Larry McLaughlin, Alta LeCompte, Susan Inglis, Wendy Koehring, Joseph Koehring, and Stephen Karl.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appoint the interested citizens to the Task Force. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was the Destination Downtown Edenton Board appointees.

Morgan Potts, Executive Director for Destination Downtown Edenton was present and reviewed with the Town Council that on December 31st, 2021, the Executive Committee of Destination Downtown Edenton met and considered candidates for the three (3) vacant (DDE) Board Seats. These candidates were Paul Hicks, Linda Credille, and Burton Swain. Ms. Potts stated that Mr. Hicks will be serving his second term and as Board Chair for 2022, pending council approval. Ms. Credille and Mr. Swain will be serving their first terms pending approval by the DDE Board. It was recommended that council appoint Mr. Hicks as Chairman.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appoint Paul Hicks as Chairman of the DDE Board for 2022. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the budget amendment for Old Hertford Road Stormwater Repairs.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he met on November 18th, 2021 with NCDOT Division 1 Division Maintenance Engineer (Rodney Sawyer) to review the proposed storm water improvements provided by SEPI Engineering and to walk down the area to review/clarify the scope of work based on SEPI's recommendations. These recommendations included two improvements of which NCDOT agreed to provide cost estimates for both. Mr. Gooden stated that Town Staff felt these additional estimates were needed in an attempt to save in the installation cost of such a major project. There were two private bids (received in October) that were extremely high and this created the need for other installation cost options to be explored.

Mr. Gooden stated that on January 3rd, 2022 he received the quote(s) from NCDOT (\$140,000 part 1 and \$105,000 part 2) for the two parts to the project, the cost for part one of the repairs was \$11,000 cheaper; although \$30,000 higher for part two. This totals over \$40,000 in savings for the Town by splitting this project between NCDOT and the private sector.

Mr. Gooden stated that Town Staff recommends the budget amendment of \$140,000 to allow NCDOT to perform the installation of part one of this project. Town staff recommends the use of the private contractor to complete the second part of the project. The second part cost of this project is not part of this budget amendment. He explained that these funds will be accounted for in the original Public Works storm water Line items (+70K).

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

The next item was a budget amendment for the CDBG Grant.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that on December 10, 2021, the Town of Edenton received the award letter for the 2021/22 CDBG grant which totals for \$750,000. This grant will be used to completely rebuild 3 homes and completely renovate 2 others. He stated that staff recommends council approval of this Capital Budget Ordinance.

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

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that this budget amendment is needed as a result of the overall increase in over \$1.00 per gallon for gasoline (a 69% increase) and diesel (a 68% increase) since January 1st, 2021. He stated that the Public Works Department is requesting a budget amendment of \$50,000 for the remaining fuel purchases. Town staff recommends approval of this budget transfer.

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

The next item was the police radio purchase resolution and loan recommendations.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Edenton Police Department is currently using radio equipment that is over 15 years old and these radio units are no longer supported by Motorola for parts or repair. The purchase of these new radios will allow the police department to replace the out dated portable radios for all officers. This will allow officers to stay in contact with each other and the other public safety departments without losing signal and can be used in their car(s), office(s), and on foot.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that financing proposals were sent to 4 local banks with only 2 responding. Southern Bank had the more favorable interest rate and term. Staff recommends the finance agreement and terms on behalf of Southern Bank.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the purchase resolution and loan recommendation for the purchase of police radios. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item was the budget amendment for the Police Radios.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that a budget amendment was needed for the purchase of the police radios as previously discussed. Town staff recommends approval of this budget amendment for \$83,382.25. This budget amendment will be paid for with the loan proceeds totaling \$83,382.25.

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

Next on the agenda was items considered timely and important.

Councilman Dixon asked for an update on drainage improvements for Pembroke Circle, paving schedule for the two streets in the mill village and the lot at the Cotton Mill Village that was donated to the Town of Edenton and maintenance of this property.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he is working with contractor now on those issues in Pembroke Circle. He stated that he has been in contact with Trinity Paving for street paving completion and that he would reach out to Preservation NC for the maintenance issues.

Councilman Miller asked about the speed limit monitoring sign on West Queen Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that it was purposely left off to not show speed limits but has been monitoring traffic speeds and recording data.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Susan Inglis inquired about the Council's decision on accepting the Human Relations Commission recommendation to relocate the Confederate monument as she thought this was going to be an agenda item for consideration at this meeting.

Councilman Hackney High stated that the Council did discuss at the December regular meeting placing this on the agenda but did not realize at that time that there would not be committee meetings held during the month of December due to the holidays. The Council will take up discussions on this item at the January committee meetings.

Jessie Rivers, stated that she appreciated the Council's decision to keep Badham Road open to enter and exit the Hawthorne Road and Stratford Road neighborhoods.

Councilman Dixon expressed concerns about the finished building for the CVS. He stated that it is not what was discussed with the developer during the approval process.

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