

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
March 8, 2022

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 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 Poole gave the invocation.

The minutes from the special meeting of February 28, 2022 and the regular meeting of February 8, 2022 were presented for approval.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had three items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was the Town of Edenton Open Burning Ordinance.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the second item was the Town of Edenton Administration Policy. He stated that this would be a working document that Council will approve as items are amended or added. He stated that the approval at this time was the residency requirement section that was amended due to the hiring of the new Public Works Director that lives outside of Chowan County.

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

Councilman High stated that the last item was the Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant Application.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the grant application as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Finance Committee had four items on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the first item was the Town of Edenton Corrective Action Plan FY 20/21.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the Corrective Action Plan as presented. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the second item was the budget amendment for the Eden Street Parking Lot Paving.

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

Councilman Dixon stated that the third item was a resolution for the Town of Edenton Harbor Ferry Project.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the last item was the budget amendment for the Town of Edenton Harbor Town Ferry Project.

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

The Utilities Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Bond stated that the item for approval was the 2022 Engineering Services Contract and Pier Diem Rate.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the 2022 Engineering Services Contract and Pier Diem Rate as presented. 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 the Town Ordinance Water Service Shut Off/On (Title IX, Chapter 94, Section .051 Amendment).

Councilman Miller stated that the second item was the Town Ordinance Special Collections (Title V, Chapter 51, Section .043 Amendment).

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve both of the Town Ordinance Amendments as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager, stated that the first item was the ARPA Funding Requirements-Real Property Policy. He noted that during a recent conference call with the School of Government it was discovered that the Town of Edenton did not have this policy. This policy is needed to go with the Town's ARPA Finance Policy that explains the requirements for spending and distributing the ARPA Funds.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the Real Property Policy as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager, stated that the second item was the Police Department Evidence Manager Job Description. He stated that this was a new position being created at the Police Department that would be filled by an employee that is currently on staff.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the job description and creation of position as presented. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Items Considered Timely and Important.

Councilman Miller requested an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades. Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that he hoped in the next 60 days that bids will go out for the phase one of the project.

Councilman Bond requested an update on the paving for Broad Street. Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that was in the NCDOT budget for the 2023 fiscal year.

Councilman Dixon asked about the streets in the Mill Village would be included in this paving. Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that David has been working on pricing for the paving of four additional streets which include the mill village streets.

Councilman Coleman requested update on the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that the award letter was received for the CDBG Grant and follow up paperwork would be submitted for that project and will give update to the Town Council soon. He stated that for the bicycle and pedestrian grant that a meeting was held with the former Planner, Assistant Town Manager and himself along with NCDOT to discuss this project and plans that will be submitted to Department of Transportation for approval of this project. He hoped to have an update for Town Council soon.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Mayor Stallings reminded the audience that comments were limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

Frank Seller, 119 Bella Vista Drive, spoke to the Town Council about solar power that he along with five other residents generate and sell to the Town of Edenton. He stated that the Policy that is currently in place does not allow the resident to use the power that they are generating for their home. He requests that the Town of Edenton develop a new policy that is practical and fair to everyone.

Alta LeCompte, 145 East Gale Street, requested that Dog Cleanup Stations be placed along the Cannon Strip on East Water Street to help address animal waste issues. She also said that she heard that the Town was interested in the development of a dog park and would like more information.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that he would see if more stations and signage can be installed along this portion of East Water Street. He stated that the Town is working on a PARTF grant application for two existing neighborhood parks and wanted to include a dog park in this grant application.

Wendy Blake, spoke to the Town Council regarding a public records request she submitted on June 1, 2020 and reviewed emails from the Town Attorney in response to her record request and that it stated there could be up to 10,000 emails that would generate from this public records request. Ms. Blake stated that to date she had not received any of the requested emails. She stated that when she stopped by the Edenton Police Department to retrieve thumb drives that the envelopes were open and she felt they were tampered with.

Ms. Blake stated that 10 months later she submitted a second records request to which she has not received. She stated that request #9 & #10 have not been fulfilled.

Mayor Stallings requested that Police Chief Henry King speak about the thumb drives that Ms. Blake referenced in her statement. Chief King stated that the envelopes were dropped off at his office by Town Attorney, he gave to Ms. Blake in the same way it was given to him.

Mayor Stallings asked what needs to be done to resolve this issue. Ms. Blake stated provide her the records that she requested.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that he will continue to work on the requested items and provide to Ms. Blake as they become available.

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