

Edenton Town Council Minutes
August 9, 2022

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 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 Aaron Coston, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High and Councilman Craig Miller.

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

The minutes from the special meeting of July 25, 2022 and the regular meeting of July 12, 2022 were presented for approval.

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

Next on the agenda was the committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was the Elected Officials Stipend Study.

Councilman High stated that staff has been conducting research on this issue.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he and Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager have been working on obtaining information on this item and they have reached out to the NC School of Government for more data to compare other towns/counties and have no new information to report and would like to have the item tabled until more information can be received to report back to the Town Council for further discussion.

Councilman High made a motion to table the agenda item as requested. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the second item was the Hyper Reach Emergency Call System.

Councilman High explained that this system would allow the Town to send out information via phone calls, texts and emails to citizens about important events and emergency notifications.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Hyper Reach Emergency Call System. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the Finance Committee.

Councilman Dixon stated that the item for approval was the Golden Leaf Grant Budget Amendment.

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

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was the resolution for Former Police Chief John D. Parrish.

Mayor Stallings stated that the Town of Edenton received information from State Senator Bob Steinburg's Office about a dedication request from the family of former Edenton Police Chief John D. Parrish. The family indicated that they would like to have a roadway or bridge in Edenton named after the late Police Chief Parrish. Chief Parrish served the Town of Edenton for 27 years (20 years as Chief) before his retirement in 1988. Staff contacted NCDOT to start the process and to help determine the eligibility for a former Police Officer. NCDOT did provide a designation application and due to Chief Parrish's law enforcement background, the dedications are limited to bridges. The Town advised the family of this and recommended the Pembroke Creek Bridge Crossing to the family and NCDOT.

Mayor Stallings stated that a resolution from the Town of Edenton is requested by NCDOT as part of the application and will show support for the project.

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

The next item was the boards, commissions and committee appointments.

Mayor Stallings noted that there were two reappointments for the Edenton Planning Board. Each of the applicants are eligible for reappointment and both applicants have requested reappointment.

Bob Partin: Second term expired June 2022

Randy Naylor: Unexpired term expired June 2021

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the reappointments. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the budget amendment for Phase I America Rescue Plan (ARPA) Grant.

Mayor Stallings stated that the budget amendment is to allocate the remaining balance of the ARPA grant funds received in FY 21/22. The budget amendment is for a total of \$ 614,235.01 from the original amount of \$735,235. This amendment will allow the Town of Edenton to use the funds originally allocated in the FY 22/23 budget for capital outlay projects that are necessary to improve the quality and services offered to citizens. The budget amendment is split into three separate expense allocations for to the General Fund, the Water & Sewer Fund and the Powell Bill Fund. The GF will receive \$279,235.01, the W&S fund will receive \$300,000, and the PBF will receive \$35,000. The capital projects for the Town of Edenton will include purchasing of the new Fire Station property, purchasing and outfitting two new police vehicles, purchasing the remaining AMR water meters for Phase II, and ability to pave multiple roadways throughout the Town. These roadways will include Tyler Lane, West Freemason Street, and Cypress Drive.

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

The next item was the budget amendment for Phase II America Rescue Plan (ARPA) Grant.

Mayor Stallings stated that the budget amendment would allow the Town of Edenton to receive the 2nd phase of the ARPA grant for \$735,235. These funds will be placed in contingency until the Town of Edenton requests that it be allocated for additional capital outlay projects.

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

The next item was the budget amendment for the Harbor Town Ferry Project.

Mayor Stallings stated that the budget amendment would rescind the original amendment dated February 28, 2022. The Town of Edenton will no longer be a fiscal agent for this project. A rescinding amendment is necessary for compliance with LGC statutes, as the budget will be reduced by this amount.

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

Next on the agenda were items considered timely and important.

Councilman Dixon asked Corey Gooden, Town Manager to give an update to the Town Council on the recent repairs that were completed on Broad Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that during a recent fire inspection it was discovered that there was low water pressure to the fire hydrants. Valves needed to be removed and replaced on water mains to correct the problem. A boil water notice had to be issued for the businesses/residents of the affected areas until test results were received.

Councilman Bond commented about the recent project on Old Hertford Road and he along with residents thanked the Town for getting this project completed.

Councilman Miller thanked staff for working hard to fill the vacancies on the boards and commissions.

Councilman Dixon commented about the Kadesh project and how excited the community is to see the work begin and that everyone has come together to get the restoration started.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Mike Dean, Emperor Landing Road, spoke to the Town Council regarding the Confederate Monument. He stated that this was a Veterans Memorial and it was offensive to have the memorial moved.

Gail Boyd, Whites Landing Road, said it was a disgrace to remove or cover up and monuments that honor deceased Veterans. She stated that the Civil War was history and is part of our heritage.

Jerry McCroy, asked the Town Council to leave the monument as it is to honor and respect those who served.

Bill Paul- passed on speaking.

James Brady asked the Town Council to use some common sense, to not remove the monument and this would be a disgrace and to not destroy history.

John Mitchener, West Queen Street, asked the Town Council to please consider placing the public comment portion at the beginning at the meeting.

Jessie Rivers, thanked the Town Council for the wonderful work that has been done for the Kadesh Restoration and also the rehab work at the former D F Walker School that is used by the Boys and Girls Club. She shared information on racial equity and would like the statue moved to another area in Town.

Bob Kirby, Chowan County Commissioners Chair, stated that Chowan County and the Town of Edenton have to abide by the laws of NC and that they have sent information to the County Attorney and they are awaiting information on their research regarding the acceptance of the gift from the Town of Edenton of the Confederate Monument.

There being no further comments the public comment section of the meeting was closed.

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