

Edenton Town Council Minutes
November 8, 2022

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

Mayor Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

The following minutes were presented for approval:

October 24th 2022 Special Meeting

October 11th and 24th 2022 Closed Session Minutes

October 11th, 2022 Regular Meeting

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

The next item on the agenda was a presentation of a resolution from the NC League of Municipalities to the former Town Manager, Anne-Marie Knighton for her years of service to the Town of Edenton.

Mayor Stallings read the resolution for the record.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation from Roanoke Connect on the broadband project.

Bo Coughlin was present and gave a presentation to the Town Council on a potential broadband project between the Town of Edenton and the Roanoke Connect group. The project will look into the feasibility and implementation of fiber to customers located within the Town of Edenton's electric utility grid footprint. This project has the potential to connect over 5000 Town and County residents with internet and improve options where services are limited.

It was noted that there would be no additional cost to the Town for the assessment and Roanoke Connect could start the assessment as soon as January 2023. If the Town Council approves the first step would be approval of the Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MNDA).

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was an update on the Confederate Monument.

Councilman High stated that there will be a closed session meeting on November 14, 2022 for the Chowan County Commissioners with their attorney and the Town Council has given a November 15, 2022 deadline to Chowan County that the Town of Edenton is ready to move in another direction if a decision is not made by the County Commissioners on accepting ownership of the monument.

Councilman High stated that a list of town owned properties was provided to the Town Council. It was requested that this item be placed on the November 28 meeting for review and discussion by the Town Council.

Councilman High stated that the second item was the special events ordinance and application. This new application will be in effect starting January 1, 2022.

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

The Finance Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the item for approval was the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Community Outreach.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve a Town Hall Meeting be scheduled for December 6, 2022. Councilman Miller 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 Roanoke Connect Broadband Project & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager explained that the Town of Edenton and Roanoke Connect would need to enter into a Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MNDA) between both parties. If approved this will need to be reviewed by the Town Attorney. The agreement will allow for confidentiality on behalf of the Town of Edenton and Roanoke Connect assets and infrastructure. Once the review is completed by the Town Attorney the two parties can execute the agreement.

Councilman High made a motion to execute the agreement once the Town Attorney reviews the document. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the second item was a resolution for the Surf, Wind and Fire Friendsgiving Event.

Timmy Turner, representative from Surf, Wind, and Fire was present and requested that the Town of Edenton consider a resolution to allow for the possession of malt beverages and unfortified wine at a special event that is being planned for November 27, 2022. The event would occur in the 100 block of East King Street and would also require all forms and permitting from the Town of Edenton Staff and the ABC Commission for the event. The resolution would require an updated report from the requestor for evaluating the event and a report from the Edenton Police Department.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the resolution for special event scheduled for November 27, 2022. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the next item was the Request for Qualifications for Professional (RFP) Engineering Services-WWTP Phase III-Well Expansion and Raw Water Tank Interconnect.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that part of the requirements for the well expansion and raw tank interconnect project a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services (RFP) must be presented and approved by Council before starting the project. The RFP will be published and town staff will complete a formal review of each Engineering firm who submits a packet for professional engineering services. The RFP will be placed on the Town of Edenton's website and in the surrounding area newspapers. The RFP for the project will include the engineering and all associated cost for the installation of two new well sites, land acquisition, and associated piping for both wells and the interconnect for the raw tanks. RFP will be received between November 9, 2022 and December 1, 2022.

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

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the next item was the Request for Qualifications for Professional (RFP) Engineering Services-Phase II Water Distribution System AIA Project.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that part of the requirements for the Water Distribution Assets and Inventory Assessment (AIA) Phase II project a Request for Qualifications for Professional Engineering Services (RFP) must be presented and approved by Council before starting the project. The RFP will be published and the town staff will complete a formal review of each Engineering firm who submits a packet for the project. The RFP will be placed on the Town of Edenton's website and in the surrounding area newspapers. The RFP for the project will include the engineering and all associated cost for GIS, Data Collection, and QA/QC. RFP's will be received between November 9, 2022 and December 1, 2022.

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

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the last item was the deed transfer to Chowan County for JAHHS Project.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager explained that this was a requirement for the Edenton-Chowan Schools John A Holmes High School project. Kevin Howard, Chowan County Manager and Dr. Michael Sasscer, Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent have requested a deed transfer of three parcels located within the John A. Holmes footprint. This deed transfer is required for two reasons, to provide a clear title for the USDA loan closing documents and for the potential encroachment conflicts from the new high school site plan. These parcels include Parcel ID 780520812672, 780520813464 (607 N. Oakum Street), and 780520726210 (Fire Department). He stated that the final deeds were not available for Town Council review and were still being reviewed by the Town/County Attorney for minor revisions.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that County will lease the Fire Department property back to the Town of Edenton for use by the Fire Department. This will be a five-year renewable lease. He stated that the Town and County will start the process for a location to build a new Fire Department.

There was discussion amongst the Town Council about the transfer of the parcel where the current fire department is located. Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that a clear title was needed for USDA funding to be received for the new high school project.

Questions were raised as to what will happen to the building/property once the Fire Department relocates.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that there have been discussions of possible technical training be conducted in that location for the school.

Councilman High stated that the deed transfer being discussed is a conflict of interest for him since he represents Edenton-Chowan Schools as their attorney. He requested to be recused from this agenda item.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to recuse Councilman High from this item. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the deed transfer as discussed. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was items considered timely and important.

Councilman Miller stated that he received several favorable comments from the residents on the street resurfacing project that was recently completed.

Councilman Dixon stated that almost 3,000 people recently visited the Elizabeth II while it was docked in Edenton and that 800 people attended the Colonial Craft Event. He stated that these types of events need to be encouraged to bring people to Edenton.

Councilman Bond asked if there were any updates on Hotel Hinton or shopping center.

There were no updates to report.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Mike Dean spoke about the Town Council's discussions with Chowan County regarding the Confederate Monument and hoped to see this issue resolved soon.

Susan Inglis, spoke about the Confederate Monument and the list of properties being considered for relocation of the monument. She encouraged the Town Council to place the monument in storage until a decision is made.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager spoke about the success of a recent litter pick up event.

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