

Edenton Town Council Minutes
January 10, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High and Councilman Craig Miller. Absent was Councilman Aaron Coston.

Mayor Stallings called the meeting to order.

Mayor Stallings read a statement that he prepared on the recent accident and passing of Eric Bergevin and Christian Fauchild. He requested a moment of silence after the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from the special meeting of December 6, 2022 and the regular meeting of December 13, 2022 were presented for approval.

Councilman Coleman noted an error in the spelling of a last name for one of the speakers at the December 6, 2023 special meeting. Changes were noted for correction.

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

Next on the agenda was a presentation from the Edenton Woman's Club.

Carlette Pruden gave an update on the 2023 Pilgrimage that will be held on April 14 & 15, 2023.

Mary Ervin gave a presentation on fishing line recycling program.

Councilman High made a motion for the permission to install the recycling containers on town property at the waterfront. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was a budget amendment for the security system update.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager explained that the budget amendment was for upgrades to the security system at Town Hall and the Town Council Chambers/Municipal Building. The improvements include upgrades to the recording device at Town Hall, install of three outdoor cameras, two cameras for the 2nd floor of Town Hall, four inside cameras at the Council Chambers, four outside cameras and the install of a smoke detector system at the Council Chambers. The Finance Officer reports that sales tax revenue proceeds will be used to pay for these improvements.

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

The second item was a budget amendment for the wastewater collection system I&I Project Phase II.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager reported that the budget amendment was for the Wastewater Collection System I&I Phase II project that was originally adopted on 10/12/2021 as a loan from North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) in the amount of \$1,886,490. The NCDEQ has since changed the funding from a loan to a grant due to ARP NC State Fiscal Recovery Funds from ARP and increased the amount of this project to \$2,352,935. The project was converted from loan to grant on August 11, 2022.

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

The third item was the travel request for attendance to the Main Street Now Conference in Boston, MA.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that March 27 through March 29, 2023 the Main Street Now Conference would be held in Boston Massachusetts. Staff feels that there has been very little local attendance in the past 2 years due to Covid and wanted to have attendance this year. The total estimated cost would be \$1,355 per conference attendant (\$455 registration, \$600 motel, plus \$300 for flight). Staff recommends sending Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Hackney High, and Town Manager Corey Gooden.

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

Next on the agenda was items considered timely and important.

Councilman Coleman asked for an update on the purchase of the recycling trailer and restart of the recycling program.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that a meeting would be held soon with a private organization to assist the town with this service.

Councilman Coleman asked about repairs that are needed at the constructed wetlands located on Granville Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that bids would be solicited soon to make the repairs needed.

Councilman Bond asked if NCDOT was still planning to pave North Broad Street in the Spring.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he has been in contact with NCDOT and that paving is still scheduled for the Spring.

Councilman Dixon gave an update on the Hayes Plantation property purchase by the State of NC and leased to the Elizabeth Vann Moore project. He talked about potential future uses for the property.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager gave an update on the Hotel Hinton and discussions with the property owner, SAGA.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town Council would meet on Monday, January 16 for a planning session and review of the vision statement.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Kip Shaw, resident of East King Street, expressed his concerns about the Hotel Hinton building and the safety concerns that he has for public welfare.

John Grant, stated that he would like to hear the local law enforcement report on what is being done to secure the Hotel Hinton building. He stated that the town should share updates on social media to help address concerns from the public.

Lori Dablow, resident and business owner on East King Street, expressed her public safety concerns regarding the Hotel Hinton building and requested that more lighting be added down King Street for safety.

John Mitchener, spoke about the signs that recognize athletic accomplishments of the community.

Pat Grother expressed her concerns regarding the condition of the Hotel Hinton building and she did not think that SAGA will complete the renovations as discussed.

Cynthia Harding, suggested that the Town add more security cameras on King Street.

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