

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
April 11, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 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 Coleman gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the special meeting of March 27, 2023, regular meeting of March 14, 2023 and closed session of March 14, 2023 were presented for approval.

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

Police Chief Henry King gave a presentation to the Town Council on police efforts and gun violence.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

**Administrative Committee**

**Town Council Meeting Procedures Review**

There was discussion amongst the Town Council members and it was decided that no action would be taken on this agenda item. This item will be placed on the next committee meeting agenda for discussion.

**Finance Committee**

**Budget Amendment-Homeland Security Proceeds**

This budget amendment will allow the Town of Edenton to accept the proceeds totaling \$12,364.78 from the Narcotics Division for settlement of a case from July 2021 that the Edenton Police Department assisted with. These funds will be used to purchase two (2) license plate readers.

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

**Public Works Committee**

**Water and Sewer Tap Fees**

The Public Works Director requested that the water and sewer tap fees be increased due to the increased cost in materials for these services. Currently water and sewer tap fees are shown below:

Water Tap - (3/4 inch) \$1,000.00  
(1 inch) \$1,200.00  
(2 inch) \$1,500.00 (plus cost plus additional 20% if cost exceeds \$1,500)

Sewer Tap - (4 inch) \$1,000.00  
(6 inch) \$1,200.00  
(8 inch) \$2,000.00

Proposed Increase:

Water Tap - (3/4 inch) \$1,700.00  
(1 inch) \$2,000.00  
(2 inch) \$3,500.00 (plus cost plus additional 20% if cost exceeds \$3,500)

Sewer Tap - (4 inch) \$1,500.00  
(6 inch) \$1,700.00  
(8 inch) \$2,500.00

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the increase in water and sewer tap fees. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Garbage Rate Addition-Small Waste Commercial Restaurant**

The Public Works Director recommended the Small Waste Commercial Restaurant (SWCR) rate be established for sanitation charges. Typically, restaurants use town or private dumpster services for their sanitation needs but at some locations dumpsters are unable to be used (i.e., limited space) and multiple cans are needed. Historically these restaurant locations were charged similar to other commercial locations, although their demand was greater. The new SWCR rate would be \$56 per month. This charge is equitable for other restaurants services.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the SWCR Rate be increased as recommended. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Garbage Rate Removal-One, Two and Six Yard Dumpsters**

The Public Works Director recommended that the Town remove the dumpster services for one (1), two (2), and Six (6) yard dumpsters. These containers are rarely used and the purchase cost for these containers are very similar to the standard eight (8) yard containers. Currently the Town does not have customers that used these smaller sizes.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the garbage rate removal as presented. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Boat Pump Out Fee Increase**

The Public Works Director requested that boat pump out fee be increased from \$5 to \$25 for boaters. The fee was reviewed and reflects a more accurate rate for this service.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the boat pump out fee increase. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **Fair Housing Proclamation-Fair Housing Month**

2023 marks the 55th anniversary of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Civil Rights Fair Housing Act. The Act provides equal housing opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, as well as to ensure fair practice in the sale, rental or financing of property. Insight planning and the Assistant Town Manager (Dewayne Whealton) is requesting that Mayor Stallings read the proclamation to satisfy the quarterly fair housing activity requirement for the Town's CDBG-NR Program.

There was no action required on this item.

#### **Auditor Proposal-Thompson, Price, Scott & Adams, Co.**

The audit season is coming up shortly and it is time to enter into a new 3-year contract. The previous audit period was for FYE 2020, 2021 & 2022. A request for services was posted on the state listserv site, as well as, the Town of Edenton website. The Finance Officer emailed various auditors within a 4-hour distance that performed the duties as required by the Town that was recommended by the LGC. The Town only received one audit proposal from our current auditors, Thompson, Price, Scott & Adams.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Town enter into a 3 year contract for auditing services with Thompson, Price, Scott and Adams, Co. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Police Officer Physical Aptitude Test Policy (POPAT)**

The physical wellness of an employee is a contributor to the number of illness and/or injuries he/she may have. This incentive is to encourage the wellness of our public safety team. This program will teach the individual lifestyle skills that will encourage both physical and mental health, which should lead to a more productive employee. Police Chief Henry King is proposing a monetary incentive for officers who complete Part 1 (\$166.667) and Part 2 (\$166.777) of the POPAT for a total bonus of \$500.00. There is a total of three (3) evaluations each year (to total up to the \$500 amount).

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the POPAT for police employees as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Proclamation-The Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.**

Robert Leath, the Executive Director of the Edenton Historic Commission recently shared with the Town Administration that the Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence will host their national meeting in Edenton. The meeting will take place April 21 to April 23, 2023, and

includes multiple tours and events during this time. There will be a total of 52 visitors for the event and this will mark the first-time group hosted the event in Edenton since the early 90's.

There was no action for this agenda item.

### **Hotel Hinton Update**

Corey Gooden, Town Manager gave an update on the Hotel Hinton project. He shared that he had spoken with the Chowan County Building Inspections office and was told that an electrical permit was pulled and a contractor was hired to work on getting electricity restored to the building for the perimeter lighting, interior lighting and security needs.

He stated that he had spoken with Edenton Construction regarding the perimeter fencing and was told this would be installed soon.

He stated that the Town Attorney is working on written guidance to the Town Council on how the town can proceed with enforcement action.

### **Items Considered Timely and Important**

Councilman Coston asked about the spending of ARPA Funds.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that a meeting was scheduled with the SF Network to review options presented and answer questions. He also stated that no funds have been spent and are under a strict timeline for spending the funds.

Councilman Coleman expressed concern that there are no crosswalks at the intersections on Virginia Road and also on Broad Street near the high school.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he would follow up with NCDOT on these locations as they had been shared previously for crosswalk installations that were needed.

Councilman Miller asked there as any update on paving of Broad Street.

Corey Gooden stated that there was no new update, they have 18 months from March 1 to complete the job.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the paving that is scheduled for Granville, Granby, Valentine, West Church, Albania, West Eden, should begin within the next week.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager, stated that a job offer was extended and accepted by Tyler Newman, to fill the position of Public Information Officer.

### **Public Comment**

John Grant: Asked when the electrical work would begin and how long the contractor has to complete work. He asked if the fencing was approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. He provided a handout with town ordinances and General Statutes for the Town Council to review that may help with

enforcement issues. He encouraged the Town Council to review ordinances that the Town of Warrenton has in place to protect historic buildings.

Patrick Dablow: Stated that he was encouraged by the CAD drawings that were installed in the windows of the Hotel Hinton. He stated that the addition does not match the building. He expressed concern regarding the architect and they need to be checked out.

Kip Shaw: Asked if there was any security system in the building and asked if that was recommended to the owner. He expressed concern that if a fire is started in the building how that will affect surrounding property and downtown Edenton.

Lorrie Dablow: Stated that 1,200 signatures have been obtained to present those to Myrick Howard with Preservation North Carolina. She stated it was time for Edenton to be ready for prime time and that because the town partners with companies like SAGA, Edenton is not ready for prime time.

Pat Grother: Asked about street paving and that there are issues currently in the mill village that have drainage issues since the last round of street paving.

Dawson Tyler: Stated that there are ways to accomplish development and preservation by not using banks and tax credits.

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