

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
June 13, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 13, 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 Hackney High and Councilman Craig Miller. Absent was Councilman Samuel Dixon.

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 following minutes were presented for approval: Regular Meeting May 9, 2023; Special Meeting May 22, 2023; Closed Session May 22, 2023

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

**Presentation**

Mr. Lee Snipes from the Edenton-Chowan Education Foundation gave a presentation to the Town Council and requested funding to help support the Foundation and its efforts.

**Presentation**

Chuck Schmieler, Chairman of the Northeastern Regional Airport, gave an update of projects and planning efforts to the Town Council.

**Committee Reports**

**Administrative Committee-Groundman/Apprentice Job Description and Pay Grade**

This will create a new position for the Electric Department and included in pay grade 14.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the creation of Groundman/Apprentice position. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Finance Committee-FY 23/24 Annual Budget Working Session Update**

Corey Gooden, Town Manager gave an update on the FY 23/24 Budget preparation and upcoming meetings.

**New Business**

**USDA Amended Letter of Conditions-Wastewater Treatment Renovations**

Hillary Lassiter and Monica Thornton, representatives from USDA gave a presentation on funding modifications for the Waste Water Treatment Upgrades. It was noted that the original project from 2017 was funded at a cost of \$5,994,000 dollars. However, once the Town received the official contractor bids, it was determined that the initial funding request would not cover the project cost of \$11,190,649.14.

Representatives from USDA stated that paperwork was resubmitted for the funding request of the project and they were able to revise the funding amount and a new funding packet totaling \$11,143,000 was received. This funding was broken into \$5,188,000 in grant funding and \$5,955,000 in loan funding. Part of the funding requirements are Council approval of the amended letter of conditions. The funding request represents roughly a 50/50 grant to loan ratio. If approved by Council it will allow the Town of Edenton to request approval by the Local Government Commission at their July 2023 meeting.

#### Resolution-LGC Application Water and Sewer Bond Anticipation

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the resolution presented is part of the LGC application from the Bond Attorney. This document is required for the project and will act as the request from the Town Council for the LGC approval for these W&S bonds.

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

#### Proposal Letter-McGuireWoods, LLC

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the proposal letter is the formal acceptance document for bond counsel services from McGuireWoods, LLC. The fees for bond counsel services are \$17,500, which would be included in the financing.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the proposal letter. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Budget Amendment-Correction for NCDOT Building Reuse Grant

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that this amendment is a correction to the original approved by council on 5/9/2023. The Town is no longer required to provide a 5% (\$1,250) match as the Department of Commerce funded the grant in its entirety.

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

#### Budget Amendment-Insurance Proceeds Police Department

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that this budget amendment is to recognize insurance proceeds for a 2011 vehicle that was totaled due to an officer trying to avoid hitting a deer in the road and after overcorrecting vehicle, ran off the road and hit a tree stump.

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

#### Lease Purchase Agreement-115 West Hicks Street

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the lease-purchase agreement is for the properties located at 115 W Hicks Street, 105 W Hicks Street, 108 W Peterson Street and 116 W Peterson Street (former Food Pantry and/or old Ford Dealership). The lease agreement is for six (6) months at a lump sum rate of \$20,000 and will run until the end of October of 2023. The agreement will allow the Town of Edenton to secure the property and to begin use of the space (primarily for parking). This lease period will allow the Town and the property owner to arrange the purchase option (remaining balance of \$200,000) near the end of the Calendar year (i.e., late October). The site was selected for the future location of the new Fire Department and was budgeted for in the FY23/24 budget. It was noted that the agreement was vetted by the Town Attorney.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the lease purchase agreement. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Pole Lease Agreement-119 Water Street

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the sign post lease is for the pole located at 119 W. Water Street (in front of Herringbone Restaurant). The lease would be for one (1) year and would be at a rate of \$100. The lease agreement would require annual prepayment. Provisions were also included in the agreement to void the lease if the location is non-longer used as restaurant and/or violations. An image of the restaurant sign was included in the packet. The agreement was vetted by the Town Attorney.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the pole lease agreement. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolution Authorizing Application to LGC-WWTP Improvement

It was noted that this item was a duplicate item that was listed on the agenda in error.

#### Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman Bond stated that he saw work being done on the old shopping center building and asked what the status is.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager noted that the property is now bank owned and they would be making improvements/repairs to the property.

Councilman Miller asked when work would begin at neighborhood parks.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that staff was waiting to hear back on the recent park survey before improvements are started at the neighborhood parks.

#### Public Comment

John Grant asked if there were any updates on the ordinances that he presented to the Town Council.

Councilman High responded no.

Mr. Grant stated that he and his wife recently purchased 103 East King Street. He stated that the parking on East King Street needs action from the Town. He asked for new markings to be placed on the street and signage and included handicap parking space. He also asked for improvements to the walkway alley between the buildings because it is uneven.

John Mitchener stated that improved lighting was needed and hoped that funds were included in the upcoming budget to make improvements.

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