

Edenton Town Council Minutes
Special Meeting
August 28, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in special session on Monday, August 28, 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.

Board and Commission Appointment

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that he received one application for the Town of Edenton's Board of Adjustment to serve as an alternate member. Lewis Blaine Charak was present for questions and shared his interest in serving on the Board.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appoint Lewis Blaine Charak as an alternate member on the Board of Adjustment. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Work Authorization-Runway Lighting Rehabilitation

Corey Gooden, Town Manger stated that the engineering firm, Talbert and Bright for the Northeastern Regional Airport, recently had to revise the runway 1-19 lighting project scope of work after bidding revisions were requested from the NC DOT Department of Aviation. He stated that the work authorization included revising the design and bidding documents to reflect the lighting rehab scope only. It was noted that the revisions would have no financial impact to the Town of Edenton.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the work authorization for the runway lighting rehabilitation as presented. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Financing Proposals – 2023 Sanitation Truck

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that Virginia Smith, Finance Officer requested financing proposals from multiple banks for the purchase of a new sanitation truck that was included in the 2023-2024 budget. The purchase price for the proposal was \$221,500 dollars. The Town received two proposals from Southern Bank and one declination from First Citizens Bank. The first proposal from Southern Bank was for a 10-year term and the second was for a 15-year term. Staff recommended that council approve the Southern Bank 10-year term that will save the town \$34,788.39 in interest. The resolution to accept financing terms was presented to council for approval.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the resolution to award financing to Southern Bank for 10 year term. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Real Property Purchase Offer

Councilman Coston made a motion for the Town Manager to make purchase offer contract for the 11.64-acre tract located at 262 Coke Avenue. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Edenton Town Council Minutes
August 28, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for committee meetings. 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.

Administrative Committee

Fire Department Residency Requirements Update

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Fire Chief requested that the residency requirements for the Fire Department paid and volunteer firemen be updated to change the current residency requirements from residing in the fire district to residing 30 minutes from the station. It was noted that the update would not include the Fire Chief, who must live in the Town limits. This update will help with recruitment of paid and volunteer staff.

It was recommended the item be placed on the next regular meeting agenda for approval.

Utilities Committee

Electric & Water Utilities Customer Service Policy Review

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town Council had raised concerns regarding the need for the \$25 non-payment fee that is in addition to the 5% late fee and the \$75.00 disconnect fee. A financial summary of the last six (6) months was included in the agenda packet that showed all three (3) penalties (5% late fee, \$25 non-payment fee, and \$75 disconnect fee) financials. The \$25 fee showed that since January the penalty represents \$18,275 over six months in revenue for the Electric & Water Fund, which equals to \$3,000 monthly or \$36,000 annually. It was noted that removing the \$25.00 penalty would represent a reduction in late payment fees for 25.8%. These funds are currently considered when determining each fiscal year revenues projections and if removed would very likely shift to the rate structure to assist with expenses.

At the August 8, 2023 meeting the Town Council tabled the agenda item until additional information could be provided and for staff to provide an update for the fee structure of other Electricities municipalities and/or local electric providers for comparison. This information is shown below:

Elizabeth City – 5% late fee & \$25 reconnect fee

Hertford – 5% late fee & no nonpayment/disconnect fee (Town Staff was advised that a fee change was coming from the Finance Director)

Belhaven – 5% late fee, \$25 delinquent/non-payment fee, unable to locate disconnect fee

Tarboro – \$50 deposit (additional deposit to your initial deposit) plus a \$25 reconnection fee & an afterhours \$25 (5pm-10pm).

Ayden – 5% late fee, 25\$ non-payment fee, 50\$ reconnect fee

Albemarle Electric - \$50 disconnect, \$50 reconnect, \$3.50 disconnect notification (telephone call) total \$103.50; 1st door hanger is no charges, 2nd door hanger is \$5; reconnect after hours 4pm-10pm \$75 and after 10pm \$225

Corey Gooden, Town Manager noted that the Town of Edenton's rate structure (\$/kw) is lower than the other locations mentioned above even with the most recent rate increase.

Staff recommended that the Town of Edenton re-consider adding the \$25 fee to the \$75 disconnect to not impact overall electric rates or look at adding a portion of the \$25 fee to the customer's deposit if and when a customer is disconnected.

This item was recommended to be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

Additional Handicap Parking Spaces – 200 block of South Broad Street

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Public Works Director requested that two additional handicap parking spaces be added to the 200 Block of South Broad Street. Visual references of these two locations were included in the agenda packet; both of which are near the cross-walk areas for the intersection of West Queen Street and Broad Street and the first parking space nearest the cross-walk for Southern Bank/Just Teasin/Creswell Furniture. It was noted that the only impact of the additional handicap spaces is the relocation of the "call-in/pickup" parking space for Emilio's restaurant, which would shift over one space.

The item was recommended to be placed on the next meeting agenda for approval.

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

Edenton Town Council Minutes
Closed Session
August 28th, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in closed session on Tuesday, August 28th, 2023 in the Town Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Hackney High, Councilman Samuel Dixon, and Councilman Craig Miller.

A motion was made to go into closed session for: **(1)** NCGS 143-318-11(a)(6) to discuss the performance review plan for the Town Manager Corey Gooden, & **(2)** NCGC 143-318-11 (a)(5) for negotiations on behalf of the Public Body for the acquisition of real property. The said motion (Councilman High) was seconded (Mayor Pro-Temp Bond) and the motion carried unanimously.

During the closed session Council discussed the performance review plan for the upcoming annual review. Also, the closed session Council discussed the offer price and contract details for 262 Coke Ave property.

Councilman High motioned to go out of closed session which said motion was then seconded by Councilmen Miller and the motion to go out of closed session carried unanimously.

Thereafter the closed session was adjourned.