

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
August 8, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Roger Coleman, 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.

The following minutes were presented for approval:

July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting; July 24, 2023 Special Meeting; July 11, 2023 Closed Session; July 24, 2023 Closed Session

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

**Public Comment**

Hal Murray, resident of West Queen Street, spoke against the social district and how it will negatively impact the residents of Edenton.

Joanna Evans, resident of Johnston Street, spoke against the social district stated that Edenton was being invaded by alcohol and that it would impact the children of Edenton.

John Grant, resident of East Queen Street, thanked the Town of Edenton for the recent cleanup of a large tree limb that fell in the Cotton Mill neighborhood. Mr. Grant also inquired about power being restored to the Hotel Hinton and the requirements for fire suppression system in the building.

Larry Sellers, resident of Blount Street, spoke in support of the social district and that it would help the merchants in downtown Edenton.

Susan Creed, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that to keep a city thriving you need to keep your residents here and have people come to visit. She stated that the social district would be an incentive for businesses to open in the vacant buildings in Edenton and help existing businesses thrive. She stated that the concerns regarding litter can be addressed because the cups to be used will be branded with a logo and staff can talk with those businesses.

Lorrie Dablow, resident of West King Street, spoke about SAGA and the delay of completion of the Hotel Hinton and the parking spaces needed for the project.

Patrick Dablow, resident of West King Street, talked about people continuing to trespass into the Hotel Hinton and that there was an excessive amount of trash after the Surf, Wind and Fire block party that littered the streets into the evening.

Timmy Turner, Manager of Surf, Wind and Fire, spoke in support of the social district and how it will generate more people to come and spend money downtown and get them to stay longer.

### **Public Hearing – Social District Ordinance and Management Plan**

Amber Hardy, resident and local real estate agent, spoke in favor of the social district and that this is what residents of Edenton want. A social district encourages people to live, visit and conduct business in Edenton. She asked everyone to have an open mind to what the social district could do to help the town.

Nikki Hall, resident of Edenton, spoke in opposition of a social district and how it exposes people who do not want to be a part of it and exposes children to alcohol. She asked that the energy be put towards creating something positive for the town.

Ches Chesson, Executive Director of Destination Downtown Edenton, spoke about the survey that was conducted regarding the social district and that most responses received were in favor of a social district.

Joe Wach, owner of The Herringbone, spoke in favor of the social district and reminded everyone about the surrounding towns close to Edenton and how there are no businesses in those towns and that means no tax revenue is being generated.

Lorrie Dablow, resident of West King Street, asked if the Town was ready to move forward with a social district. She stated that more information needs to be given to the residents and asked if the Town has acquired additional insurance since some of the Town's sidewalks are not in the best shape and people could trip and fall and that additional trash cans are needed.

Patrick Dablow, resident of West King Street, asked what the social district zones are and how would the increased trash be handled especially on weekends.

Amber Hardy, resident and local real estate agent, stated that there was a reason that the district was drawn to include certain areas was so that when there are special events those businesses and residents don't have to come to the Town Council for a resolution to have alcohol on town owned sidewalks/streets.

Mayor Stallings thanked everyone for the comments.

### **Special Presentation**

Cheri Blount with Chowan County Social Services gave an overview of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and Crisis Intervention Program.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Administrative Committee**

#### **Edenton Downtown Social District Ordinance and Management Plan**

Councilman High gave a brief overview of the procedural history and the research that was completed for considering a social district for downtown Edenton. The schedule will be Thursday – Sunday. Hours are 5-9 pm for Thursday & Friday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. He reminded everyone that if the Council approves the social district that it can be revoked at anytime.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the ordinance and management plan as presented with the conditions of a 6 month review and 12 month sunset. Councilman Miller seconded the motion.

The following voted in favor of the implementation of the social district ordinance and management plan with the conditions noted: Councilman High, Councilman Miller, Councilman Dixon, Councilman Coston. The following voted No: Councilman Bond and Councilman Coleman.

### Utilities Committee

#### Electric and Water Utilities Customer Service Policy Review

There was discussion amongst the Town Council members regarding the \$25.00 disconnection list fee that is being added to customer bills.

Councilman Bond made a motion to defer the agenda item until the next meeting for further discussion. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### New Business

#### Town of Edenton RBAN Resolution-Interim Financing-Truist Bank

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he received the Revenue Bond Anticipation Note (RBAN) Resolution from the Town of Edenton’s Bond Counsel (M.R. Nash). The resolution that was presented in the packet will allow the Town of Edenton to request the sale of the 5.955 million dollars revenue bonds. The RBAN Resolution will allow the Town Manager and Finance Director to approve the sale of the bonds and to finalize any remaining paperwork with Bond Counsel.

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

### Board and Commissions Appointments

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that he received one application for the Town of Edenton’s Planning Board. The applicant was Fraser Kelly and she was present for questions and to share her interest in the Board.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the appointment of Frazer Kelly to the Planning Board. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the work being completed at the Edenton Village Shopping Center.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he has a meeting scheduled soon with the new owner and would be able to provide an update at a later date.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on paving.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that paving would be delayed until Spring 2024 so that infrastructure work could be completed.

Councilman Coleman suggested that the Town Council start thinking about what will be placed at the area when the confederate monument is moved.

Councilman High asked about a debt service report.

It was noted that this report was included in the packet.

Councilman High asked for an update on committee appointments and if there were still vacancies.

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner gave an update on vacancies.

Councilman High asked about paving for Broad Street and Granville Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that work would not be completed this year.

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

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
Closed Session  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in closed session on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 NCGS 143-318-11(a)(6) to discuss the performance review plan for the Town Manager Corey Gooden, the said motion (Councilman Coston) was seconded (Councilmen Dixon) and the motion carried unanimously.

During the closed session Council took no action and decided to postpone the discussion

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

Thereafter the closed session was adjourned.