

Edenton Town Council Minutes
November 14, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 13, 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 Samuel Dixon, Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Hackney High. Councilman Roger Coleman was present via Zoom.

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

The following minutes were presented for approval: Special Meeting October 23, 2023, Regular Meeting October 10, 2023 and Closed Session October 23, 2023.

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

Public Comment

Andy White thanked employees of the Public Works Department for their response to his house recently when he was having issues with the water. He stated that the employees were very helpful and professional when responding to his issues.

John Grant thanked the Town of Edenton Police Department for keeping everyone safe during the recent downtown trick or treat event. He thanked the other departments for the help during some recent construction issues on King Street. He thanked Mayor Stallings for serving on the Town Council and for all his time and leadership.

Susan Inglis stated that she learned recently while studying the Town of Edenton budget and what a significant profit the electric fund is for the Town of Edenton and wanted to bring attention to the fees that citizens have to pay when they are late and services are disconnected. She asked the Town Council to consider a more fair fee structure.

Special Presentation FY 2022/23 Financial Audit-Greg Adams

Greg Adams of the Thompson, Price, Scott & Adams accounting firm, presented the FY22/23 audit results via Zoom. He noted that the financial audit did not produce any findings on behalf of the Town of Edenton.

Presentation Tree Committee Update-Dewayne Whealton

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager gave a presentation on the recently completed tree canopy assessment, sample tree inventory, and the Tree Committee's tree brochure. Each of these projects will be beneficial for the Town and its residents to use when considering areas to add or increase urban tree plantings (i.e. street scaping needs, arbor day celebrations, etc.)

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee

Memorandum of Understanding-Habitat for Humanity

Councilman High stated that this Memorandum of Understanding details and affirms the Town of Edenton's commitment to working with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing to families.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Harbor Advisory Committee

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Mayor's creation of the Harbor Advisory Committee. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Committee

Memorial Bench Request-200 Block of South Broad Street

Councilman Miller stated that a request was submitted for a memorial bench to be installed in the 200 block of South Broad Street in memory of Town of Edenton employee Scott Dees.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the installation of the bench. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Trash Receptacle Request-100 Block of East Queen Street

Councilman Miller stated that a trash receptacle would be placed near water meter boxes that are located on the sidewalk of East Queen Street to keep cars from driving over the water meters.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the installation of the trash receptacle. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Budget Amendment-USDA Funding for Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the budget amendment was for the Wastewater Treatment Plant USDA loan/grant that Town Council approved on June 13, 2023. This is the 7th amendment for this project and does require a small contribution of \$47,650 from the Town of Edenton and is recommended that the contribution be transferred from Water/Sewer Fund balance to the project.

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

Resolution-Water Distribution System (Phase II) AIA-D-ARP-0003

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town of Edenton received the offer and acceptance letter from the Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) for the \$175,000 Asset Inventory & Assessment (AIA) project for the Town of Edenton's Water Distribution System. He stated that this project (AIA-D-ARP-003) will be for 100% grant funding and the project will be the second phase of the Public Works Department's efforts to GIS and perform condition assessments primarily on the water lines and valves within the Town. The resolution will allow the Town of Edenton to accept the funds to for the project.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution-Lead Service Line (LSL) Find and Replace

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that David Myers, Public Works Director is requesting that the Town of Edenton pursue funding through the Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) of the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the inventory and replacement of any lead service lines located within the Town's water distribution system. He noted that the funding request will allow the Town to receive up to 2 million dollars to aid with inventorying, locating, and necessary replacement equipment for lead/galvanized service lines. The funding would be a zero percent (0%) interest loan with the possibility of principal forgiveness for projects that are eligible (or qualify) to receive funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) program is made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the resolution for the Lead Service Line Find and Replace. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution-Major League Fishing Host City Event

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town of Edenton, Chowan County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), and Harbor Towns Cruises have received a proposal from the Major League Fishing (MLF) Tournament to sponsor Stage Five at the Chowan River from June 4th through June 9th, 2024. The event will be the first Major League level of athletes that the area has hosted (in many years). The event will receive national broadcasting and national marketing for our Town and County. This resolution will allow the town to co-sponsor this event. The funding for this event will be allocated out of the current budget.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the resolution for the Major League Fishing Host City Event. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman High reviewed with the Town Council the totals for the Town's debt service and how that compares to what is allowed by the Local Government Commission. He noted that the Town is well below what is allowed.

Mayor Stallings asked for an update on the offer to purchase property on Coke Avenue.

Councilman Bond asked for an update on the shopping center renovations.

Councilman Coston asked for an update on the construction of a new hotel to be located on Claire Drive.

Councilman Coleman was present via Zoom and he thanked the Mayor and Town Council for the resolution that was presented to him at the prior meeting. He congratulated the newly elected Town Council members. He expressed his appreciation to everyone for their support over the years while serving on the Town Council.

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