

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
February 13, 2024

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Hackney High, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Craig Miller, Councilman Patrick Sellers and Councilman Bob Turner.

Mayor Hackney High called the meeting to order.

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

The minutes from the regular meeting of January 9, 2024 and special meeting of January 22, 2024 were presented for approval. Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Amele O’Leary – discussed the traffic on Broad Street, she stated that no center-turning lane is needed. She requested that Broad Street stay as it is.

JD Grant – he agreed that Broad Street does not need to be changed. He asked about the notice of violations that were sent to SAGA regarding the Hotel Hinton and he would like to hear an update. He also stated that more oversight is needed with utility contractors that come into town to do work.

David Herlong – encouraged that crosswalks be installed on Broad Street when the paving work is done.

Jessie Rivers – asked the Town Council to move the confederate statue now to the location in Beaver Hill Cemetery where confederate soldiers are buried.

John Mitchener – spoke about the vulnerability of Kadesh Church to flooding. He stated that measures need to be taken to protect the property.

Ed Stiver – stated that he was a new citizen to Edenton and spoke about bike lanes and share ride ideas.

Andrean Heath – spoke about the confederate monument.

Susan Inglis – spoke about the road diet and was concerned that bicycles would not be accommodated. She also stated that she would like to see the speed limit reduced to 25 mph as part of the road diet plan.

**Special Presentation – Highway 17/64 Association**

Marc Finlayson was present and gave an update to the Town Council on the Highway 17/64 Association.

**Committee Reports**

Administrative Committee

Rules of Procedure-Addition of the Manager’s Report to the Agenda

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the addition of the Manager's Report as an agenda item in the Council's Rules of Procedure. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Town of Edenton Recording Policy

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the recording policy as presented. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Committee

No Truck Traffic/Vehicle Weight Restrictions-Old Hertford Road

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the no truck traffic and weight restrictions for Old Hertford Road as presented. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

North Broad Street NCDOT Road Diet

Councilman Miller made a motion that the recommendation to NCDOT for the Broad Street Road Diet is to change Broad Street into a three-lane highway with a center turn lane and no bike lanes. Councilman Sellers seconded the motion.

The following voted affirmative: Councilman Turner, Councilman Sellers, Councilman Miller, and Councilman Dixon.

The following voted negative: Councilman Bond and Councilman Coston

The motion passed.

Granville Street and West Albemarle Street/Dr. MLK Jr. Avenue

There was no action on this item.

Terry Avenue and Robin Lane Four Way Stop

There was no action on this item.

**New Business**

New Edenton Housing Authority Appointment

Mayor High stated that he received a formal notice from Deborah Davis, Executive Director of New Edenton Housing Authority, advising the Town of the term expiration of Mrs. Patricia White's appointment on the Housing Authority Board. Mrs. Davis has requested that the Mayor reappoint Mrs. White to the board for another five-year term. Mrs. White currently serves as the Board Co-Chair and has expressed her willingness to serve another term.

No motion was needed for this agenda item.

Mayor's Harbor Advisory Committee Appointments

Mayor High stated that back in November 2023, the former Mayor created an advisory committee, known as the Mayor's Harbor Advisory Committee (MHAC). The group was established to assist the

Town Council with the improvement plans for Edenton's Harbor and Waterfront Park. This group was tasked with making sure facilities are up to the current marina standards and to make recommendations on any improvements that could greatly benefit the Town's residents and guests. The group consists of four citizens, the DDE Executive Director, a Town Employee and the Town Manager (in an advisory role). When the advisory committee was created, there were three citizens, the executive director of DDE, the Town Employee, and Town Manager serving the roles and one (1) remaining vacancy for the group.

It was noted that since that time, Bud Powell retired in December of 2023 and requested to stay on the MHAC board to fill the citizen vacancy. With Mr. Powell's extensive background on the waterfront and the various project's he has led along the waterfront makes him a knowledgeable candidate for the citizen opening. In addition to Mr. Powell filling the open citizen vacancy, Mr. Powell's retirement has created a new vacancy/opening for the town employee appointment. Corey Gooden, Town Manager recommended that Mayor High consider the re-appointment of Bud Powell and the appointment of the Town Employee - Herman Bond. Mr. Bond is a part-time Park Attendant and a former Albemarle Boats employee. These two appointments would complete the board's vacancies. The Town will continue to accept applications for the group so that in the instance that any other vacancies become available.

Mayor High appointed Herman Bond as the Town employee representative and Bud Powell as the citizen representative to the Harbor Advisory Committee.

#### Professional Service-Lead Based Paint CDBG Grant

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that Chris Hilbert with Insight Planning has recommended the contractors for surveying and lead based paint inspection services to the Mayor and Council for the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) project. It was recommend that Council approve the surveying contractor (Roanoke Land Surveying) and the lead-based paint inspection contractor (Matrix) proposals as presented.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the award of bid proposals to Roanoke Land Surveying and Matrix as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Travel Approval-UNC School of Government Essentials of Municipal Government Training

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that Mayor High, Councilman Sellers and Councilman Turner have requested to attend the training session at the UNC School of Government on February 21st thru the 23rd, 2024. The UNC-School of Government and North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) will host the 2024 Essentials of Municipal Government Training in Chapel Hill NC. The estimated total travel request per council member is \$1,383.80 which includes lodging, mileage, and registration.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the travel requests as presented. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Loan Resolution-Water and Sewer Gapvax Truck

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that as part of the FY23/24 budget the Town Council approved the purchase of a GapVax Truck for the Water/Sewer Department with loan proceeds. The Town received two proposals for financing from Southern Bank & Trust and Truist Bank. First Citizens declined to submit a proposal. The interest rate from Truist Bank is 4.92% but due to how interest is calculated,

Southern Bank & Trust will save the Town \$607.79 in interest over the life of the loan. After review of proposals, Virginia Smith, Finance Director and Corey Gooden, Town Manager recommended accepting the Southern Bank & Trust finance offer for 10 years at a 5.33% interest rate.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the financing proposal from Southern Bank and Trust as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolution-Grant Application NC Parks and Recreation Accessible Grant

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner requested that the Town of Edenton pursue funding through the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation for an Accessible Park Grant for Morgan Park. Eligible projects include development projects that meet the unique needs of persons living with disabilities or that enable them to participate in recreational and sporting activities. The town will be required to match the grant with \$1 of local funds for every \$5 of grant funds.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the resolution for the grant application. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Manager's Report

Hotel Hinton-SAGA: The Town Manager stated that a call was scheduled with SAGA to receive updates on their Edenton properties.

Granville Street Four Way Stop: This item was delayed until traffic can be assessed and the public can be informed.

Four Way Stop Terry Avenue and Robin Lane: Council voted to remove the speed bumps and not implement the four way stop.

Neighborhood Parks: Renderings were received for Morgan Park and Griffith Park. Staff is working on scheduling meeting dates to go out into the community where residents can see the improvements proposed and staff can receive feedback.

Harbor Ferry Coast Guard Approval: There is a call scheduled and he will know more after that call.

Construction of apartments by SAGA: He plans to get update on the upcoming call with them.

Paving Schedule: Working with staff to get updated maps for paving.

#### Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman Turner stated that he liked the new feature on the Town website where you could report concerns or issues to Town staff.

Councilman Sellers asked if progress was made on sending text alerts to citizens. Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that this issue is being researched but staff did not want text alerts to become burdensome to citizens and that the citizens will be receive the text alerts.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on grocery store for Edenton. Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated there was no update to provide.

Councilman Bond asked for updates on the relocation of the confederate monument and the safety concerns regarding the protests being held each weekend. Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that if the town moves the statue before a decision is made by the courts that they town would in violation and held in contempt of a court order.

Mayor High suggested that the Town Attorney be requested to attend the next meeting to review options available to the Town Council.

Councilman Sellers asked what the town is doing to provide security during these protests. Mayor High stated that an update was needed from the Police Department on this issue.

Mayor High asked if there was truth that the Coast Guard has approved the Harbor Town Ferry. Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated yes, that they are waiting on the official paperwork from the Coast Guard.

Mayor High asked about patching of the areas on Granville Street where recent sewer and water repairs have been made. Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that those areas have to sit for a while before patching can be completed on the utility cuts.

Councilman Coston asked for an outline of all issues that were discussed at the recent planning session.

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