



Edenton Town Council - Meeting Summary

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The purpose of this notice is to summarize items from the meetings and is not comprehensive. This summary does not replace the official minutes. Go to the Town of Edenton's YouTube Channel for a video of the full meeting, or our website for the official minutes.

Present: Mayor W. Hackney High Jr, Bob Turner, Aaron Coston, Elton Bond, Craig Miller, Patrick Sellers, and Town Manager Corey Gooden.

Special Presentation - Nexgrid AMR Overview

- Mr. Costa Apostolakis, CEO of Nexgrid, and Hunter Chamberlain, Electric Director, presented to the council an overview of the Nexgrid AMR system, which would provide smart grid electric metering for Edenton Electric customers. This could allow meters to be read much faster and automatically, as meters are currently read individually and manually. **No action was taken by the council at this time.**

Administrative Committee

Edenton Harbor Camera

- **Council approved this item unanimously.** At the prior committee meeting in February, a public access, four-directional webcam was proposed for public access. This camera would allow staff and the general public to observe weather conditions (including storms, flooding, winds), sunrises/sunsets, large events at Colonial Park, and the harbor area/Barker House area for boater and pedestrian security and safety.
- Talks originated when news channel WITN proposed a waterfront webcam to staff, one that would be shown on television. However, staff decided to pursue a significantly cheaper and Town-owned camera (not leased) from security company Verkada, priced around \$8,000 for a five-year lifespan and will be pulled from waterfront landscaping funds. Multiple other waterfront towns in North Carolina utilize public webcams. Install is expected in April.

Mayor's Task Force Appointments

- Mayor Hackney High appointed Tom Brennan and Mary Ellen Hill to the Mayor's Task Force on Litter, Recycling and the Environment, as recommended by staff at the February committee meeting.

New Business

Budget Amendment – Hangar & Taxiway Project (Northeastern Regional Airport)

- **Council unanimously approved this item.** This budget amendment is to receive funding from the North Carolina Department of Aviation, to allow Talbert & Bright (engineering consultants) to continue to provide services to the Town of Edenton for required permitting and required FAA documents. Part of the funding will also help to oversee bidding process for the project's construction

Board & Committees Conflict of Interest Form & Training

- **Council unanimously approved this item.** Councilmembers are required to undergo ethics training upon election. Staff have put together a new form with language recommended by the N.C. League of Municipalities that oversees code of conduct and conflicts of interest for Town of Edenton board and committee members.

Manager's Report

Town Manager Corey Gooden reviewed the following items:

- The three-laning plan for Broad Street was supported by town council via vote in February. This plan does not include bike lanes and wider main lanes.
- Preliminary shoulder work for paving on Broad Street is expected to begin in the spring.
- Future bike lanes will be considered in the future throughout the town, but nothing is on the table at this time.
- The owners of the Hotel Hinton responded to the code violation notice and made improvements within the timeframe. Staff will continue to work with the owners on potential ordinance violations in the future. A meeting was scheduled for March 13 between the town manager, county officials and property owners.
- Utility departments within the Town of Edenton (Public Works, Electric), oversee and maintain all points of contact with contractors performing special work in town, but this does not always include subcontractors, which are managed by general contractors. 811 notices are received by Town crews, but they are sometimes open for 30 to 90 days, so it may not always be known exactly when contractors perform work in town within that window, but communication has been improving with outside contractors.
- An update on the Confederate Monument: a decision is expected soon in the Vance Monument case in Asheville, from the North Carolina Supreme Court.
- Staff are always seeking grant funding for stormwater improvements, given recent public comments about future flooding around the historic Kadesh Church and Swain Auditorium.
- The Town Manager and Destination Downtown Edenton Director will be on-site in Charlotte to connect with retail developers in search of possible future opportunities in Edenton.

- A May 1 launch date for the Harbor Towns Ferry project is expected.
- Granville Street utility patching will take place over the end of March and into early April, before NCDOT's contractor, Barnhill, fully repaves the street later in April.

Items Considered Timely & Important

- **Councilman Coston** had no issues to bring forward.
- **Mayor High** extended condolences to Tammy Woodley, Assistant to the Town Manager, after the recent passing of her father, and instructed the council to attend a service later in the week and asked that the Town of Edenton send flowers.
- **Councilman Bond** extended his condolences to Tammy Woodley as well.
- **Councilman Miller** has thanked Public Works and Brad Overton for the work being completed on Granville Street to improve infrastructure.
- **Councilman Sellers** asked if Granville Street will be fully repaved by NCDOT in April.
 - **Manager Gooden:** It is currently slated to begin in April.
- **Councilman Turner** asked about recycling and statistics to show increases week over week. He asked about the current scheduling.
 - **Manager Gooden:** Staff can review tonnage data to find any increases. When recycling was first implemented in Edenton (before it ceased in 2020), the tonnage data was utilized to implement scheduling. 10 or less tons a week was received at that time, and a municipality would need more than 20 tons a week to warrant weekly pickups.