

Edenton Town Council Minutes
March 12, 2024

The Edenton Town Council met on Tuesday, March 12, 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 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 February 13, 2024 and the special meeting of February 26, 2024 were presented for approval.

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

Public Comment

Susan Inglis asked for an update on three items: Hotel Hinton, Grocery Store and Monument.

Mayor High stated that those updates would be given during the Manager's report.

Special Presentation - Nexgrid AMR Overview-Costa Apostlakis

Costa Apostolakis, CEO of Nexgrid provided the Town Council and public an overview presentation of the Town's project financial review for the Nexgrid smart grid electric distribution system proposal. This overview examined the 10-year forecast impact of the proposal and examine the newly offered 10-year purchase agreement and how it compares to the initial purchase entire purchase option. Town staff are reviewing the project and the potential savings for the upcoming FY24/25 budget cycle for the electric AMR project.

Hunter Chamberlain, Electric Utilities Director, spoke to the Town Council about the advantages of the installation of AMR system.

Committee Meetings

Administrative Committee -Edenton Harbor Camera Review

Councilman Miller stated that the Public Information Officer is requesting the purchase and install of a webcam at the waterfront at the cost of \$8,500 from Verkada.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the purchase of webcam. Councilman Sellers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Committee-Mayor's Task Force Appointments

Councilman Miller stated that it was recommended to appoint Tom Brennan and Mary Ellen Hill to the Mayor's Task Force on Litter.

New Business

Budget Amendment-Hanger & Taxiway

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Division of Aviation awarded the Northeast Regional Airport a grant in the amount of \$93,980 for the continuation of the Hangar Taxi Lane project. This funding will allow Talbert & Bright, project engineers, to provide grant administration and management services as well as submit applications to NCDEQ for required permits and all FFA documentation. It was noted that Talbert and Bright will oversee the bidding process of the construction phase of the new hangars and oversee the electrical engineering services of this project.

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

Boards and Committees Conflict of Interest Form and Training

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that the Town of Edenton is seeking to implement a Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy and Code of Conduct for all appointed boards and commissions. The Conflict of Interest Policy and Code of Conduct are essential tools for promoting ethical behavior, maintaining integrity, and ensuring the effective governance of organizations. It was noted that these policies will protect the organization's reputation, promote transparency and accountability and safeguard the interests of all stakeholders involved. Staff is still in the process of reviewing training modules that will be used for appointees.

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

Manager's Report

The following updates were given by Town Manager Corey Gooden.

Preliminary shoulder work should begin in April for the Broad Street paving project. He stated that the town will continue to explore bike and pedestrian lanes locations in Edenton. The Town will work with NCDOT on crosswalk striping and increased signage to see what is needed for these changes.

Hotel Hinton owners did respond to the violation notice that was sent and they made the necessary repairs. Staff will continue to work with the owners on any ordinance violations and that a meeting is scheduled with the property owners to receive an update on the project.

Oversight on sub-contractor work – He reported that the Town Utilities Department does oversee and maintain all points of contact for any special projects. This does not always involve contact with subcontractors, mainly general contractors.

Monument-The Town Attorney will be present at the March committee meeting to give update to the Town Council on the ruling in the Vance County case. There were concerns expressed by Town Council

members about the weekly protests and safety. Town Council members requested more police presence in the area during the protest demonstrations.

Flooding concerns for Kadesh and Swain Apartments – staff continues to look for any funding that can be used to make stormwater improvements. The town recently implemented a stormwater fee to residents to help with improvements needed.

He thanked Councilman Turner on the support on the Town’s website, approval of the new webcam would be a great enhancement to the website.

Update to Councilman Sellers that staff is continuing to work on updating contact information for residents for the alert system.

Councilman Miller asked for update on grocery store. He reported that staff continues to market Edenton to local and regional brands. He and Ches Chesson would be attending an economic development conference in Charlotte to network with others economic development staff.

Reported that the Harbor Town’s launch date is targeted for May 1.

Reported that Sewer repairs on Granville Street are wrapping up and temporary patching would be done until the State paving project could be completed.

Reported that he is still working on a planning session recap that Councilman Coston requested.

Reported that staff is working on getting a report on where sidewalks are needed in the city limits.

Items Considered Timely and Important

Mayor High extended condolences from the Town to Tammy Woodley and her family on the recent passing of her Father and encouraged at Town Council members to attend the funeral on Friday.

Councilman Miller thanked the Public Works Department and Brad Overton for the work on the Granville Street repairs.

Councilman Sellers asked for update on the patching of Granville Street and the DOT resurfacing.

Councilman Turner asked if there were statistics to measure the success of the recycling program.

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned.