

Edenton Town Council Minutes
July 14, 2020

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High, Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Roscoe Poole.

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Roscoe Poole gave the invocation.

The minutes from the regular meeting of May 12, 2020 were presented for approval.

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

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The administrative committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council adopt a resolution in support of the November 3, 2020 special advisory referendum to levy a one quarter cent (1/4) County sales and use tax for renovations/replacement of John A. Holmes High School and future school capital projects.

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

Councilman High stated that the second item was the update on the Human Relations Commission.

Councilman High, Councilman Bond and Councilman Coleman met with Dr. Valerie Batts to seek her guidance and advice and it was a productive meeting. An application will be constructed for citizens to apply for the Human Relations Commission.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was a resolution supporting the US Economic Development Agency Cares Act Grant application for Harbor Town's Strategic Marketing Plan.

Ms. Knighton explained that the Harbor Towns (Edenton, Elizabeth City, Hertford, Plymouth and Columbia) have identified an opportunity for a grant that would fund a strategic marketing plan, branding, website and social media to promote these five special waterfront towns as a region. The grant application is seeking \$200,000 from COVID-19 funding allocated to the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The Albemarle Commission has been asked to be the fiscal agent for this grant. The challenge will be the required 40% match (\$80,000). Half of the match

can be in-kind. But the five towns/counties are being asked to commit to \$40,000 or \$8,000 per town/county. Hopefully the Chowan County TDA will agree to commit \$3,000 to meet Edenton/Chowan allocated match.

Chowan County Tourism Development Authority Executive Director Nancy Nicholls joined the meeting via zoom but due to technical difficulties The Town Council was unable to talk with her.

A motion was made by Councilman Bond to adopt the resolution. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was the exterior change to the former Conger Building.

Ms. Knighton stated that Dawson Tyler with Down East Preservation gave a presentation to the Town Council at the June 30 meeting. This agenda item asks Council to consider approving the proposed exterior change to the windows to the Conger Building. The covenants require exterior changes to be approved in writing by the Town and the Edenton Historic Preservation Commission. This change is needed so the architect can finalize the design and layout of the interior of the building. If approved the Preservation Commission will conduct a quasi-judicial hearing in August.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the exterior changes. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the capital project budget ordinance for USDA Loan & Grant for Police & Fire Vehicles.

MS. Knighton reminded the Town Council that Monica Thornton with USDA “zoomed” in at a previous meeting to present the conditions of the USDA loan (\$70,000) and grant (\$85,000). The Council will need to adopt the budget ordinance.

Councilman Miller made a motion to adopt the budget ordinance. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item was the appointment for the Destination Downtown Edenton, Inc Board of Directors.

Ms. Knighton stated that the DDE Board of Directors has submitted the nomination of Cherie Roberts to be affirmed by the Council to fill vacancy on the DDE Board. She stated that Ms. Roberts bio was enclosed in the agenda packet. The Council approves appointment of several seats on DDE’s Board.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appoint Ms. Roberts to the DDE Board of Directors. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was items considered Timely and Important.

Councilman Miller asked about the status of the lease for Food Lion at the old shopping center.

Ms. Knighton reported that Food Lion has reported to the owners of the shopping center that they will not be renewing the lease which terminates December 31, 2020. She stated that the Edenton-Chowan

Partnership, the Town, County and Chamber of Commerce are all working together to solicit grocers who expressed interest in the past.

Councilman Miller also inquired about the paving contract and if it was still on target for work to begin in September. Ms. Knighton stated yes.

Councilman Coleman expressed concern about lighting in the Colonial Park and on the breakwater.

Councilman High stated that he has expressed an interest about hanging some decorative lighting in the trees in the park and also that there are some safety and appearance concerns with the breakwater that need addressing.

Councilman Dixon commented on the landscape guys and great work that they are doing.

Councilman Poole asked who was constructing the house across from the Police Department. Ms. Knighton stated that was Habitat for Humanity.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Ms. Knighton stated that she received a statement prior to the meeting from Tomeka Ward-Satterfield and she would read into the record.

Larry McLaughlin was present and spoke to the Town Council regarding the high school repairs/renovations and the ¼ cent sales tax.

Next on the agenda was a scheduled closed session per NCGS 143-318-11 (a) (6) to conduct performance evaluation of Town Manager.

Ms. Knighton explained the evaluation process and forms that were sent to the Town Council members.

Several of the Town Council member asked if the evaluation could be conducted at the next Council meeting since the forms were just sent out late in the day and several of the Council members were new to the process and needed time to review the forms.

A vote was taken and it was decided to delay the evaluation until a later Town Council meeting to give all Council members time to review the forms and be ready at the next Council meeting.

No closed session was held.

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