

Edenton Town Council Minutes
January 25, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for committee meetings. 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.

Councilman Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

The Public Works Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman Miller stated that the first item was Review Phase I Water Treatment Plant Renovations & Upgrades.

Corey Gooden, Public Works Director was present to give the Town Council an update on this project.

Mr. Gooden reported that in December the Town closed out the contract with Enviro-Tech, the contractor who performed the \$3.1 M upgrades and renovations to the Beaver Hill and Freemason Water Treatment Plants. The Town also closed out the agreement for engineering services on this project with Stroud Engineering. The Town expended \$460,683 of the \$481,000 budgeted in the Town's USDA Grant and Loan for the project. The Town was able to transfer the unexpended funds to the construction project. Total the Town had to contribute \$1,753.60 to the project. The Town had had to submit requests for vendor payments to USDA for approval, and then USDA would release funding to the Town to pay the contractor and engineers.

Mr. Gooden gave an update on how the Treatment Plants are operating and update on the most recent TTHMs sampling results.

The second item was Review Phase II Rehabilitation of Wells & Construction of New Groundwater Storage Tank.

Corey Gooden, Public Works Director gave an update on this project.

Mr. Gooden stated that the Town applied for and received funding (\$1.3M) from the State for Phase II. The Town has been working with State and Stroud Engineering on this project. Bids for this project will be opened in early February.

The Administrative Committee had six items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was the Grant Agreement – NC Division of Aviation Engineering & Design of Runway 1- 19 Pavement & Lighting Rehabilitation.

Councilman High stated that staff has been working with Aviation Engineering Consultants at Talbert & Bright to secure funding for this project. The engineering work is estimated to cost \$332,804. He stated that the Town was informed that the State has approved the grant, which will come from federal and state funding, no local match is required. The State requires a third-party review to estimate design and engineering fees. The Town contracted with a firm recommended by another airport, and the fee

estimator found that Talbert and Bright's fees were within 10% of the fee estimator's fees. The State therefore approves of Talbert & Bright's Work Authorization for Professional Services.

Councilman High stated that the Town has no formal grant agreement yet from the State, it is expected to be posted on the grant portal early next week. The agreement will be considered for approval as part of the February 9th Regular Meeting. Jay Talbert and Stephen Bright will zoom with Town Council at the February 9th meeting. The Administrative Committee agreed to put the Grant Agreement to be received on the February Council Meeting Agenda and also consider moving the Work Authorization for Talbert & Bright on the same agenda.

Councilman High stated that the next item was the sale of Town property at 218 Poplar Neck Road.

Councilman High stated that Carey Parrish recently contacted staff to see if the Town would be willing and able to sell the 18 acre tract of land that abuts property Carey owns. The Town's property was an old landfill.

Councilman High stated the land was acquired by the Town from the Federal Government when the Military Base was closed down. The property is not needed for aviation and has not been a part of the airport property. He stated if the Town is interested in selling, they can adopt a resolution authorizing the upset bid process, the process used to sell the houses the Town acquired in the Neighborhood Redevelopment Zones.

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

Councilman High reported that the Commission held its first meeting this week.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond gave a brief update.

Ms. Knighton stated that she will be working with the Town Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance that will codify the creation of the Commission as part of the Town Code. She hopes to have a draft for Hood and the Commission to review in February and for Town Council consideration in March.

Councilman High stated that the next item was boards and commissions.

Councilman High stated that in March 2020, the Council asked staff to advertise for vacancies on Boards & Commissions. There were several applications on file and at the October 2020 Committee Meeting Council asked again to advertise and solicit applications. Several more applications were received. The Committee requested that staff set up interviews for those who have submitted applications for appointment and check with those eligible to serve again and see if they are willing to continue serving.

Councilman High stated that the last item was the NC Department of Transportation Planning Grant.

Councilman High stated that last fall Councilman Coleman requested the Town apply for a NC DOT Planning grant that would review existing plans (pedestrian/sidewalk plan, the regional bicycle plan, greenways & open space master plan) and identify projects that can be Accelerated.

Councilman High stated that Planner Elizabeth Bryant and Councilman Coleman worked on the grant application and are pleased to report the grant was recently approved by the NC Board of Transportation. The Town will receive \$35,000 and be required to match with \$3,500. The funds will be used to hire consultant, which State has identified will be Kimley Horn, a very capable engineering firm,

to work with the Town. The State has sent a draft agreement, which will be replaced with a final agreement. The Committee recommended the agreement be considered for Council approval at the February 9th Council Meeting.

The Finance Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that the item for review was a budget amendment for the General Fund, Repairs to Town Hall.

Councilman Dixon stated that the exterior of Town Hall needs some repair work. A piece of cement board that was used to cover up a sign that was removed years ago, probably when Town Hall was owned by a bank, deteriorated to the point that it needed to be removed. Purchasing Agent Bud Powell worked with contractors and vendors and Director of Planning Elizabeth Bryant to develop a plan for the repair. A company in Goldsboro will produce the cement board and Edenton Construction will install it.

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