

Edenton Town Council Minutes
March 9, 2021

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 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.

Mayor Stallings stated that Dr. Hornthal passed away recently and the members of the Town Council requested that a resolution be drafted for approval at the March committee meeting to honor Dr. Hornthal and the contributions that he made to the community.

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

The minutes from the Special Meetings of October 26, 2020 and November 23, 2020 and the Regular Meetings of November 10, 2020 & December 8, 2020 were presented for approval.

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

The next item on the agenda was Case No. TA 19-03: Text amendment to Unified Development Ordinance (U.D.O.) amending Article X, Permissible Uses; Article XI, Supplementary Use Regulations to add Short-Term Rental as a permissible use in the R-5, R-10, R-14, R-20, RA, CD, CN Zoning Districts and to establish supplemental regulations governing short-term rentals in Article XI, Section 180.14.

Planner Elizabeth Bryant gave an update on this item. She shared a map of the current short term rentals in Edenton. She shared the stipulations that are written in the ordinance that if violations are made on the property by renters what will happen to the property owners.

Ms. Bryant explained that in this draft of the ordinance new whole house STRs can be prohibited from operating in residential zones, but they would still be required to allow existing whole house STRs to continue to operate. It was recommended that existing whole house STRs be required to obtain a zoning permit but not require them to obtain a Special Use Permit. New whole house STRs if allowed in the CD and CN zone, would be required to get a Special Use Permit. All would be "grandfathered", allowed to continue to operate so long as they obtain the required zoning permit consistent with time frame the Town Attorney's recommended language that is reflected in the 5th draft.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to send this item back to the Edenton Planning Board for further review and recommendations back to the Town Council. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Public Works Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Miller stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council approve revised engineering services agreement-renovations and upgrades to Wastewater Treatment Plant as presented.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the revised engineering services agreement. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Administrative Committee had four items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council approve Athletic Accomplishments Signs as presented.

Councilman High requested that this item be tabled for further research on D F Walker Teams and also Athletic Director Wes Mattera would like to present the item with the Town Council and he is unable to attend the meeting due to conflicts with schedule.

Councilman High also stated that Mr. John Mitchener requested additional verbiage be added to the signs on the Edenton Aces teams of the 1960's.

Councilman High made a motion to table this agenda item until a later date. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the second item was a recommendation that Council adopt resolution authorizing upset bid process for sale of Old Landfill 218 Poplar Neck Road.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing upset bid process. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High stated that the third item was a recommendation that Council establish Mayor's Taskforce on Litter Prevention, Recycling & the Environment as presented.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the establishment of a taskforce. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item was a recommendation that Council reappoint members to various Boards and Commission as presented.

It was the consensus of the Council to wait until the next meeting to make the reappointments.

Councilman High made a motion to table the agenda item until the next meeting. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was budget amendments-General Fund, Trolley & Legal Fees.

Ms. Knighton stated that the first budget amendment would add \$16,000 for the painting of the trolley (\$11,000) and logo/notable sites (\$5,000). She stated that the second amendment would add \$20,000 to the legal fees budget.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was the approval of agreement with Terracon for Soil & Groundwater Evaluations for Expansion of Sprayfield Sites.

Ms. Knighton stated that The Wooten Company has assisted the Town with procuring services for soil and groundwater evaluations for the expansion of spray field sites. The expansion is Phase 2 of the plans for the Wastewater Treatment Plan. This proposal from Terracon is to evaluate two potential sites that we think have suitable soils that meet the criteria needed for spray fields. Terracon's proposal is for \$142,400. A second proposal from Groundwater Management Associates came in at \$192,300. Recommend you approval proposal from Terracon. The geo-technical work will help us determine the best site for us to consider purchasing. Ms. Knighton stated that USDA Rural Development has agreed to provide \$1.98 Million Grant and \$4M 1.37% 40 year loan. Funds are available within the project to reimburse the Town the costs incurred for soil and ground evaluations.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the agreement with Terracon. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Amendment to Capital Projects Budget Ordinance, Improvements to Wastewater Treatment Plant & Expansion.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the budget ordinance. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was Approval of Assignments of Agreements with Holland Consulting Planners to Insight Planning & Development, LLC.

Ms. Knighton stated that the Town Council approved a contract with Holland to assist us with the updating of the Unified Development Ordinance as required by the General Assembly, since that time the Town was made aware of an impending change of ownership of the firm. That change of ownership has taken place and the Town is asked to approve the assignment of the Holland contract to Insight Planning & Development.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the assignment of agreements. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was Budget Amendment, Electric Fund, Proceeds from Sale of Property in Oakum St Redevelopment Zone (133 E. Gale St).

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

The last item was the approval of application for funding to USDA Rural Development – New Fire Truck.

Fire Chief Billy Bass was present and gave a presentation to the Town Council.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the application for funding to USDA. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Items Considered Timely and Important.

Councilman Coleman asked if the truck that was lease purchased for the Electric Department has been received and placed into service.

Finance Officer Virginia Smith stated yes.

Councilman Miller requested an update on the sailing center.

Councilman Dixon stated that he felt the project would move ahead he was just waiting to hear back on a couple of item such as utilities.

Councilman High gave brief updates on the brew pub project, the second grocery store and the Hotel Hinton project. He stated they were all active working projects.

Councilman High thanked the Town for the patch on the pothole at Broad and Church Street.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

There were no comments received before 5:00 p.m. to read into the record and no one present to speak.

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