

Edenton Town Council Minutes
October 8, 2019

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Roland Vaughan, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Steve Biggs, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Craig Miller, Councilman Roscoe Poole and Councilman Jimmy Stallings.

Mayor Roland Vaughan called the meeting to order.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Roscoe Poole offered the invocation.

The minutes from the special meetings of August 26, 2019 and September 23, 2019 and the regular meetings of August 13, 2019 and September 10, 2019 were presented for approval.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the minute as presented. Councilman Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was committee reports.

The Utilities Committee had four items on the agenda.

Councilman Bond stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council approve resolution accepting offer from NC Division of Water Infrastructure for additional loan funds for Sanitary Sewer Inflow & Infiltration Abatement Project as presented.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bond stated that the second item was a recommendation that Council approve grant agreement with NC Industrial Development Fund for the Peanut Drive Industrial Park Water Main Loop in the amount of \$473,125 as presented.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the grant agreement as presented. Councilman Stallings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bond stated that the third item was a recommendation that Council approve grant agreement with NC Division of Aviation for Engineering & Design of Partial Parallel Taxiway in the amount of \$52,610 as presented.

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

Councilman Bond stated that the last item was a recommendation that Council approve Talbert & Bright Work Authorization for Engineering & Design of Partial Parallel Taxiway as presented.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the work authorization as presented. Councilman Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the Finance Committee.

Councilman Dixon stated that the first item was a recommendation that Council adopt Capital Project Budget Ordinance for the Peanut Drive Water Main Loop Project as presented.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget ordinance as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the second item was a recommendation that Council adopt Budget Amendment for the Water & Sewer Fund Match for the Peanut Drive Water Main Loop Project as presented.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to adopt the budget amendment as presented. Councilman Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the third item was a recommendation that Council adopt Capital Project Budget Ordinance for State Historic Preservation Office Grant for update of Historic Preservation Commission Design Guidelines as presented.

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

Councilman Dixon stated that the fourth item was a recommendation that Council approve Budget Amendment for the General Fund Match for Design Guidelines Grant as presented.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dixon stated that the last item was a recommendation that Council adopt Capital Projects Budget Ordinance for the Partial Parallel Taxiway Project as presented.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget ordinance as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the Administrative Committee.

Councilman Biggs stated that it is recommended Council approve Grant Agreement with State Office of Historic Preservation for the Design Guidelines update project in the amount of \$15,000 as presented.

Councilman Biggs made a motion to approve the grant agreement as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The first item was a resolution of support for New Urban Waterfront Development at Sandy Point, Chowan County.

Mayor Vaughan stated that Sam Young was present to ask for the Town's support for the project. He stated that he is being pressured to renew the State permit for the project and asks for the community's support. He is hopeful to revive the project in 2020.

Councilman Biggs made a motion to approve the resolution of support. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the building reuse grant application for Project NP East.

Ms. Knighton stated that the Town and County have been working with the Edenton Chowan Partnership with a client that is interested in expanding their operations to Edenton in the former Simpson Strong Tie Building located on Soundside Road. Based on the jobs created and wages they are eligible for state incentives. The company is looking to lease the building. \$160,000 worth of improvements are needed to the building and that expenditure would be eligible for building reuse funds. If the jobs are not created there is a clawback requirement, the property owner would be required to sign a promissory note and also there is a provision where a deed of trust can also be required by the Town Council and if the company does not create the total number of jobs in the required period of time then the State will require the Town to seek reimbursement and remit them back to the State.

Ms. Knighton stated that because the building is owned by a County Commissioner there is a conflict of interest. She stated that Mr. Kirby has not attended any of the Partnership meetings and participated in any discussions. He has recused himself when the County Commissioners discussed the project.

Councilman Biggs made a motion to approve the building reuse grant application as presented. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was an amendment for the task order for the engineering services for the Peanut Drive Water Line loop.

Ms. Knighton stated that there are engineering services that are required for the project to get the State permits that are required and The Wooten Company has submitted an amended task order to allow for the final design and engineering services and construction observation work.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the amended task order as presented. Councilman Stallings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Engineering Services, Design, Bidding, Construction Administration for Street Repair and Resurfacing Phase II.

Ms. Knighton stated that the Town has been working with The Wooten Company to get the phase II street repairs and resurfacing project out to bid and need for Council to approve the engineering services agreement for the bid document to be finalized.

Councilman Biggs made a motion to approve the engineering services agreement. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item was a resolution declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures.

Ms. Knighton reported that the engineering services agreement that Council just approved will be eligible to be reimbursed to the Town from the loan proceeds that are received but in order to do that the Town Council has to adopt a resolution.

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

Next on the agenda was items considered timely and important.

Councilman Miller asked for an updated on the boat at Edenton Marina that is partially sunk.

Ms. Knighton stated that she had been in contact with the owner of the marina and he reports that the owner of the vessel has had a hard time renting pumps and they are not able to handle the capacity needed. She suggested that maybe the town could lease a pump that could work for him. The level of the bay also has to be low for the boat to be moved.

The Mayor stated that he felt the Town needs to take all action possible to have the boat removed as this has been an eyesore for almost a year.

Councilman Miller asked about the "Welcome to Edenton" sign on NC32 that was down. Ms. Knighton stated that those signs were in the process of being replaced.

Mayor Vaughan stated that he felt the proceeds from the sale of the Conger Building should be used to benefit the community. He asked the Council to be thinking of ideas for the use of the funds.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

Joe Leotta asked for an update on the Hotel Hinton project.

Mayor Vaughan stated that he had a recent conversation with Bob Howsare and learned that they have been working with a bank in Wilmington and will present an offer to fund the project. He was not sure of a timeline but hoped things would move quickly once the bank is on board.

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