

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
December 13, 2022

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High and Councilman Craig Miller.

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

The following minutes were presented for approval: Regular Meeting of November 8, 2022, Special Meeting of November 28, 2022 and Closed Session of November 28, 2022.

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 public hearings.

Public Hearing Case MSUP 22-03: A Major Special Use Permit application from Down East Preservation Construction and Design, LLC for the subdivision of the property into Planned Residential Development located at 515 E. Church Street. (PIN 804-08-99-5809)

Dewayne Whealton, Planner and Assistant Town Manager stated that this application was for the subdivision of property into 32 residential lots and a "cottage court" located at 515 E. Church Street. He reviewed the staff report with the Town Council.

Dawson Tyler and Gary Higginbotham were present from Down East Preservation and reviewed photos and preliminary information regarding the planned development.

Mayor Stallings opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments from the public comment.

Mayor Stallings called for a vote on the four criteria:

Councilman Miller made a motion that the proposed subdivision will not endanger the public health or safety. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High made a motion that the proposed subdivision will not injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Miller made a motion that the proposed subdivision will be in harmony with the area in which it is located. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Coleman made a motion that the proposed subdivision will be in conformity with the Land Use Plan, thoroughfare plan, or other plans officially adopted by the Town Council. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing Case CURZ 22-01: A Conditional Use rezoning application from Down East Preservation Construction and Design, LLC requesting to rezone property located at 515 E. Church St, from R-20 Residential to CU-R5, conditional residential for the creation of a planned residential development. (PIN 804-08-99-5809)

Dewayne Whealton, Planner and Assistant Town Manager stated that this application was for the conditional use rezoning application to rezone property located at 515 E. Church Street, from R-20, residential to CU R-5, Residential for a residential subdivision. He reviewed the staff report with the Town Council.

Mayor Stallings opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments from the public comment.

Mayor Stallings called for a vote on the four criteria:

Councilman Miller made a motion that the rezoning request will not endanger the public health or safety. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bond made a motion that the rezoning request will not injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Coston made a motion that the rezoning request will be in harmony with the area in which it is located. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman High made a motion that the rezoning request will be in conformity with the Land Use Plan, thoroughfare plan, or other plans officially adopted by the Town Council. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda were committee reports.

The Administrative Committee had two items on the agenda.

Councilman High stated that the first item was an update on the Confederate Monument. He reported that the Town Council has been looking at other locations for the monument. He also reported that the Town is being sued rejecting the relocation of the monument. The Town Attorney are reviewing the pending litigation and laws relating to the items cited in the lawsuit and until there is an update to the Town Council he has advised that all discussions be stopped. He advised the Town Council to not discuss or answer any questions from the public on the pending litigation.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager advised that a closed session would be scheduled with the Town Council in January.

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

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that revisions to the bylaws have been completed, the initiatives and goals from the Town Council were accepted and a vacancy was filled. There is an alternate vacancy that still need to be filled and that prior applicants would be contacted to see if they are interested in serving.

The Finance Committee had one item on the agenda.

Councilman Dixon stated that item was the approval of budget amendment for the Meter Reader Truck Replacements.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was New Business.

The first item was the resolution for Surf, Wind and Fire for the Friendsgiving Event.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that Timmy Turner contacted him that the event has been cancelled and asked for the Town Council to make a motion to disapprove the resolution.

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

The second item was the Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies (CORE) Plan Project Proposal and Memorandum of Understanding & Resolution – Department of Commerce.

Dewayne Whealton, Planner and Assistant Town Manager reviewed with the Town Council that the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center's Rural Planning Program offers a technical assistance program to provide outdoor recreation economy strategic planning and asset development services to rural communities. Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies (CORE), will provide planning and asset development to leverage the abundant outdoor recreation resources available in Edenton, to bolster local economic vitality. This will be accomplished through focusing on activities Edenton can do to increase tourism, encourage small business development, position communities to attract outdoor gear manufacturing industries, plan for outdoor recreation asset and infrastructure development, and enhance quality of life improvements for residents.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The next item was the Edenton CDBG-NR Legal Rating Sheet, Insight Planning.

Dewayne Whealton, Planner and Assistant Town Manager stated that Insight Planning and Development is recommending that the Town of Edenton move forward with the approval of legal services to Pritchett & Burch. If approved by the Town Council, Insight can move forward with preliminary title opinions while waiting on the Release of Funds from the State.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the legal services with Pritchett & Burch. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item was the RFP Update for Phase II AIA Project and Phase III WTP Project.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that the Town Council approved two RFP's for upcoming water system projects for the Public Works Department at the November 8, 2022 Meeting. The first RFP was for the well expansion and raw tank interconnect project (or more commonly known as WTP Phase III) and the second was for the Water Distribution Assets and Inventory Assessment (AIA) Phase II project. The RFP's were posted on the Town of Edenton website and published as a legal posting in the Chowan Herald. Both remained available from November 9, 2022 to December 1, 2022. One RFP packet was received.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that from a legal standpoint all requirements were met and documented but wanted to confirm that the Town Council did not want to extend the RFP time period.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the award of the RFP. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda were items considered timely and important.

Councilman Miller asked if there are any cost estimates complete for enhancing and updating the parks/playgrounds.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that some cost estimates were prepared a while back and needed to be updated. He also stated that he wanted to see meetings held in each ward after the first of the year where residents can give the staff ideas on projects that they want to see in neighborhoods.

Councilman Coston suggested that forming a committee or advisory board representing each ward would be helpful.

Councilman Coleman reminded the public that written ideas can be submitted until the end of December on the spending of the ARPA funds.

Councilman High stated that he has been advised that Chowan County is planning to make improvements to the gym at the old D F Walker School.

Councilman High stated that No parking signs are needed on West Water Street when travelling east. There was quite a bit of parking on that street during the recent Christmas tour.

Councilman Coston asked for an updated for additional lighting at Griffith Park. He also asked for additional lighting at the MLK Park where the basketball goals are located.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that he would check with Electric Director Mike Nichols on the additional lighting.

Councilman High stated that additional lighting be added at the Barker House to help deter vandalism.

Next on the agenda was public comment.

John Mitchener, talked about the recent athletic signs that were installed on various roadways in Edenton and that they need to be larger so that drivers can read the information.

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