

Edenton Town Council Minutes
January 23, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met on Monday, January 23, 2023 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 Aaron Coston, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High and Councilman Craig Miller.

Mayor Stallings called the meeting to order.

Administrative Committee

Confederate Monument Update

Councilman High gave a brief update on the Confederate Monument. He stated that the Town Attorney reports that settlement talks have begun between the parties and progress was being made. He hoped to have something to report at the next update from the Administrative Committee

Town of Edenton 2023 Vision Statement

Councilman High stated that at a recent special meeting, the Town Council conducted their annual planning retreat and a part of that meeting was to update the 2020 Vision Statement and to determine accomplished and/or new issues for Council to include in the 2023 Vision Statement. The document was reviewed and edited to reflect the changes and was included in the agenda packet for review. It was noted that the Town Council retreat focused very heavily on recreation, housing, and local business development.

It was recommended to place the 2023 Vision Statement on the next regular meeting agenda for approval.

Elected Official Stipend

Councilman High stated that staff has reviewed the recent North Carolina League of Municipalities salary data and recommended an increase of \$50 per month for the Mayor stipend (\$600 to \$650) and \$100 per month for the Town Council stipend (\$400 to \$500). When staff reviewed, the NLCM data items considered were population similarities, does the Town promote itself as a destination for tourism and does the location have an active main street program. The locations considered were included in the agenda packet. It was noted that the last stipend increase was in 2018.

There was discussion amongst the Town Council members regarding the monthly stipend increase. It was decided to place the item on the next regular meeting agenda for a full Council vote.

Public Information Officer Job Description

Councilman High stated that at the Town Council planning retreat it was discussed regarding the addition of a Public Information Officer/Town Clerk position. A job description was drafted for review by the Town Council, which was included in the agenda packet. This new job classification for the Public Information Officer/Town Clerk will be responsible for social media, press releases, newspaper articles

and communications liaison for various departments. The position will also serve as the Town Clerk to maintain official files and records, public records request, attend meetings and record minutes and other related duties. Pay Grade Classification recommended is pay grade 14. This will allow for a salary range of \$39,820 – \$56,844 (Min-Max) with a Hiring Rate of \$37,924.

Councilman Coston expressed concern regarding the pay grade classification. He felt that the classification should be raised to a higher pay grade, possibly pay grade 17.

It was recommended to place this item on the next regular meeting agenda for approval.

Old National Guard Armory Termination of Reversion Agreement

Councilman High stated that the Town Manager recently received the termination of reversion agreement from Lauren Arizaga-Wombly, Chowan County Attorney.

Hood Ellis, Town Attorney stated that the USDA will not accept a deed with a reversion clause. Chowan County is requesting the removal of the reversion clause.

The agreement is necessary to help satisfy part of the lending requirements from USDA for the new High School project. The agreement would eliminate the use of the property as collateral by the Chowan County.

Councilman Dixon stated there should be something in place so that the building cannot be torn down such as a preservation easement.

Finance Committee

Budget Amendment-American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Phase II

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that during the Town Council annual planning retreat, the Town Council reviewed the budget allocations for the remaining \$735,235 ARP Phase II funding. From the meeting and vast amount of public input Council decided to disperse the funds as follows:

- \$500,000 towards recreation,
- \$185,000 towards housing,
- \$40,000 towards the purchase of a recycling trailer, and
- \$10,235 towards the youth sailing program.

It was recommended to place this item to the next regular meeting for approval.

Budget Amendment-Elected Official Salary & Travel Increase

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Elected Official Stipend will be revisited during budget planning time

He stated that the second part of the amendment covers the travel arrangements for Mayor & Councilman High to attend the Main Street Conference that was approved on Jan. 10, 2023.

The budget amendment will be corrected to reflect the change and placed on the next full Council agenda for approval.

Public Works Committee

No Parking Designation – 106 S. Oakum St.

Councilman Miller stated that there is concerns from residents about street parking blocking and/or interfering with residential parking at 106 S. Oakum Street. The residents of the property have requested that Town Council consider adding the stripping to not allow parking across from the driveway at the residents. After reviewing the area, the Public Works Director (David Myers) recommends that Council consider adding this no parking designation.

It was recommended to place this item on the next regular meeting agenda for approval.

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