



Edenton Town Council - Meeting Summary  
**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

*The purpose of this notice is to summarize items from the meetings and is not comprehensive. This summary does not replace the official minutes. Go to the Town of Edenton's YouTube Channel for a video of the full meeting, or our website for the official minutes.*

**Present:** Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Hackney High Jr., Aaron Coston, Elton Bond, Craig Miller, and Roger Coleman, with Town Manager Corey Gooden facilitating.

**Special Meeting**

- **Public Hearing FY23/24 Annual Budget**

- Council heard comments from residents Susan Inglis (speaking about funding for bike and pedestrian improvements and crosswalks at the post office, pharmacies and grocery store) and John Mitchener (speaking about lighting improvements in town).

- **Adoption of FY 2023/24 Budget and Budget Ordinance**

- Council unanimously approved Fiscal Year 2023/2024's budget and budget ordinance. This will allow the Town to operate and provide services until June 30, 2024, when the next budget will be adopted.

- **Adoption of FY 2023/24 Stormwater Fee**

- Council unanimously adopted a new stormwater fee for the town. Powell Bill funding, which was previously used for stormwater repairs, have been declining year over year. Infrastructure costs for stormwater repair materials have also increased yearly. The new fees will generate roughly **\$99,000 annually** in revenue for stormwater system maintenance.
- Residential fees will be **\$3 monthly**, commercial fees will be **\$8 monthly**, and industrial fees will be **\$12.50 monthly**. These fees will be added to typical utility bills. Many other local towns and counties have implemented similar fees to keep up with repairs to stormwater systems.

- **Adoption of FY 2023/24 Electric Rate Increases**

- Council unanimously adopted an increased residential basic customer charge from **\$11.10 to \$15.50**, a small commercial and public housing customer charge from

**\$25.50 to \$30**, and a facility charge increase for large general service & coincidental peak demand from **\$105 to \$500**. This is in response to a **1.62% energy cost increase** and **11.24% increase in demand** for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as inflation, materials and cost based on the Town's purchased power pricing.

- **Updated Salary Schedule**

- Council unanimously adopted an updated salary schedule for its employees. One senior level position was encroaching upon the maximum end of its pay scale and needed to be adjusted.

- **Budget Amendment & Work Authorization - Hangar Taxi Lanes Project**

- Council unanimously approved a budget amendment to accept the funding under the Grant Agreement (36237-15-17.1) with the N.C. Division of Aviation for the addition of taxi lanes, access road and parking to support future hangar development at the Northeastern Regional Airport.

- **2023 Audit Letter to Governance – TPSA**

- No action was needed on this item. Thompson, Price, Scott, and Adams, the Town's auditor, sent a letter for public review overviews their services. This was strictly a formality.

- **Resolution - Funding Acceptance for Project VUR-D-ARP-0055**

- Council unanimously approved this funding acceptance to receive an NCDEQ grant in the amount of \$4,479,725 as part of the American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund for two new water wells. These water wells will improve town water quality and the water infrastructure system.

- **Town Council Meeting Procedures Review**

- **Council approved four changes** to their meeting procedures, they are as follows:
  - Council unanimously adopted language that limits speakers during public comments to only be Edenton or Chowan County residents, unless council allows exemptions (such as for those who work or own property in Chowan).
  - **Council voted 4 to 1** to move the public comment period at regular meetings from the end to the beginning, before decisions are made. Councilman Elton Bond voted against this measure.
  - Council voted unanimously to add reinforcing language to the policy in regards to posting meeting minutes and summaries on the Town's website and social media platforms.
  - Council unanimously approved moving Item 28 to a new Item 29, which details Robert's Rules of Order. The new Item 28 states that the Town will continue its posting of online meeting access instructions, posting meeting

videos to YouTube and the Mediacom Government Channel and other social media outlets. Robert's Rules will become the new Item 29.

### **Administrative Committee**

#### **- Edenton Downtown Social District Ordinance & Management Plan**

- Council received a presentation from Destination Downtown Edenton Executive Director Ches Chesson about a proposed social district in downtown Edenton – in which alcohol could be carried and consumed in a defined area outdoors. No votes were had during this meeting, as council requested additional time to work out logistics and have questions answered.

#### **- Employee Policy Update - Residency Requirement for Electric Department**

- **This item was forwarded to full council.** Council heard a proposal to update the residency requirement for Electric Department employees. This residency requirement would be adjusted from living within 30 minutes of the Electric Department to living within 45 minutes. This is to accommodate recent applicants/graduates for vacancies within the Electric Department, who are being sourced/located from Martin Community and/or Nash Community Colleges' Linemen Tech training program. This has created a larger group of potential employees that could live in Martin County and the current residency requirement would prevent them from working here. Most applicants are younger individuals so relocating is nearly impossible.

#### **- Closed Session Per NCGS 143-318-11 (a)(6) to conduct performance evaluation of Town Manager.**

- The Mayor & Council went into a closed session to discuss the annual evaluation of the Town Manager.