

Edenton Town Council Minutes
October 10, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 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.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the regular meeting of September 12, 2023 and special meeting of September 25, 2023 were presented for approval.

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

Public Comment

John Powell: Spoke about drinking water aquifers and the demands that will be placed on the current system with new developments being planned.

John Grant: Asked if a fire suppression system was installed at the Hotel Hinton and asked if there was update on the public meeting that was being planned.

Lorrie Dablow: Shared Councilman Dixon's quote from a recent Daily Advance story where candidates were interviewed regarding the Hotel Hinton. She asked when the Demolition by Neglect ordinance will be acted upon for the Hotel Hinton building.

Special Presentation-Wendy McGrath

Wendy McGrath from the St. Vincent De Paul organization was present and gave a presentation to the Town Council about the organization and an overview of what outreach services the organization provides to local residents within Edenton and Chowan County region. The organization is a non-profit organization that works with individuals and families that are experiencing financial or emotional hardships and has experience in a wide range of situations and options to help those in need.

Special Presentation - Mayors Task Force Update

David Herlong, Co-Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Litter Presentation, Recycling, and the Environment gave an update from the group on four key items the group has focused on over the last year. These updates included the community pickup events, the recycling program, the litter patrol, and the coastal resiliency program the group will participate in.

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee-Employee Certification Tables

Councilman High stated that the Administrative Committee previously reviewed the draft of the updated Employee Certification Requirements (Levels 1, 2, & 3) and the updated department certification tables. He stated that the updates are needed because of the evolving training opportunities employees have (i.e., additional online opportunities & an increase in classes offered). It was noted that the Public Works certification table was inadvertently omitted from the September packet and it was included in the packet for review and consideration by the Mayor and Council.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the certification tables as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Committee-Social Media and News Media Policy

Councilman High stated that Tyler Newman, Public Information Officer prepared a social media and news media policy for consideration and approval by the Town Council. He noted that this policy would give staff and employees guidance on social media pages and the use of personal social media.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the updated policy as presented. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee-Electric Department Backyard Machine Finance Proposal

Councilman Dixon stated that Virginia Smith, Finance Director presented two (2) finance proposals to the Mayor and Town Council at the September meeting. Truist Bank was the lowest proposal with the terms of loan being a 5.38% interest rate for a period of 5 years.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the financing and resolution for Truist Bank. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business-Resolution Electric Department Backyard Machine Financing

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the resolution presented would allow the Town of Edenton to accept the terms from Truist for the funding of the Electric Department Altec Digger Derrick.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business-Special Events Ordinance Update-Parades and Pickets

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager reviewed the Parades and Picketing ordinance and forms and requested that the language be updated to be more consistent with other town policies. These updates are requested to provide sufficient time for town staff to prepare for these events and to plan for such events that take place. The updated language will include the requirement of a written application for a permit, signed by the applicant, to be filed not less than 30 days , (currently 24 hours) in advance for a parade and 72 hours (currently 24 hours) for group demonstrations.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the updates to the parades and picketing ordinance as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business-NIBIN Contract Agreement-Edenton Police Department

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Police Chief is requesting approval to enter into a contractual agreement with the Rocky Mount Police Department to continue providing our citizens outstanding customer service related to solving gun crimes in Edenton. The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) allows law enforcement to search against evidence from their jurisdiction, neighboring ones, and others across the country. The NIBIN program is the primary investigative tool accessed by law enforcement that allows us to share information and cooperate quickly, making all of us more effective in closing cases. NIBIN allows investigators to match previously unlinked crime scenes, find evidence for weapons trafficking, and solve cold cases. It helps identify and convict criminals who use firearms during their crimes, especially when they do so repetitively. NIBIN is vital to any violent crime reduction strategy because it allows investigators to compare their ballistics evidence against evidence from other violent crimes on a national, regional, and local level, thus generating investigative links that would rarely be revealed absent the technology.

It was noted that the Edenton Police Department and community has already benefited by using NIBIN with the help of the Rocky Mount Police Department since the Police Chief's arrival in 2018. We have solved several cases and continue to solve more cases. This agreement would not affect the Police Department's current budget, so there is no need for additional funds to support this agreement. It was also noted that the document was reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the NIBIN contract agreement. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business-TFC Recycling Contract

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town Council needed to approve the contract between TFC Recycling and the Town of Edenton for the recycling program. It was noted that the recycling schedule would be every other week on Wednesdays. The price per ton for recycling with glass is \$120 per ton and \$115 per ton without glass. Contamination for Town loads up to 10% allowed is \$125 per ton.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager noted that the Public Works Department would not be accepting glass as recycle materials. He noted that either party should have the right to terminate this contract immediately, upon written notice to the other party.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that 100 new recycle cans have been issued and 50 more are waiting to be delivered with an estimate of 800 cans already in the system. He noted that the Town Attorney has reviewed the contract with TFC Recycling.

Councilman Coleman made a motion to approve the recycling contract. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman Miller requested an update on the Hotel Hinton.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he spoke with SAGA and they have reported to him that they have found a security system with a local vendor that can be installed in the building for security and reporting services.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the Harbor Town Ferry.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that they are looking at a Spring 2024 launch for the program.

Councilman Bond requested for an update on the shopping center in north Edenton.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the bank that purchased the property have been doing updates to the buildings and are in the process of having conversations with retailers to lease space.

Councilman Miller asked about street paving for Broad Street and Granville Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated those are state maintained roads and that work should be completed within the next 10 – 12 months.

Councilman Coleman requested update on the Beechwood Apartment project.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that staff is working on setting up a public meeting to hear public comments on the project so that concerns can be addressed before the special use permit process is brought before the Town Council again.

Councilman Coston asked if there was an update on the RFP for the park updates.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that proposals will be received until October 19.

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