

Edenton Town Council Minutes
December 12, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. This meeting also included the reorganizational meeting for the Town Council. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High and Councilman Craig Miller. Also present were Councilman Elect Bob Turner and Councilman Elect Patrick Sellers. Absent was Councilman Roger Coleman.

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

Approval of Minutes

The following minutes were presented for approval: Special Meetings of September 20, 2023 and November 27, 2023; Regular Meeting of November 14, 2023 and Closed Session of November 14, 2023.

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

Special Presentation –Local Christmas Artist Acknowledgement

Ches Chesson, Executive Director of the Destination Downtown Edenton organization introduced local high school artist Bryan Vasquez. Mr. Vasquez recently partnered with the DDE organization to help create the Christmas artwork that is showcased at the former Sears & Gordman’s store front windows. Mr. Vasquez also created two Christmas cards that are unique to the Edenton area.

The Mayor and Town Council thanked Mr. Vasquez for his beautiful artwork.

Special Presentation-Road Diet Traffic Study Overview

Corey Gooden, Town Manager provided the Town Council and the public with a Road Diet overview of the studies and research material the staff were able to locate. Staff thought that the presentation was needed to help share some of the findings to help address concerns that residents asked at the public hearing on November 27, 2023.

Public Comment

John Mitchener: Thanked all the current town officials for their service and dedication in serving on the Town Council.

John Grant: Thanked the Mayor and Town Council for the service and he hoped that the new members will continue to work together to make SAGA conduct repairs to the building on East King Street. He also asked the Town Council to take their time on making a decision for the Broad Street road diet and to conduct another study that is more current.

Allen Swanner: He thought that the road diet plan was foolish and that it will not allow emergency vehicles to proceed safely and will put everyone in danger.

Gary Swanner: Stated that a portion of Broad Street combines Highway 17 and 32, which are main arteries of travel through town. He felt that the street should remain as it is.

Trevor Miles: Stated that he was in support of the Granville Street four-way stop and the Broad Street road diet plan.

Susan Inglis: Stated that she walked down Broad Street and felt it would be great to see traffic slowed down.

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee - Human Relations Commission-Annual Update

Councilman High stated that the Human Relations Commission submitted their annual update and initiatives for the Town Council to review and approve. They also requested that Cynthia Herlong and Dr. Emma Bonner be appointed to fill vacant seats.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the update received and to appoint the two members as requested.

Administrative Committee-Electric Pole Service Agreement Amendment

Councilman High stated that this is a request from Roanoke Connect to amend the current pole service agreement. He stated that the current pole agreement pricing is \$7.67 per pole per year and the request is to reduce to \$0. The amendment is in response to the Town's needs for internet services at certain town-owned properties, camera locations, and public Wi-Fi within the parks/public space. This proposal would allow the Town to utilize these services without the annual subscription expense for the services and/or any of the up-front cost for the installation of associated equipment.

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

Public Works Committee-Broad Street NCDOT Road Diet

This agenda item was tabled until the January meeting.

Public Works Committee-Granville Street and West Albemarle Street

This agenda item was tabled until the January meeting.

Public Works Committee-Terry Avenue & Robin Lane Four Way Stop

This agenda item was tabled until the January meeting.

New Business

Response Letter for LGC for the Town of Edenton FY22/23 Audit

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the auditor recently presented the FY22/23 audit to the Town Council. During that presentation Mr. Adams presented a list of performance indicators from the LGC that staff and Council should be aware of and formulate a corrective action plan (CAP). He stated that Virginia Smith, Finance Director has developed a CAP that the administration recommends sending to the LGC.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the signing of the response letter to the LGC as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment-Runway 1-19 Pavement and Lighting Rehab

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that this is the third budget amendment for the work authorization that was originally approved by the Town Council on August 28, 2023 and then amended on September 25, 2023. He stated that this additional amendment is for the Sediment & Erosion Control Permit Fee that is needed for the lighting improvements on the runways 1- 19 by Talbert & Bright. The budget amendment is for \$1,400 bringing the total for this particular aspect of the project to \$39,370 as the project budget is stated.

Remarks-Mayor Jimmy E. Stallings

Mayor Stallings made his closing remarks to the Town Council and those present before turning the gavel over to Mayor-Elect Hackney High.

Reorganizational Meeting

Oaths of Office Administered by District Court Judge Meader Harriss

Judge Meader Harriss administered the oath to the following newly elected and re-elected members of the Town Council.

Mayor W. Hackney High, Jr.
Councilman Robert Turner
Councilman Patrick Sellers
Councilman Samuel Dixon

All new members took their seats at the Council Dias.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Councilman Dixon made a nomination of Elton Bond for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to appoint Elton Bond as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

Mayor High stated that the list of appointments was circulated to all Town Council members.

Approval of Roster of Firemen

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the roster as submitted. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman Turner asked for an update on the new hotel that is scheduled to be built on Claire Drive.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the property owner was contacted and he reported that the project would begin in 2025.

Councilman Miller asked if the property owner had been contacted for the parking lot on Broad Street to see if it could be opened up for public use.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that there was no update at this time.

Councilman Dixon thanked all town departments and staff for the hard work to prepare the town for the recent Candlelight Christmas Tour.

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