

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
January 9, 2024  
Meeting was postponed to January 11, 2024

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Hackney High, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Craig Miller, Councilman Patrick Sellers and Councilman Bob Turner. Absent was Councilman Samuel Dixon.

Mayor High called the meeting to order.

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

The minutes from the regular meeting of December 12, 2023 were presented for approval.

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

**Public Comment**

Lorrie Dablow reviewed a summary of a 2023 timeline of the Hotel Hinton rehabilitation project.

Christy Hinson spoke regarding her concerns of speeding on Granville Street and offered solutions for dangerous driving on Granville Street.

George Lawrence spoke about concerns he had regarding a four way stop at Terry Avenue and Robin Lane. He stated the traffic in the neighborhood does not warrant a four way stop.

**Special Presentation**

Mayor High stated that Mr. Mayer was unavailable to attend the meeting and give the presentation and stated that this item would be placed on an upcoming agenda.

**Public Hearing**

Case No. TA 23-01: A text amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) amending Article X, Permissible Uses Article XI, Supplementary Use Regulations to add Private Campground/RV Park as a permissible use in the R-40 and R-20 Zoning Districts and to establish supplemental use regulations governing Private Campground/RV Park in Article XI, Section 11.41.

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner presented the staff report.

Mayor High opened the floor for the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

Mayor High closed the public hearing.

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

### **New Business**

#### **Budget Amendment – Bolton Bridge Utility Line Relocation**

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town Council recently approved the NCDOT project to have the utility poles at Bolton Bridge on Mexico Road relocated for the bridge replacement on 7/1/2021. He stated that the project with NCDOT has been completed and the budget amendment was for the reimbursement to the Town of Edenton for expenses incurred to have the utility poles moved back to the original locations. This was part of the initial agreement between NCDOT and the Town of Edenton. Virginia Smith, Finance Director recommended that the Council approve the budget amendment for \$31,436.77.

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

#### **NC Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services StRAP Grant**

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) provides grants to projects that help reduce flooding by protecting and restoring the drainage infrastructure of North Carolina's waterways. He stated that the Town of Edenton was requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$35,000 to remove instream sediment and vegetation from the Filbert's Creek wetlands, located between Virginia Road and W. Hicks Street. This project will help reduce localized flooding and stream backup and provide a more functional wetland area for proper drainage.

No action was needed on this item.

#### **Professional Service Procurement – CDBG Grant**

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that Chris Hilbert, of Insight Planning was present via Zoom to give an overall update for the Towns Community Develop Block Grant (CBDG) project. Mr. Hilbert requested approval for the asbestos proposals so Insight can start the inspection process. Mr. Hilbert stated that Insight Planning recently solicited proposals for the lead-based paint inspections and surveying but did not receive enough bids from the first request. These services will have to be rebid for additional bids.

Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the Professional Services Procurement for asbestos proposals as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. Gooden gave an update on the road diet and stated that this item was tabled until the January 22, 2024 meeting to give staff time to review public input and questions. He stated that in addition the other items will also be on the January 22, 2024 agenda, those items included the four way stop at Granville Street, West Albemarle Street and Dr. MLK Jr. Ave along with the Terry Avenue & Robin Lane Four Way Stop.

Mr. Gooden gave an update on the Fairfield Inn project. He stated that staff recently met with developers and they anticipate a late 2024 or early 2025 project start date for the project.

**Items Considered Timely and Important**

Councilman Coston asked who is responsible for potholes on the corner of Oakum Circle and Oakum Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town was responsible for repairs and would address those issues soon.

Mayor High thanked town employees for their hard work during the recent storm and also thanked Tyler Newman, Public Information Officer for his continuous social media updates during the storm.

Councilman Bond asked if there was a date set for the paving of Broad Street.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that within the next 60 days there should be crews in place to begin with repairs before the paving begins.

Councilman Bond asked about the status of the shopping center and has a grocery store been secured as a tenant.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that staff hoped to have announcement of tenants within the next month.

Councilman Bond asked about progress of the Hotel Hinton project.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the property owner has received a notice of violation from the code enforcement company who is assisting the town with code enforcement issues.

Councilman Bond asked how the Town can negotiate with SAGA to acquire the property.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the neighborhood parks upgrades.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he hoped to have designs and renderings to post for feedback from the public for their input on the facilities planned.

Councilman Miller asked if there was updates on the Harbor Town Ferry and the Coast Guard approval.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he did not have an update.

Councilman Sellers asked for an update regarding a recent meeting with a local law enforcement group and leaders with Michael Easley, Jr., US Attorney, Eastern District.

Mayor High stated that the meeting was very informative and felt that the community will see positive outcomes from the meeting.

Councilman Turner asked if there was any update on the construction of apartments that SAGA Construction was slated to construct on property they own.

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

Councilman Turner asked about paving list and how those lists are compiled.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that a paving assessment was conducted several years ago based on conditions of streets. He stated that two rounds of paving have been completed and that the third round would begin soon after some infrastructure work is completed.

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