

Edenton Town Council Minutes
March 14, 2023

The Edenton Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 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

Mayor Jimmy Stallings called the meeting to order.

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

The following minutes were presented for approval: Regular Meeting of February 14, 2023, Closed Session of February 14, 2023 and Special Meeting of February 27, 2023.

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

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee

Confederate Monument Update

Councilman High gave an update stating that there was consensus amongst the Town Council members to relocate the monument to Hollowell Park and called for a motion.

Councilman Bond made a motion to relocate the Confederate Monument to Hollowell Park. Councilman Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee

Resolution-Approval of Sale-Water and Sewer Pumps

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the sale of the water and sewer pumps as discussed. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution-Fire Department Air Packs and Radio Loan-Southern Bank

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the loan for the 7-year term with Southern Bank. Councilman Coston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment-Fire Department Air Packs and Radio Loan Proceeds

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment-Streets Resurfacing

Streets included in this round of paving will include Woodard, East Freemason (from railroad track to North Oakum), Wood (from Church to East Queen), Elliott, West Church (from dead end to Moseley), Walker, Albania, Phillips, and Valentine.

Councilman Dixon made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Utilities Committee

Underground Service Charge

Increase in fees are as follows \$900 for 200-amp and \$1000 for 400-amp. This increase would raise the recovery rate from $\frac{1}{4}$ the total cost to $\frac{1}{2}$ the total cost.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the underground service charge rate. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Committee

Land Acquisition-806 West Queen Street Unit B-Westover Lift Station

The additional land needed was determined to be roughly 7,500 sq. ft. and appraised valued at \$30,000 \$4/sq. ft. This acquisition will allow for the Public Works Department to perform all needed repairs, equipment maneuvering, and remove setback concerns - that have been challenging (near impossible) over the recent past. This will allow the Town to permanently correct all easement and right of way concerns with surrounding property owners.

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

New Business

Budget Amendment-Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant-Regulator Marine-Town Manager

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that at the February 14, 2023 regular meeting Council reviewed the original budget amendment and the associated grant agreement terms for the Regulator Marine building reuse grant totaling \$200,000. During the meeting, Council voted to approve the budget amendment but NO motion or second was every stated. As a technicality and meeting procedure, the approved minutes must contain this language.

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

Budget Amendment-Trash Truck Motor and Transmission Replacement-Public Works

Corey Gooden, Town Manager reported that the motor and transmission for the trash collection truck (Truck 102) went out. The truck was taken out of service and both the engine and transmission were pulled from the vehicle. Quotes were received for replacement parts estimating \$20,000+. This amendment is to allow the fleet maintenance shop to replace the motor, transmission, and accessory parts in the truck (2014 model).

Staff recommends increasing the interest earned on investments account as the revenue is currently at \$100,508 or \$71,508 over project budget. The increase in the interest earned is primarily due to the inflation factor & interest rates set by the Federal Reserve.

It was also noted that the Public Works Director has received a quote for a replacement truck that was included in the packet and that staff will send out RFP's for financing.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment-Hollowell Park Monument Relocation-Town Manager

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the budget amendment will increase the Maintenance Repair of Parks & Playground line item by \$40,000. The funds are part of the additional \$71,508 over initial revenue budget projects. This should cover all monument relocation and park improvement cost.

Councilman High reminded the Town Council members that during one of the public comments section of a meeting that there was an individual who committed to paying for the relocation of the monument and encouraged staff to contact this person.

Councilman Coston made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Audit Response Letter-Finance Director

Virginia Smith, Finance Officer reviewed the list of performance indicators from the LGC that staff and Council needed to address. She developed the corrective action plan (CAP) that the administration recommends sending to the LGC.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the audit response letter. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP)-Dewayne Whealton

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the Town of Edenton has been selected to participate in the 2023-2024 round of Phases 1 and 2. Phase 1 includes community engagement and risk and vulnerability assessment. Phase 2 includes planning, project Selection, and prioritization. The N.C. RCCP aims to facilitate a community-driven process for setting coastal resilience goals, assessing existing and needed local capacity, and identifying and prioritizing projects to enhance community resilience to coastal hazards. The Town of Edenton will walk through a framework leading to the development of "shovel-ready" projects. For technical assistance in completing Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP, The Division of Coastal management has proposed to match the Town with WSP USA.

This was a no action item, information only.

Items Considered Timely and Important

Councilman Miller asked for update on the Hotel Hinton project, he stated that SAGA has contracted with Edenton Construction to electrical repairs, painting, window blinds, fence repairs.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that a public meeting was going to be held on site to answer questions but he did not know when that public meeting would be held.

Councilman Bond asked for any update on the shopping center.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he would reach out to the firm/bank who is handling that.

Councilman Coleman asked about interviews for the Public Information Officer position.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that the interview process had started to fill this position.

Councilman High asked about the parking study.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that he had received information from DOT and wanted to share that with the Town Council.

Mayor Stallings asked why the small parking lot on Broad Street remains closed.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated that it had recently changed ownership and that the property owner is keeping it closed.

Councilman Coston asked if the lights were installed at Griffith Park.

Corey Gooden, Town Manager stated yes.

Public Comment

Jason Kent: Recommended to the Town Council that the Confederate Monument be removed and placed into storage and place in new location with the proper context.

Lorrie Dablow: spoke regarding SAGA and the Hotel Hinton and that they would host the public information meeting on Saturday, March 25

Susan Inglis: Thanked the Town Council for voting to relocate the statue but did not feel quite heard from the group of citizens that want the statue removed.

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