

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Eastover Community Center**

**x☐ Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Presiding;
Council Members: x☐ Cheryl C. Hudson, x☐ J. Lawrence Buffaloe,
x☐ M. Stan Crumpler, x☐ Bruce R. Sykes, x☐ Kimberly F. McPhail,
and x☐ C. Brian Pearce**

MINUTES OF MEETING – May 12, 2020

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Cheryl C. Hudson, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Bruce R. Sykes, Kimberly F. McPhail, C. Brian Pearce, and M. Stan Crumpler were in attendance at the May 12, 2020, Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also in attendance were: Mr. Tim Smith, Town Attorney, Mr. Ronald Autry, Interim Town Manager, Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk, and Ms. Kelly McCorquodale, Deputy Town Clerk.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the May 12, 2020 Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Stan Crumpler gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor McLaurin asked Ms. Kelly McCorquodale to swear in as the Deputy Clerk to the Town of Eastover. Mayor McLaurin asked Ms. McCorquodale to repeat after him with the following:

I, Kelly McCorquodale, do solemnly swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a Deputy Clerk of the Town of Eastover.

Mayor McLaurin and Ms. Kelly McCorquodale signed the Oath of Office.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the Agenda as stated. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the Agenda as stated. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Ashley Porter signed up to speak. Mr. Porter informed that the last day of school will be May 22. He said that Virtual School is in place for grades 3rd thru 5th. Mr. Porter also told the Council that the districts are relocating principals and he will be moving to another school. Mr. Porter's last day will be June 30th. He thanked the Council for all that they do for the Town and helping with the school, staff, and faculty. He also stated that it was a great 6 years that he had served for the Eastover Elementary School of Arts.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the March 10, 2020 Town Council Meeting.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Minutes for the April 14, 2020 Cancelled Meeting.**
- 3. Consider approval of the February, 2020 Financial Reports.**
- 4. Consider approval of the March, 2020 Financial Reports.**

Mayor McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Consent Agenda. There were none. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the Consent Agenda as stated.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was 2nd by Council Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VII. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Select Audit Firm for Fiscal Year 2020

Mr. Ronnie Autry stated that he sent a request for bids to several firms for Audit review. There were two bids that were received. The first bid was out of Fayetteville with Haigh, Byrd, and Lambert. The second was out of Zebulon called Petway, Mills, and Pearson. Mr. Autry informed that it was a three year audit bid but if the Town was not pleased with the firm chosen, then the firm could be changed next year.

Ms. McPhail stated she knew someone out of the local firm Haigh, Byrd and Lambert and that she felt it would be better to select locally because they would be easier to get in touch with. Mr. Autry said he recommended going with Haigh, Byrd and Lambert because of the convenience of them being locally.

Mr. Stan Crumpler made a Motion to approve Haigh, Byrd, and Lambert as accountants for the coming of the Fiscal Year. The Motion was 2nd by Ms. Hudson. The Vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #2:

Resolution to change form of Government and set date for Public Hearing

The Town Attorney, Mr. Tim Smith introduced the proposed Resolution stating that it would change the form of Government from Council-Manager to Mayor-Council. Mr. Smith stated that with this change the Council would be much more involved in the decision making of the Town and there would not be a Town Manager under the North Carolina General Statutes. According to the Statutes, under the new form of Government the Council would have a more active role in the Town's projects. The Ordinance presented is the first step in getting the form of government changed for the Town of Eastover.

The Town Attorney, Mr. Neal Yarborough addressed that other small towns operate under a Mayor Council form of Government. Mr. Smith spoke up and said that the town already sort of operates in the Mayor Council form of Government.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to set a date for June 9th for Public Hearing to consider changing the form of government. The Motion was 2nd by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #3:

Set date for Public Hearing and Budget FY 2021

After a brief discussion, Council Member Brian Pearce made a motion to approve the date of June 9, 2020 for the FY2021 Budget Public Hearing. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #4:

Installation of Concrete Pad at Tally Woodland Park

Mayor McLaurin stated he would like to have a concrete pad placed at Tally Woodland Park. He stated he believed this would make the park more user friendly for the community. He said he had asked Mr. Ronald Autry to look into the cost of having this done. Mr. Autry stated he had received an estimate for a concrete pad for Tally Woodland Park of \$2,400.00.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the concrete pad at Tally Woodland Park. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Kim McPhail. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VIII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- Mayor McLaurin informed the Council that the tree removal at the ball park looked good.
- He would like a new sign at the Community Building 4x8.
- Eastover North housing development wants the Town to take over their streets for Section 2. Mr. Autry informed the Council that taking over the streets would increase the Powell Bill monies received. Council Member Crumpler also stated that the Council needs to make sure that those particular streets don't have drainage issues.
- Eastover Town Heritage Day will be cancelled due to COVID-19.

IX. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- None.

X. RECEIVE TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE:

- The Mayors Coalition talked about the Budget and tax collections. For 2019 and 2020 the rate is the same but it looks like for 2021 the rates will be lower. Motor Vehicle tax is going to decrease by 20%. Sales tax is also going to be reduced by a lot lower than the last couple of years.
- Mr. Gary Gardner spoke about moving forward with the construction of Rhodes pond but the permits process will be delayed about 5-6 months due to COVID-19. They are hoping to start the \$9 Million dollar construction of the dam in the Fall of 2020.
- The widening of I95 with ST Wooten has been delayed from the Benson exit to the I40 exit for 1 year, The Murphy Road construction is still on schedule

**XI. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GS 143-318.11(a)(3)-
ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE.**

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve going into closed session. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

XII. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bruce Sykes at 8:35p.m. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, **Town Clerk**
Elizabeth S. Bass