

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 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 – February 9, 2021

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Cheryl C. Hudson, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Kimberly F. McPhail, C. Brian Pearce, Bruce R. Sykes, and M. Stan Crumpler were in attendance at the February 9, 2021 Eastover Town Council Meeting. Also in attendance were: Mr. Tim Smith, Town Attorney, Mr. Ronald Autry, Interim Town Administrator, Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk, and Ms. Kelly McCorquodale, Deputy Town Clerk.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the February 9, 2021 Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. 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.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were none.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the January 12, 2021 Town Council Meeting.**
- 2. Consider approval of the December, 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 Kimberly McPhail made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Presentation by Mr. Mark Hedgepeth, Haigh, Byrd & Lambert, LLP concerning Fiscal Year 2020 Audit for the Town of Eastover.

Mayor McLaurin asked Mr. Mark Hedgepeth from Haigh, Byrd & Lambert, LLP to come up to the podium to present the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit for the Town of Eastover. Mr. Hedgepeth explained that under the General Statutes for Municipalities you are required to have an annual audit conducted. The audit for the Town of Eastover for the Fiscal Year 2020 audit was determined to be clean. The findings from the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit showed an increase in revenue.

Mr. Hedgepeth stated the following were Financial Highlights:

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year by \$8,150,289.00 (net position)
- The government's total net position increased by \$881,824.00 due to increases in the governmental activities net position. The key factor in this increase was the receipt of capital contributions for improvements to cultural and recreational activities and conservative spending policies.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental fund reported an ending fund balance of \$6,063,264, an increase of \$815,421. Approximately 12.71% of this total amount, or \$770,922, is restricted.

- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$5,292,342, or 496.22% of total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal year.

The following aspect of the Town's financial operations positively influenced the total unrestricted governmental net position:

- Continued diligence in the collection of property taxes by maintaining a tax collection percentage of 98.71%.
- Increased sales tax revenue of approximately \$32,000.00 due to economic growth in the Town.

Mayor McLaurin then asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Kimberly McPhail. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #2:

Purchase of Christmas Decorations.

Mayor McLaurin recognized Interim Town Administrator, Mr. Ronald Autry. Mr. Autry stated that Mosca had a better sale on Christmas decorations this year. Mr. Autry explained that there are 21 poles on Dunn Rd with receptacles but have no brackets. The Town could order 15 new decorations costing \$8,400.00, including shipping costs. The Council briefly discussed their options.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the purchase of Christmas Decorations. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the purchase of the Christmas Decorations. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE.

- Town Attorney Mr. Tim Smith gave an update about the current lawsuit with The Eastover Vape & Hemp Shop. Mr. Smith said it was in violation of the zoning for the Commercial Core Overlay and in violation of The Town of Eastover Town Ordinance. The Council directed the Town Attorney to continue with the lawsuit.
- Mayor McLaurin also wanted to congratulate Council Member Brian Pearce for doing great work at the Cape Fear Valley Hospital with over 45,000 people vaccinated.
- Mayor McLaurin recognized Mr. Talmage Baggett, Eastover Sanitary District Manager to come up and speak about the progress of the construction of the new

Eastover Sanitary District building. Mr. Baggett explained that the progress is going great. The building will be 4,400 sq. ft., with a drive thru and drop box that will provide an easy payment option. The building will possibly be finished by June of this year. Mr. Baggett also expressed the concerns of drainage issues from the new building and said that the Engineer is confident that the water will drain from the back of the property to a retention pond.

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to appoint Council Member Stan Crumpler as the Town of Eastover's Representative to the Cumberland County Planning Board. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

IX. RECEIVE TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE:

There was none.

X. 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 8:02 p.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