

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 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 – April 13, 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 April 13, 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 April 13, 2021 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. 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 Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked if anyone was signed up to speak. Town Clerk Elizabeth Bass stated that two people, Ms. Doris Wilson and Mr. Richard Walker, have signed up to speak.

Ms. Doris Wilson addressed the Council about an Ordinance for junk cars, illegal dumping and burning. She wanted the Council to be able to enforce the Ordinance as well.

Council Member Stan Crumpler stated that the Town is in the process of working with Council of Government to get a code enforcement officer. Council Member Crumpler explained that the Cumberland County Attorney informed the town that there are not enough people to enforce for the County and the Towns have to enact their own code enforcement division.

Council Member Stan Crumpler also stated that working with the Council Government takes time but assured Ms. Wilson that they are working to enforce the Town's Ordinances.

Mayor McLaurin asked if there were any more questions or statements from the Council. There were none. Mayor McLaurin then thanked Ms. Wilson for coming and speaking and addressing her concerns to the Council.

Mr. Richard Walker addressed the Council about the update with the Eastover Ball Park. Mr. Walker said the new additions to the Eastover Ball Park looks great but he has some suggestions that he would like to be added. Mr. Walker recommended getting canopy's for the parents to watch their kids play on the fields. Mr. Walker also recommended having doggie stations set up around the walking trail and also to have Parks and Rec to redo the mulch and boarder around the playground to help with appearance.

Mr. Walker gave advice about the sod that was going to be installed by the Cumberland County Parks and Rec's for the new soccer field. Mr. Walker said from previous experience with the sod that was installed in the ball fields, please ask Parks and Rec's what type of sod that is going to be installed. The previous sod that was installed caused several issues. Mr. Walker also advised the Council to get the irrigation system hardwired because it would be beneficial for the long term.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe asked Mr. Walker how much were the previous canopy's that was purchased for the Ball Park. Mr. Walker responded that he wasn't sure the exact amount but thinks they were around \$4,000.00.

Council Member Stan Crumpler asked if they have received any feedback on the new additions to the parks. Mr. Walker responded by saying that people love the new additions and are getting great use out of them.

Mayor McLaurin then asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns. There were none. Mayor McLaurin then thanked Mr. Walker for coming and addressing his concerns to the Council.

V. Randy Wise-Baywood Road Closure

Mayor McLaurin recognized Mr. Randy Wise a representative from the Department of Transportation but works for a private company. Mr. Wise approached the podium along with Jason Salisbury who is an employee with Department of Transportation and Michael Alford, Engineer from S.T. Wooten Corporation.

Mr. Wise, Mr. Salisbury and Mr. Alford gave the Council an update about the current construction going along the I95 and the construction for the closure of Baywood Road. The construction for the I95 will be widened so that there will be 4 lanes on each side to help with the flow of traffic. The bid for the project is \$45 million which consists of 14 bridges, 8 culverts, and 6 roundabouts. The roundabouts are used to help with traffic and they are cheaper than putting in a traffic signal.

Mr. Salisbury stated that for right of way issues a brand new bridge would not be feasible. In some cases the purchase someone's property would be necessary to make the road shift, but in this case it didn't make sense to do that. Mr. Salisbury replied that it would take 270 calendar days before it would be reopened.

Mr. Salisbury informed the Council that they will be building a bridge with a pipe to allow water flow from Dunn Road. The Bridge will be placed just past Murphy Road. Murphy Road will be closed but the new bridge will already be built making that the detour route. This bridge really came to the attention of DOT during the last two hurricanes both Florence and Matthew due to the significant flooding that they caused to the roads.

Mr. Salisbury stated that you have to have a high speed exit off I95 onto I295 and currently that doesn't exist. Therefore they are building another bridge to be able to be in compliance. In order to classify it as an interstate it has to have a high speed loop. They are constructing the high speed loop.

Mr. Salisbury informed the Council that if there were any questions in the future they would be glad to answer them and will give Mr. Ronald Autry, Interim Town Administrator their information.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the February 9, 2021 Town Council Meeting.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Minutes for the February 9, 2021 Planning Session Minutes.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Minutes for the March 9, 2021 Town Council Meeting Minutes.**

4. Consider approval of the March 9, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.

5. Consider approval of the January 2021 Financial Reports.

6. Consider approval of the February 2021 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 Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VII. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Covid-19 Policy

Mayor McLaurin recognized Interim Town Administrator, Mr. Ronald Autry. Mr. Autry stated that due to recent events, it would be beneficial for the Town to have a Covid-19 Policy in place.

Mayor McLaurin then asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the COVID-19 Policy. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the COVID-19 Policy. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #2:

Commercial Core Overlay District-Additional Businesses

Mayor McLaurin recognized Council Member Stan Crumpler. Council Member Crumpler stated that there needs to be an updated version of the Commercial Core Overlay District. Mr. Crumpler said that he has done some updating himself and would like to discuss some changes made and future changes that need to be made.

The Council discussed some changes to the proposed Commercial Core Overlay District and concluded to table this item for modifications.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to table the Commercial Core Overlay District additional businesses. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to table the

Commercial Core Overlay District-additional businesses. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #3:

Consider Renting the Community Building

Mayor McLaurin recognized Interim Town Administrator Mr. Ronald Autry. Mr. Autry stated that we have had numerous calls about renting the community building and due to the governor lifting the gatherings to up to 50 people indoors and 100 people outside it would be great to start receiving that revenue again. May 1st was the discussed date to start potentially renting the building.

There were concerns about the clean up after a scheduled event and how the Town could not be held accountable for someone contracting COVID-19.

Attorney Tim Smith said he could put a paragraph at the bottom of the contract simply stating that the Town would not be responsible if a party were to acquire COVID-19 after an event. After a brief discussion the Mayor asked for a motion.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or disapprove Renting the Community Building. Council Member Brian Pearce made a motion to approve renting the Community Building starting May 1st, 2021. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #4

Lights for the Eastover Ball Park

Mayor McLaurin recognized Interim Town Administrator, Mr. Ronald Autry. Mr. Autry stated that he talked with Duke Energy about removing the old lights and replacing them with LED Lights at no charge.

Mr. Autry also stated that he received a quote about putting lights around the pickle ball court, splash pad area the parking at the Splash Pad. Seven lights would be placed around pickle ball court and splash pad area, with an additional two lights around the splash pad parking lot. Those lights would run about \$180.00 more a month on the light bill. There would be a one-time fee of \$5,017.23 to install underground wires, which would be able to connect for future expansion to new areas. There was a discussion amongst the Council.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or disapprove lights for the Eastover Ball Park. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the lights for the Eastover Ball Park as stated. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #5

Cost for removing silt fence from the Walking Trail and fine grading

Mayor McLaurin recognized Interim Town Administrator Mr. Ronald Autry. Mr. Autry stated that we received two bids to remove the silt fence, one from Godwin Farms Erosion Control at \$14,260.00, and the other from Miller Lawn at \$19,660.00.

Mayor McLaurin asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns. There were none.

Mayor McLaurin then asked for a motion to approve or disapprove a company to do the removal of the silt from the walking trail and fine grading. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve Godwin Farms Erosion Control for removing the silt fence at the price of \$14,260.00 and to allow them to perform the fine grading. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VIII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE.

- Acquire about ordering parking signs for the Ball Park.
- The back parking lot at the Eastover Ball Park is retaining water and starting to crack it needs some work.

IX. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- Need to arrange a meeting with Ball Park Association to show master plan.
- Arrange meeting with Gibson and Ball Park Committee to do walk around.

X. RECEIVE TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE:

- The County did pay for the Bridge at the Ball Park.
- Nichols Building in Fayetteville received the lowest bid for the shelter; however they wouldn't be able to get it here until October. We are working on trying to receive it sooner.
- There needs to be a Stage Foundation for completion for this year's budget. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve getting the Foundation base for the stage installed. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Brian Pierce. The vote was unanimous for approval.

XI. Closed Session In accordance with the GS 143-317.11(a)(3)-Attorney Client Privilege

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Cheryl Hudson 2nd the motion. 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 Lawrence Buffaloe 9:13 p.m. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Brian Pierce. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, Town Clerk
Elizabeth S. Bass