

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Eastover Community Center**

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

MINUTES OF MEETING – March 14, 2023

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Bruce R. Sykes, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the March 14, 2023, Eastover Town Council Meeting. Council Members Cheryl C. Hudson and C. Brian Pearce were absent from the meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also, in attendance were Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the March 14, 2023, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Charles McLaurin gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the agenda as stated. Council Member Kimberly McPhail made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NONE.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2023. See Exhibit A.**
2. **Consider approval of the Special Town Council Meeting for March 7, 2023. See Exhibit B.**
3. **Consider approval of the January 2023 Financial Reports. See Exhibit C.**

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 Lawrence Buffaloe 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.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Delores Taylor, Director and Devon Newton, Community Services Manager of the Cumberland County Community Development Department

Ms. Devon Newton, Community Services Manager, stated that the Community Development Department is responsible for the administration of Federal, State and local grant funding to develop and implement housing and community development programs for the County. The Department provides services to the citizens of Cumberland County that will improve their quality of life by:

- Offering opportunities for decent, safe, and affordable housing;
- Developing programs that will improve accessibility to and effectiveness of public and human service programs; and
- Expanding economic development opportunities.

Ms. Newton stated that there are three grants that the Community Development Department has:

Entitlement Grants:

1. Community Development Block Grant
 - Projects/Activities must meet one of the following **National Objectives:**
 - Principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons;
 - Aid in the elimination of slum and blight; or
 - Meet an urgent need

2. HOME

- Projects/Activities must meet one of the following **National Objectives:**
- Principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons;
- Aid in the elimination of slum and blight; or
- Meet an urgent need

Competitive Grant:

3. Continuum of Care

- Funding for our Coordinated Entry System
- Funding to provide **transitional and permanent housing** for homeless persons.

In addition to the grant programs there is also several housing programs available, for example: housing rehabilitation, rental rehabilitation, homebuyers, affordable housing development. The Community Development also has public service programs, homeless programs, fair housing, and citizen participation meetings.

After some discussion, Mayor McLaurin thanked Ms. Newton and Ms. Taylor for coming to the meeting and giving the Council a presentation.

Agenda Item #2:

Sales Tax Collection Agreement with Cumberland County

Mr. Autry stated that this is the tax collection agreement. Mr. Autry said this is the annual renewal for county to collect taxes. The new agreement will reduce the county's collection percentage from 1.5% to .75% for taxes collect before January 6th. The delinquent time will increase to 1.75% for taxes collected after January 6th. This should save \$3,628.00 for the tax year. They will charge more after the delinquency date because of the enforcement procedures.

Mayor McLaurin asked if there was any further discussion. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the Tax Collection Agreement with Cumberland County.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve the Tax Collection Agreement with Cumberland County. Council Member Kimberly McPhail 2nd the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #3:

Grass Mowing Contract

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that Cardinal Landscaping has presented the same contract as last year and there is no increase in the fee. He said the town is getting closer to establishing their own maintenance department. Renewing the contract with Cardinal is the best option for now and we will be able to discuss completing the establishment of the town's maintenance department throughout the current year.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or disapprove Cardinal Landscaping Maintenance Contract. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Cardinal Landscaping Maintenance Contract. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #4:

Budget Amendment 22-05.

Mr. Autry stated that this budget amendment is to increase the telephone and internet line item the increase is because of the 2nd phase of paying for the website and the internet at the park and several other items. This will increase the telephone/internet line item and decrease the utilities and maintenance repair line item. The budget will remain the same.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 22-05. Council Member Bruce Sykes 2nd the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #5:

Discuss Purchasing Picnic Tables and Bleachers for the Park

Mr. Autry stated that new picnic tables were to be ordered for the new shelter in May 2023. He said the current tables are 46-inch square tables. A total of 10 tables will need to be ordered for the new shelter and the total cost will be approximately \$10,000.

The pickle ball court currently has an old set of wooden bleachers. Ordering 2 new aluminum bleachers will cost approximately \$2,000.

A motion to approve the purchase of the picnic tables and the bleachers at the lowest bid possible was made by Lawrence Buffaloe. Council Member Stan Crumpler 2nd the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #6:

Discuss requestion bids for Storage Building at Eastover Community Ballpark

To put a big enough garage on the newly acquired property at the ballpark, the existing trailer will need to be moved or sold. After some discussion, Mr. Autry stated that the Council could make a motion to have him and the Town Attorney, Mr. Donald Hudson work together and follow the procedure to request bids for the trailer.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made the motion to approve the Town Administrator, Mr. Ronald Autry, and the Town Attorney, Mr. Donald Hudson to work together to follow procedure to be able to accept bid request for the existing trailer. Council Member Stan Crumpler second the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #7:

Discuss Warehouse Options

Mr. Ronald Autry asked the Council if they would be interested in hiring an architect to design a building to put on the ballpark property. Council Member Stan Crumpler stated that he would be interested in meeting with an architect to let them know what the town would like to have built. Mr. Autry said he would be contacting architects and letting them know what the Town is interested in a design build.

Agenda Item #8:

Phones for Deputy and Town Employees

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that Deputy Green's superior officer has contacted the Town to let them know that Deputy Green will need a cell phone. The officer stated that if Deputy Green was called into court and his personal phone had information on it then the court would confiscate it as evidence. By providing him with a town provided phone then he can transact business through it. The town can provide one for the Deputy or the Sheriff department will provide him with one and add it into the contract.

Mr. Autry stated that the same thing could happen to the town employees. He said that the Town Clerk and the Town Administrator uses their personal phones for town business. Mr. Autry stated that Ms. Elizabeth Bass has already been subpoenaed for a case and if her personal cell phone had been used to discuss any information about that case it could have been confiscated.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to find the best deal for three cell phones for the town deputy, town administrator, and town clerk and purchase the best option. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- East North wants a 25 mile an hour speed limit signs place on their streets as well as caution children at play signs.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to purchase the speed limit signs and the caution children at play signs for Eastover North to be placed on the two main access points into the development, Beard Road and Dunn Road. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

- April 1st is opening day at the Eastover Ballpark, there will be a parade to start off the day
- The Eastover Community watch had a great attendance. The May meeting should be attended by the Sheriff Wright.

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE.

- District 43 Representative Diane Wheatly is trying to get funds for the town. Council Member Bruce Sykes requested \$250,000 for the garage, \$100,000 drainage project, \$21,000 for license plate reader cameras, and some other items. Total requested was approximately \$440,000.00.
- The Eastover Ballpark participation numbers are up this year. Should have more teams. They plan on having more tournaments at the ballpark.
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IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE.

- Citizens are still concerned about the blue paper bags being thrown in the yard.
- The new cameras for the intersections are license plate readers. The representative stated that he would come and do a demonstration for the Council.
- The code enforcement officer has sent out regular letters and registered letters to residences after inspecting the properties. They need to respond by March 31st, and he will advise of penalties if they owner fails to reply.

Mr. Hudson asked for direction on the Eastover Vape Shop. He stated they are in violation. The Council asked Mr. Hudson to send a letter letting them know they are in violation and the Town would like to know where they are with the construction.

X. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bruce Sykes at 8:10 p.m.
The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

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