

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 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 – June 13, 2023**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Bruce R. Sykes, Cheryl C. Hudson, C. Brian Pearce, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the June 13, 2023, Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also, in attendance were Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator and Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the June 13, 2023, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Council Member, Mr. Stan Crumpler 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 Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**None.**

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2023.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Work Session Meeting Minutes for May 23, 2023.**
- 3. Consider approval of the April 2023 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 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Brian Pearce. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

**Agenda Item #1:**

**Cathy Ryals and James Davis**

Ms. Cathy Ryals stated she was the representative for the Tranquil Acres residents. She said that the whole neighborhood was concerned about a business moving there. Ms. Ryals said they have obtained Council and their Attorney said they needed to get help from the Eastover Town Council.

Town Attorney Mr. Donald Hudson informed Ms. Ryal that the Town Council can not legally get involved. He stated a federal, state, and local statute that prevents the Council from trying to interfere with this situation.

**Agenda Item #2:**

**Public Hearing: Presentation of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).**

Mayor McLaurin opened the public hearing.

Mayor McLaurin asked if anyone signed up to speak. There was no one.

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 tax rate will remain at 20.5 cents per \$100 value (collection rate at 98.5). Local Option Sales Tax will decrease in 2025 because Cumberland County will be going to Ad Valorem tax collection. When this occurs the Town of Eastover will lose approximately \$600,000.00.

Fire and Police protection, Parks and Recreation services, Street Lights, Zoning and Inspections, and Street Maintenance will continue to be provided by the Town.

The budget is balanced with \$2,170,800.00 in Revenues and \$2,170,800.00 in expenditures. Funds have also been budgeted to allow for \$200,550.00 in savings.

The Town of Eastover and the Eastover Ballpark Association received two park grants totaling \$650,000. With these grants the Town and Eastover Ballpark Association has been able to add upgrades to the Eastover Ballpark. These funds have been used for some of the following projects:

- Bathroom Facilities,
- Picnic Shelter,
- an additional soccer field (sprigged and irrigation system),
- picnic tables,
- bleachers for the Pickle Ball Courts,
- new playground equipment by the splashpad, etc.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Mayor McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the FY 2024 Budget. There were none. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the FY 2024 Budget.

Council Member Brian Pearce made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Budget Ordinance and FY 2024 Budget. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

### **Agenda Item #3:**

#### **Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2023-07**

Mr. Ronald Autry told the Council that this amendment would allow for an increase in Powell Bill and Eastover Ballpark expenses. The budget will still be balanced.

After some discussion mayor McLaurin asked if there were any questions. There were none. He then asked for a vote to approve/disapprove Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2023-07.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2023-07. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Agenda Item #4:**

**Cumberland County Sheriff's Contract for FY 2024**

Mr. Autry stated that the new contract is \$102,000.00. He said the terms and conditions are the same as last year.

After a brief discussion Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Sheriff's Contract. Council Member Kim McPhail 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Agenda Item #5:**

**S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP Contract for FY 2023**

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that the contract for audit services with S. Preston Douglas & Associates for the Fiscal Year 2023 is \$11,250.00. He stated that the Town used this firm for the FY 2022 audit and that the contract was for 3 years.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP Contract for FY 2023. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimously approved.

**VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:**

- The Town of Eastover received a Thank You note from Gary and Joy Ivey for the paving of Cory Circle.
- The Shelter at the Eastover Ballpark is in process
- The Eastover Ballpark was started in 1971 and is one of the nicest parks in the county

**VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE.**

- The Eastover Fire Department has asked for a skid to be purchased for the Town Gator so if needed a person could be transported quickly to an ambulance. The Council tabled purchasing this until the new fiscal year
- Rivermist will be playing at the Eastover Amphitheater on June 22, 2023, from 7pm-10pm. This concert is possible because of a grant received from the Fayetteville Arts Council. It will be a family friendly, alcohol free event
- The maintenance person position needs to be decided ASAP

**IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE.**

- The Eastover Ballpark Shelter is being finished today, the concrete will be started on June 14, 2023
- th playground equipment is in place, the rubber particles will be in place later this month
- Only one bid has been received for the bathrooms, 2 more is needed
- The soccer field irrigation system is in place
- Need to decide on a garage shelter for the New Ballpark property
- To complete the Pickle Ball court a bid will be sent out soon so it may be started in the Fall of 2023

**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 7:44 p.m. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Town of Eastover**

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**Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Town Clerk**  
**Elizabeth S. Bass**