

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.  
Eastover Community Center**

**x□Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Presiding.  
Council Members: □xCheryl C. Hudson, x□J. Lawrence Buffaloe,  
x□M. Stan Crumpler, x□Bruce R. Sykes, x□Kimberly F. McPhail,  
and x□Frederick A. Williams**

**MINUTES OF MEETING – February 13, 2024**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Bruce R. Sykes, Cheryl C. Hudson, Frederick A. Williams, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the February 13, 2024, Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also, in attendance were Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, and Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator, and Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the February 13, 2024, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

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

Council Member Frederick A. Williams 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 as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

***Members of the public may address the Town Council on items not listed on the printed agenda. Please state your name and address and observe the three (3) minute time limit. The total comment period will be 15 minutes or less. Citizens should sign up with the Clerk to speak prior to the start of the meeting.***

Mr. Danny Matthews, President of the Board for Eastover Fire Department.

Mr. Danny Matthews stated that the fire department would like the town to increase the fire tax by .05 cents. He stated that the fire department can no longer deliver the service they have been providing at the current rate. Mr. Matthews stated that the number of fire and

rescue calls has increased dramatically. He said that the department had increased the ISO rating which helps residents lower their insurance rate.

The Council thanked Mr. Matthews and told him they would discuss the matter at a later date.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2023.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2023.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Work Session Meeting Minutes on January 4, 2024.**
- 4. Consider approval of the November 2023 Financial Reports.**
- 5. Consider approval of the December 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 Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kimberly McPhail. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

**Agenda Item #1: (Virtual)**

**Fiscal Year 2023 Audit: Lee Grissom, CPA, CFE, CISA, Partner, S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP**

Mr. Lee Grissom told the Council that the FY 2023 Audit was a clean audit and there were positive financial trends. The only finding was segregation of duties which is normal for a staff of this size. He stated that the Town had a strong fund balance, is very conservative, and is in good financial order.

Mr. Grissom said the total fund balance for FY 2023 is \$8,561,139.00, \$440,405.00 is restricted funds. He stated that the town has \$118,022.00 in long-term debt. The property collection percentage for FY 2023 is 99.24%.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Agenda Item #2:**

**Cumberland County Community Development**

Devon Newton, Community Services Manager, Community Development Department, spoke to the Council about several programs, the Urban County Designation, and the upcoming Annual Action Plan for feedback from the community. She stated that Cumberland County Community Development administers federal, state, and local grant funding to develop and implement housing and community development programs for the County. They provide services to the citizens of Cumberland County that will improve their quality of life by:

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

**Agenda Item #3:**

**Public Hearing Concerning Annexation**

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to recuse Council Member Cheryl Hudson for the Public Hearing. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 for recusal.

Mayor Charles McLaurin opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that the town clerk has certified the sufficiency of the petition for annexation and this public hearing was advertised on January 31, 2024.

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked if anyone signed up to speak. No one had signed up to speak.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Stan Crumpler seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 for approval.

**Agenda Item #4:**

**Ordinance to extend the Corporate Limits of the Town of Eastover, North Carolina**

After a short discussion Mayor McLaurin asked for a vote on the Ordinance to extend the corporate limits for the annexation. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Ordinance to extend the Corporate Limits of the Town of Eastover. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 for approval.

**Agenda Item #5:**

**Budget Amendment 2024-02**

Budget Amendment 2024-02 will correct the following expenditure accounts:

- Dues & Subscription
- Miscellaneous
- Dept. Materials & Supplies

The budget will remain in balance.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2024-02. Council Member Cheryl Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Agenda Item #6:**

**Radar Quotes**

Mr. Ronald Autry gave the Council several quotes he had received for radar signs. The Council discussed several options and decided to use the radar signs from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. There is no cost to use these, and they can be placed in several locations.

**Agenda Item #7:**

**Ordinance to regulate Commercial Solicitation & Distribution of Advertisements, Handbills, & Flyers**

Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, stated that the ordinance states everything they discussed but the Council needs to vote on a penalty amount. After some discussion, Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve a penalty amount of \$100 or less. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Council member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the ordinance to regulate commercial solicitation & distribution of advertisement, handbills, & flyers with the \$100 or less penalty. Council Member Stan Crumpler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

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

- Walt Brinker should be recognized by the Town for his community service
- North Carolina is projected to move to 7<sup>th</sup> in population
- Town needs to investigate continuous annexation of Middle Road, Rock Hill Road, Dobbin Holmes Road, Etc.
- Need to schedule a planning meeting for February

**VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Organization (FAMPO) stated that exit 71 to I295 should be completed in the Fall of 2024. I295 to Exit 55 should be completed December 2025. The bridge on Murphy Road should be completed in the fall of 2024. Rockhill Road and Dunn Road construction should be completed in October 2024.
- A motion to accept a bid for a John Deere aerator was made by Council Member Bruce Sykes. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.
- Concerts have been scheduled to May, June, and July of 2024

**IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:**

- Ballpark Updates:
  1. Bathrooms have been painted
  2. Waiting on the metal roof
  3. Concrete will be poured 2-14-24
  4. Pickle Ball addition: concrete will be poured in March 2024 and coating in May 2024
- Waiting on design plans for the overflow parking lot
- License plate reader camera has been moved
- Parking Bollards are in the office and will be installed Thursday February 15, 2024, then the painting will be started
- The \$450,000 grant has been received
- Need to design a 15 ft awning for the amphitheater
- Need to look at expenditures for ARP funds

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

A motion for closed session was made by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Council Member Bruce Sykes made a motion to have Council Member Stan Crumpler to interview bands, set dates, and sign contracts up to \$8,000 per band with the requirement to notify the Mayor and Council Members. Council Member Kim McPhail seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

**XI. 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 9:26 p.m. The motion was second 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**