

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 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 Frederick A. Williams**

MINUTES OF MEETING – May 14, 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 May 14, 2024, 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 May 14, 2024, 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 Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the agenda as presented. Council Member Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. 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.

Ms. Nicole Vargo, Baywood Road and Ms. Debbie Deal Moody, Altitude Drive signed up to speak.

Mrs. Nicole Vargo asked the Town Council to give her some possible dates/venues to have a small Heritage Day/farmers market for the fall of 2024. She stated she is in the process of starting a committee for this event. She said she has already spoken with Eastover Civic Club concerning reactivation of Heritage Day in 2025. After some discussion the Council told her that October would probably be a good time to plan this event. The Council informed Ms. Vargo that getting the surrounding churches, businesses, and organizations involved would help too. Ms. Vargo thanked the Council for their input and stated she would be working on getting everyone involved.

Ms. Debbie Deal Moody stated she has been a long-time resident in the Town of Eastover. She said she would like the Council to get more involved in residential trash clean up. She stated that there are certain areas that need immediate attention. She said there are lots of residential yards with trash and trash on the side of the roads. Ms. Moody said this is a real concern because of diseases and other matters.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2024.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Minutes for April 9, 2024.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Work Session Minutes for April 22, 2024.**
- 4. Consider approval of the March 2024 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 Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Daniel Maffia-Animal Ordinance concerning goats

Mr. Daniel Maffia stated that he lived on Emerywood Drive and the neighbor next to him owns two goats. He stated that the Cumberland County Ordinance states that no goat should be stabled or housed within 100 feet of any dwelling, house, school, church, or eating establishment within the corporate limits of any municipality. Mr. Maffia said the goats are within 100 feet of his residence and the owner's residence. He stated the goats were a nuisance and he did not want the ordinance amended and would like the goats to be rehomed.

Agenda Item #2:

FY 25 Budget Discussion

Mr. Autry stated that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025 contains the \$0.05 increase to fire tax. The proposed ad valorem tax revenue is calculated at \$357,000,000 with a tax rate of \$0.255 per \$100 value (collection rate of 99%). Local option sales tax is increased due to continued strong sales.

He stated the four primary sources of the town's revenues are property tax (35.5%), local option sales tax (37.5%), utility franchise tax (6%), fund balance appropriated (14%), and Powell bill funds (4%). These five total up to \$2,420,000 of the \$2,535,150 budget.

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

A public hearing will be held at the next town council meeting, June 11, 2024, for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- Received good feedback about the concert that was held on May 11, 2024. Thanked everyone who helped.
- Need make plans to have a movie night
- Would like to have an event in the Fall of 2024 and include Eastover Civic Club, Eastover Fire Department, Eastover Ballpark Association, and local businesses.

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- Need the sidewalk/walkway paved so people with disabilities are able to get to and from the amphitheater
- Need golf carts/gator for next concert

IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

- The flags for the streetlights need to be replaced. Would like to order banners
- The fencing is complete around the pickleball courts, the coating has been completed and the stripping will be completed as soon as possible
- Parks and rec will install basketball goals. Need to order 2 benches for players to sit on. lights for the court would cost \$38,000.00.
- Need to order 8 trash cans, \$480.00 apiece and need 8 lids for the existing trash cans.
- On May 27th the underbrush will be cut at the ballpark.
- Contractor is talking to engineers about the maintenance building
- The fence is being installed on the new property
- Need no parking signs on new Ballpark property to stop people from parking on the sidewalk
- Waiting on pricing for the shades at the pickleball court

Sargent Ross Green:

- The relaunch of community watch was successful. Gun Safety will be addressed at the June 10th meeting. Cumberland County Sheriff's office attorney will attend a meeting and SVU is expected to attend a meeting.
- The contractor for the Murphy Road bridge stated that it should be open in 2 months, but the exit ramps will not be available.
- There is a significant traffic issue on Baywood/Dunn Road and Pembroke/Dunn Road.
- Need to get parking ideas for the July 13 concert, a lot of people are expected to attend and parking/traffic control will be an issue

X. Closed Session

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

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 8:52 p.m. The motion was second by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

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