

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 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, Bruce R. Sykes, **x** Kimberly F. McPhail,
and **x** Frederick A. Williams

MINUTES OF MEETING – February 11, 2025

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Frederick A. Williams, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the February 11, 2025, Eastover Town Council Meeting. Council Members Cheryl C. Hudson and Bruce R. Sykes 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, and Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the February 11, 2025, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the agenda as presented. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was 5-0 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, Eastover Fire Department Board of Directors.

Mr. Danny Matthews informed the Council that the Eastover Fire Department had sixty-six calls in January, EMS responded to twenty-three of those calls. There were two structure fires and both were abandoned buildings.

Mr. Matthews stated that the Eastover Fire Department Chief, Mr. Scott McKenzie Sr., won tickets to this years, FDIC (Fire Department International Conference). He will be attending this conference on April 9, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2025.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Minutes for January 14, 2025.**
- 3. Consider approval of the December 2024 Financial Reports.**

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Consent Agenda. There were none. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the Consent Agenda as stated.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Cumberland County Community Development-Input for 5-Year Consolidated Plan

Mr. Tye Vaught, Chief of Staff / Interim Community Development Director stated that Cumberland County Community Development is seeking input from residents and agencies to gather input for the comprehensive Consolidated Plan (5-Year Strategic Plan) as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The current plan ends June 30, 2025.

The Consolidated Plan requires broad input and consultation with other public and private agencies that provide housing, health services and social services during the preparation of the

plan. Input from agencies that serve low, very low- and moderate-income citizens is especially important. The plan will address a variety of housing and non-housing community development needs, including affordable housing, adequate infrastructure, economic development, and special needs such as homelessness. Funding will be available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) Programs.

Community Development welcomes feedback from agencies and residents to help determine the needs of the community and establish priorities for addressing identified needs. The deadline for submitting feedback is March 7, 2025, at 5 p.m.

Agenda Item #2:

Mid Carolina Delegates

During its meeting on January 23, 2025, the Mid-Carolina Board of Directors took action to establish/re-establish a Board of Delegates for the Council. Understanding that our region's success depends on strong collaboration among all of our member governments, the Board of Directors wants to foster more opportunities for elected officials from across the region to engage with each other, share best practices, network, and collaboratively identify strategies for addressing shared challenges.

The Mid-Carolina Regional Council Board of Delegates will consist of one elected official from each member government. The plan is for the Board of Delegates to meet four times per year, with the first meeting being the Council's Annual Meeting and Regional Dinner on March 27, 2025. Plans are also in place to include "partner" members from key community organizations and institutions.

Council Member Stan Crumpler nominated Council Member Frederick Williams to be the primary delegate to the Mid-Carolina Council Board of Delegates. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Council Member Kim McPhail nominated Mayor Charles McLaurin as alternate delegate to the Mid-Carolina Council Board of Delegates. Council Member Stan Crumpler seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 approval.

Agenda Item #3

Widen entrance to park

Mr. Ronald Autry stated the current fence gate at the Eastover Ballpark is 16 ft wide. He stated that widening the entrance gate to 18 ft would allow two cars to pass through at the same time.

After some discussion Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to move forward with widening of the entrance gate. Council Member Kim McPhail seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #4:

Award contract for base & concrete slab for maintenance building

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that the maintenance building will be completed in three phases. The first phase is to pour the concrete slab (50 X 85) for the base of the maintenance building. He stated he has a quote of \$137,800.35 for the concrete base. This quote includes everything needed to get the building set up.

The second phase will be putting the metal building up. This will include the doors, electricity, and plumbing.

The third phase will be completing the parking area.

Council member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve Phase 1 quote from Haywood Builders for \$137,800.35. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval of Phase 1 of the maintenance building.

Agenda Item #5:

Budget Amendment 2025-02

Mr. Autry stated that the electricity for the storage building behind the Town Hall was not included in the budget. This caused a shortage in the Maint/Repair Bldg./Grounds account. To correct the shortage, he would like to move \$13,500.00 from Appropriation to Fund Balance to the Maint/Repair Bldg./Grounds account.

After some discussion, Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2025-02. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 for approval.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- July 26, 2027, will be the Town of Eastover's 20th year of being incorporated. Mayor McLaurin is asking all to plan to have a big celebration. He would like to get all the local churches, civic clubs, businesses, and groups involved.

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- None

IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

- Destiny Drive is at a standstill right now. There are currently two residents claiming they own the road. Mr. Autry is in the process of working with Town Attorney, Mr. Donald Hudson, to get the correct information.
- Mt. Zion Lane needs to be repaired. The School Board is proposing to pave their portion of the road, and the Town will need to repair the portion that they own. There are three potholes that will immediately be repaired.
- The playground equipment has not been installed because of the weather conditions. Two additional springers were ordered to help spend the rest of the \$200,000.00 NC Park Grant Funds.

X. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe at 7:41 p.m. The motion was second by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote 5-0 for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, Town Clerk
Elizabeth S. Bass