

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 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,
x☐ Frederick A. Williams, , x☐ Lisa Sessoms-Lewis, and, x☐ E. Wayne Beard**

MINUTES OF MEETING – December 9, 2025

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Cheryl C. Hudson, Frederick A. Williams, Bruce R. Sykes, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the December 9, 2025, Eastover Town Council Meeting. New Council Members, Wayne Beard and Lisa Sessoms-Lewis were additionally present. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also, in attendance were Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator, Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, and Ms. Elizabeth Bass, Town Clerk.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin called the December 9, 2025, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Bruce Sykes gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Presentation and Appreciation

Mayor Charles McLaurin recognized Council Members Cheryl Hudson and Lawrence Buffaloe for their service and commitment over the last 18 years to the Town of Eastover as Council Members. He also stated that they were part of the committee that started the process to incorporate the Town of Eastover.

Mayor McLaurin asked Ms. Gail Nazarchyk, her sons, and her grandchildren to come up and be presented with a plaque in memory of Mr. C. Kim Nazarchyk, the former Town Manager. He stated the picnic tables under the new shelter at the Eastover Ballpark were donated to the memory of Mr. C. Kim Nazarchyk and they would have a plaque on each table in honor of his memory. The new building at the ballpark will hold a plaque in his memory. Mayor McLaurin stated that Mr. Nazarchyk was the best Town Manager and he is deeply missed.

IV. OATH OF OFFICE.

Mayor and New Council Members.

- **Oath administered to Mayor Charles McLaurin & Council Members Bruce Sykes, Kim McPhail, New: Wayne Beard, Lisa Sessoms-Lewis**

Ms. Elizabeth Bass, Town Clerk, asked Mayor Charles G. McLaurin and the First Lady of the Town of Eastover, Ms. Shirley G. McLaurin, to step up to the podium. Ms. Shirley McLaurin held the Bible while Ms. Elizabeth Bass administered the oath of office to Mayor McLaurin.

Mayor McLaurin then administered the Oath of Office for each Council Member: Lisa Sessoms-Lewis, Wayne Beard, Kimberly McPhail, and Bruce Sykes. New Council Members Wayne Beard and Lisa Sessoms-Lewis took their respective seats on the Council.

V. NOMINATIONS.

Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor McLaurin asked for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor McLaurin then made a motion to nominate Council Member Stan Crumpler as Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor McLaurin asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Council member Bruce Sykes made a motion to nominate Council Member Stan Crumpler as Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Lisa Lewis-Sessoms seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the agenda as presented. Council Member Kim McPhail made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VII. 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. Peter Pappas speaking on behalf of the Interbasin Water Transfer and Mr. Al Wheatley, legislative assistant to Ms. Diane Wheatley from the House of Representatives, signed up to speak.

Mr. Peter Pappas stated that the proposed Interbasin Transfer would remove up to 6.17 million gallons of water a day from the Cape Fear River. After treating the wastewater, returning it to the Neuse River Basin would divert water from downstream communities,

including Fayetteville. He stated this could affect economic development, increase contaminants, and decrease the amount of availability of water for other communities.

After some discussion the Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to direct the Town Attorney to draw up a resolution for the Town of Eastover to oppose the Interbasin Transfer. The motion was seconded by Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Mr. Al Wheatley stated that on behalf of Ms. Diane Wheatley, they wanted to congratulate the newly elected and the re-elected officials. He stated that they are proud to help the Town of Eastover and the Council with anything they can.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2025. See Exhibit A.**
- 2. Consider approval of the October 2025 Financial Reports. See Exhibit B.**
- 3. Consider approval of Resolution #2025-01, Eastover's 2026 Observed Holiday Dates. See Exhibit C.**
- 4. Consider approval of Resolution #2025-02, Town Council Meeting Dates for 2026. See Exhibit D.**

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 Stan Crumpler 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.

IX. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

FY 2025 Audit: Meredith G. Singletary, CPA, Senior Accountant, S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP See Exhibit E.

Ms. Meredith Singletary informed the Council that this is the fourth year S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP, have performed the annual audit. She stated the FY 2025 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. She stated that the Town had a strong fund balance, was very conservative, and was in good financial order. She said the Town of Eastover ended the year with a net position of \$14, 452,194, that is an increase from FY 2024. Liabilities were

at \$10,314,464 for the year. Ms. Singletary said that the general fund added monies to the Fund Balance. She stated that overall, it was a good audit and there were no new findings.

Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator, said that with the new tax collection the Town will lose approximately \$600,000 starting in FY 2026. He stated that because the Council is conservative and most of the projects will be completed, the loss will not be too difficult for the Town.

After some discussion, Mayor McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit. There were none. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit as presented.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

X. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- Merry Christmas
- Starting in January 2026, work will begin at Tally Woodland Park.
- The Town needs to promote commercial growth, a new restaurant would be nice
- The new maintenance building is almost complete
- Need to schedule a Work Session meeting for January 2026

XI. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- Each Council Member gave a brief reflection of the time they spent on the Council with Council Members Cheryl Hudson and Lawrence Buffloe. They thanked them for their service and told them they would be missed
- New Council members, Lisa Sessoms-Lewis and Wayne Beard were welcomed and congratulated by the existing Council Members.

XII. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

- None

XIII. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fred Williams. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, Town Clerk
Elizabeth S. Bass