

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Eastover Community Center**

**x☐Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Presiding.
Council Members: x☐Bruce R. Sykes, x☐E. Wayne Beard, x☐Kimberly F.
McPhail, x☐Frederick A. Williams, x☐M. Stan Crumpler, and
x☐Lisa Sessoms-Lewis**

MINUTES OF MEETING – June 9, 2026

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, Frederick A. Williams, M. Stan Crumpler, Lisa Sessoms-Lewis, Bruce R. Sykes, and E. Wayne Beard attended the June 9, 2026, Eastover Town Council Meeting. 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 June 9, 2026, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the agenda. Council Member Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

Ms. Debbie Moody, resident, Town of Eastover, and Mr. Danny Matthews, President, Eastover Fire Department Board.

Ms. Debbie Moody, informed the Council that the town needed to adopt, enforce, and staff ordinances. She distributed a list of issues that are within the town limits to each Council Member. Ms. Moody said she would like everyone to remember the acronym H.I.S.S. (hear it, smell, see). She thanked the Council for their time and attention to this matter.

Mr. Danny Matthews stated that the Eastover Fire Department hosted a movie in the park and a “touch a truck” event on June 6th. Eastover Fire Chief, Ricky Kennedy plans on having a “Back to School” event in August.

Mr. Matthews stated that the fire department received approx. 90 calls for the month of May. He informed the Council that next Saturday the Fire Department will be canvassing neighborhoods to give and install smoke detectors. He said the Board is meeting on the first Thursday of July and will be nominating two people for the board seats.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2026.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Work Session Minutes for May 26, 2026.**
- 3. Consider approval of the April 2026 Financial Reports.**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Consent Agenda. There were none. Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Syke. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Public Hearing: FY 2027 Budget

Mr. Ronald Autry informed the Council of the following:

- The Town of Eastover contracts with the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office for a designated deputy from 8:00AM – 5:00PM, Monday through Friday. Coverage for remaining hours is provided by the deputies on routine patrol for this part of the county. Funds have been budgeted to hire additional deputies for the Town as needed for special events and dual coverage is funded during the month of December.
- Parks & Recreation: The Town owns a forty-acre facility (Eastover Community Park), which a portion is leased to the Eastover Community Parks Association,

Inc (ECPA). The Town has an agreement with the City of Fayetteville for the Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department (FCPR) to manage the recreational programs (baseball –soccer- football) at the Eastover Community Park if contract is renewed for FY2026-2027.

- **Ad Valorem Taxes:**

The Town of Eastover Tax rate will be \$0.23 per \$100 valuation and distributed as follows: the Town of Eastover will receive 26.1% of all Ad Valorem Taxes collected for the coming year. The remainder will be distributed as follows: 51% to the Eastover Fire Department, \$ 500.00 to the County Special Fire Chief's Fund and 1.16% to the Eastover Fire Dept. Heavy Rescue, 21.74% to Fayetteville/Cumberland Parks & Recreation, if new contract is signed.

Revenues:

- Taxes Current Year (10-301-00) is based on a 98.9% collection ratio of the \$570,000,000 (Assessed) value of Personal, Real, and Public Service properties within the Town limits.
- Local Option Sales Tax (10-345-00) will provide the major revenue for Town operations, along with the N.C. Franchise Tax (10-337-00).
- \$200,000 appropriated from Fund Balance to assist in the construction of a Multi-Purpose Building at Eastover Community Park.

Expenditures:

- Cost of Living Adjustment for Town Clerk
- Appropriations to Fund Balance (10-420-90) are approximately 9.7 % of Proposed Budget.
- Police Department (10-510-00) contains additional funding for extra deputy coverage, with mileage, if warranted.

Mr. Autry stated the 2026 - 2027 General Fund Budget is balanced in the amount of \$2,494,750. Current Year Taxes (10-301-00) are based on a 98.9 % collection rate of \$0.23 per \$100.00 of value.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to adopt or not adopt Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or deny the fiscal Year 2027 Budget Ordinance. Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis made a motion to approve Fiscal Yer 2027 Budget Ordinance. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #2:

McGeachy, Hudson, and Zuravel Attorney Contract, FY 2027

Mr. Hudson told the Council that the contract for FY 2027 has increased \$100.00. The cost for retainer per month would be \$600.00 a month. All other items will remain the same as the FY 2026 contract.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the McGeachy, Hudson, and Zuravel Attorney Contract for FY 2027. Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #3:

Cumberland County Sheriff's Contract FY 2027

Mr. Autry said the new Cumberland County Sheriff's Contract has increased \$4,000.00 for FY 2027. All other items remain the same as the FY 2026 contract.

Council Member Fred Williams made motion to approve the Cumberland County Sheriff's Contract for FY 2027. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kim McPhail. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #4:

Cumberland-Hoke Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Cumberland-Hoke Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the Town of Eastover to assign Cumberland County Emergency Management with the responsibility, authority, and the means to:

- (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
- (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map and identify floodplain areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain areas in order to prevent exacerbation of existing hazard impacts.

Appoints Cumberland County Emergency Management to assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and every five years as specified in the Plan to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Hoke Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- Community Watch is meeting every month on the second Monday of each month.
- The gazebo in Talley Woodland Park will be replaced. The Town is in the process of removing the old gazebo.

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- The recording equipment for the Town needs to be replaced. The Town has spoken to Mr. Philip Russ and should have a quote for new equipment by June 16th.

IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

- Cumberland County Planning and Inspections received a request for an exemption at 3530 Beard Road, separating two parcels of land. The Council directed Mr. Ronald Autry to agree to the exemption and sign off on the plat.

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

A motion to go into closed session was made by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

The Council returned to regular session.

Council Member Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve an ordinance to prohibit Commercial Parties (any party the charges admission or payment) in residential areas with the following fines:

- First violation will be a fine of \$500.00.
- Second violation will be a fine of \$1,000.00.

Council Member Kim McPhail seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

XI. 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: _____,
Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk