

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Eastover Community Center**

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

MINUTES OF MEETING – July 14, 2026

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Frederick A. Williams, M. Stan Crumpler, Lisa Sessoms-Lewis, Bruce R. Sykes, and E. Wayne Beard attended the July 14, 2026, Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Council Member Kimberly McPhail was absent from the meeting; however, she provided a written waiver of notice prior to the July 14, 2026, 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 July 14, 2026, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the agenda. Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was 6-0 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.

Representative, Diane Wheatley, Senator Tom McGinnis and Sheriff Morgan spoke to the Council and residents about the registered sex offenders living in the old nursing home. Ms. Jeanene Ackles, Ms. Christi Davis, Ms. Jeannie Dees, Ms. Elexia Gonzalez, Mr. Anthony Webster, Mr. Jim Swann, Ms. Jessica Small, Mr. Lawrence Bufflaoe, and Mr. Alan Nazarchyk signed up to speak against the data center. Mr. Wayne Turnmire signed up to speak about the

nursing home and Mr. Ethan Fowler signed up to speak about the accessibility of the Town Council Meetings online.

Representative Diane Wheatley and Senator Tom McGinnis informed the Council and residents they are limited as to what they can do but will do whatever necessary to help with this matter. They stated they would go back to Raleigh and examine writing a bill to change the law. They will also be examining other areas to make sure the offenders are legally placed.

During the public comment period, the above listed residents spoke in opposition to the proposed data center project under consideration for the Town of Eastover. Speakers raised a range of concerns, including:

- **Environmental impact** — Residents expressed worry about potential effects on local water resources, stormwater systems, and long-term ecological health.
- **Noise and construction disruption** — Commenters noted that construction activity and ongoing operational noise could negatively affect nearby homes and rural character.
- **Energy usage** — Residents voiced concerns about the scale of electrical demand and whether it could impact reliability or future growth capacity for the town.
- **Community character** — Multiple speakers stated that a large industrial facility would be incompatible with Eastover's rural identity and long-standing land-use expectations.

Residents urged the Town Council to pause any consideration or approvals related to the project until additional information is made available and broader community input can be gathered. Several speakers requested that the Council coordinate closely with Cumberland County, given the county's ongoing review and temporary moratorium on data center development.

Mr. Turnmire asked the Council to diligently investigate the sex offenders that now live in the old nursing home. He stated his disgust and frustration with the matter. The Council informed the public that they as well as Representative Diane Wheatley, Senator Tom McGinnis, and the Cumberland County Sheriff's office are attentively working on this issue.

Sheriff Morgan stated that his deputies are well aware of the issue. They are familiarizing themselves with each offender and will track the issue as required by law. He told the community to be aware, let their kids know, remember stranger danger, and if you see something say something.

Mr. Ethan Fowler asked the Council if there was some way to have the council meetings televised or recorded where the public could view the meeting.

Mayor Charles McLaurin thanked the residents for showing up to the meeting and voicing their concerns. He stated the Town of Eastover will do whatever they can to oppose the data center. He also recognized that issue with the sex offenders and stated that Town is and will continue to investigate this issue.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2026.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Minutes for June 9, 2026.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Emergency Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2026.**
- 4. Consider approval of the May 2026 Financial Reports.**
- 5. 2021 General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies.**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Consent Agenda. There were none. Council Member Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis. The vote was 6-0 for approval.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Commercial Party Ordinance

Mr. Donald Hudson stated that the purpose of this ordinance was to prohibit the operation of commercial party events, fee-based gatherings, and large disruptive gatherings on residential property, including short-term rental properties, in order to protect neighborhood character and public safety.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or deny the Commercial Party Ordinance. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Commercial Party Ordinance. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 for approval.

Agenda Item #2:

Set Date for Public Informational Meeting

No action Taken. All matters were discussed in public comments.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- The construction of the new building at the ballpark has started

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- August 8th will be the last concert for the year. Rivermist will be the band playing.

- Pickle ball courts are being used a lot. Need to be resurfaced in some areas
- October 17th from 10am-4pm is the Eastover Fall Festival
- July 24, 2027, will be the Town of Eastover's 20th Year Celebration

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to have Attorney Hudson draft a letter to the City of Fayetteville opposing the Data Centers. Council Member Lisa Sessoms-Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 for approval.

IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

- Trusses for the New Ballpark building have been delivered, and the concrete has been poured. The building will have eight bathrooms (4 stalls in men's and 4 stalls in women's), and an open area.

Commissioner Kirk deViere addressed the Council and residents and stated there was a moratorium in place and they are still working with parks and rec on a contract.

X. 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 Lisa Sessoms-Lewis. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____,
Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk