



**TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2024, at 6:30 PM
Town Hall Office 117 S. Railroad St.**

In attendance:

Mayor Tawanda Moore (hereinafter, Mayor Moore)
Mayor Pro Tem Tammie Atkinson (hereinafter, Commissioner Atkinson)
Commissioner Gil Wheeler (hereinafter, Commissioner Wheeler)
Commissioner Zachary Mercer (hereinafter, Commissioner Mercer)
Commissioner Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)
Commissioner Bridget Wimberley (hereinafter, Commissioner Wimberley)

Also in Attendance:

Town Attorney Slade Rand (hereinafter, Slade Rand)
Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)
Public Works Supervisor Wilbur Etheridge (hereinafter Wilbur Etheridge)
Customer Service Administrator Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Melissa Younger)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the regular council meeting to order on February 13, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Invocation: Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson

Pledge Of Allegiance: Mayor Moore

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the February 13, 2024 council meeting and to add acceptance of the Annual Tax Resolution to the agenda. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve January 23, 2023 regular council meeting minutes. Commissioner Mercer made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Hearings/Comments: Mayor Moore opened the floor for public comments

Carla Stutts asked why she was removed from the agenda. She also asked why her sidewalk had not been fixed after numerous requests, but Mr. Mercer's has been. She feels it is because he is on the Board of Commissioners.

Teresa Summerlin wanted to follow-up with some of the questions she had from the previous meeting. She had reached out to the Sheriff Dept and was told that there was an outstanding invoice. She asked why the Town of Elm City didn't want to continue direct patrol. She would like answers and feels the citizens deserve them.

Gene Wells spoke about a letter he received from Zoning Officer Lucas concerning a car that has been parked on his property for 6 years. He feels that there are bigger concerns than to harass him with letters.

Marsha Wells provided a handout in case she went over her time; the board would have a list of her concerns. Some of them included permanent dates for town events, keeping the Sheriff Dept, the Mayor Pro Tem position, the Methodist Church receiving a letter regarding parking at the Train Depot, requesting future town meetings be held at the Train Depot, and that any new business that is brought up be placed on agenda to discuss and next meeting.

Toni Merando expressed her gratitude for the deputy stationed in town when there was a trailer fire. The deputy was first on the scene and was able to help the resident and evacuate others to safety before the FD showed up. She would like the board to reconsider having direct patrol in town. She believes that citizens should be placed on the agenda so they can voice their concerns. She asked if the board would vote to have all future meetings held at the Train Depot; and for notices of those meetings to be posted on Facebook. She stated that she would like to see violations, regarding water issues published as soon as they are detected.

Gabe Merando spoke about the trailer fire as well and that if the deputy wasn't in town when it happened, the resident would have died. He feels that not having direct patrol puts the town in danger. He also spoke about his concerns with water issues, chemicals in the water, and the quality reports not being available immediately.

Mark Osterhout who is running for District Court Judge, wanted to introduce himself. The seat he is a candidate for covers 3 counties, Wilson, Edgecombe, and Nash County. He is a resident of Rocky Mount and is invested in the betterment of the community. He feels there is a need for qualified and experienced judges.

Patricia A. Harris spoke on behalf of her mother about a tree that has been leaning over her property. She thanked Shawn Lucas and Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson for getting the issue resolved.

R. Bryant said some of his concerns had been brought up by others before him in the session. He stated that it is not healthy to have meetings in tight quarters when we have the Train Depot.

Renee Hines feels that bills are not being processed accurately and doesn't understand why she pays such a high bill, but has to purchase bottled water because she cannot drink the water from the faucet.

Robert Dunston is concerned about the quality of the water and accuracy of the utility bills. He also asked about trees hanging over his house that need to be removed.

Joshua Robinson was thankful for clarity of speaking time. He would like to see future town meetings held at the Train Depot. He would also like to see the town hold special sessions with engineers to

educate citizens as well as give updates. He asked the status of the Sherrif Department and the contract with Elm City. He is requesting the residents help to come up with community-based things for the youth.

Presentations/Discussions: None

Action Items:

Internal Control Policy – Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the Internal Control Policy. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the Internal Control Policy. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Tax Resolution – Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the Tax Resolution Settlement for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the Tax Resolution Settlement for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Town Staff Reports: None

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Commissioner Mercer's only concern was an update about Spivey Park and that was covered in the Town Administrators report.

Commissioner Bridgers is still working on getting Greenlight to expand in Elm City.

Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to hold all future town meetings at the Train Depot. Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** He then presented the board with three (3) estimates to have trees taken down at Cedar Grove Cemetery. He would like to use the revenue from selling plots to pay for the tree services. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to go with Pit Tree Services, which was the lesser of the three (3) at \$4,200 to have the work done. Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** Commissioner Wheeler spoke about a resident on W Wilson St that was fined by the town for taking down a shed. Zoning Officer Lucas stated that the resident didn't go through Wilson County to get approval to complete the work. Commissioner Wheeler asked if there was any way that we could work with the resident, who had the intention of beautifying their property. Zoning Officer Lucas stated that he would see if he could work with the resident that received the fine. Lastly, Commissioner Wheeler expressed his concerns of buying water from Wilson and leaks around town not being fixed fast enough.

Mayor Moore read the Town Administrators report which included, IT/internet issues, an update on Spivey Park and waiting on warmer weather to continue improvements. In response to a letter being sent to the Methodist Church about parking on Train Depot property while it was rented out for events; Commissioner Mercer offered to take responsibility to communicate with the office staff and keep the

church updated on events at the Train Depot to ensure if parking for them would be available. Mayor Moore also spoke about the quotes for the carpet/tile at the library. Commissioner Wheeler stated that he has meet with three (3) people and is still waiting one (1) more. Mayor Moore spoke about grant services in the amount of \$30,000 from the NCLM that has been awarded to Elm City, and how she would like to see the land near Oh My Lard turned into a senior citizens center. She also stated that the audit process is moving along, and the town's water permit has been renewed until December 31, 2028.

Town Attorney recommended to vote on the grant services from NCLM.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the NCLM grant services for up to \$30,000. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to approve the NCLM grant services for up to \$30,000. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**