



**TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 9, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Elm City Train Depot 101 Nash St.

In attendance:

Mayor Tawanda Moore (hereinafter, Mayor Moore)
Mayor Pro Tem Tammie Atkinson (hereinafter, Commissioner Atkinson)
Commissioner Gil Wheeler (hereinafter, Commissioner Wheeler)
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)
Customer Service Administrator Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Melissa Younger)

Absent

Commissioner Zachary Mercer (hereinafter, Commissioner Mercer)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the regular council meeting to order on April 9, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Invocation: Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson

Pledge Of Allegiance: Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the April 9, 2024 council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem asked to add Mr. Mick Rankin to speak on behalf of Representative Fontenot, and the filling of the Town Administrator and Town Clerk positions within the next 30-60 days. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve March 12, 2024 regular council meeting minutes. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the March 12, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

- **Michael Winstead**, owner of Biggun's Rides LLC, located at 108 S Parker St. He invited any citizens with questions and concerns to about his business to come speak with him. His door is always open, and as a citizen himself, his interest is in the town as well.
- **Brenda Williams** a resident of Elm City for over 30 years. She shared that she was upset with the price of water and her bill being too high.
- **Toni Merando** spoke about the board voting on contracted workers, the board voting through email, and that employees, and elected officials should be bonded. She also asked for an update from the last meeting about reconnection and disconnection fees, and stated that the citizens still want the Sheriff Department back.
- **Johnny Batchlor** expressed his concern about speeding in town, as well as 4-wheelers being on main roads. He would like to see speed bumps placed in certain areas because it is dangerous.

Presentations/Discussions:

Town Engineer, Mike Tolson – Mr. Tolson came to talk about ongoing and upcoming projects around town, paperwork that is required and signatures that are needed to continue on. Those projects include:

*** Elm City VU AIA Sewer**

\$337,000 total grant funded project Viable Utility Reserve to clean, tv, and evaluate approximately 40,000 LF of existing sewer mains

*** Elm City Filters & Generators**

ARP = 1,491,815 & DWSRF = \$497,272 (Principal forgiveness) Total project (\$1,989,087)

*** Elm City S2M appropriation projects**

Cedar Ridge Lift Station Repairs

Smoke Test Related Repairs

WWTP Lagoon Dredging

*** Elm City – Lead Service Line Inventory**

\$942,000 in grant and principal forgiveness to perform the needed inventory

*** Elm City Organizational Structure Study**

\$60,000 total grant award to study the needs / organizational structure of the Town's Public Works – Water & Sewer

*** Elm City VU MRF Sewer Regionalization Study**

\$125,000 grant award to study regionalization of the sewer collection /treatment system for the Town

*** Elm City-Multiple Lift Station Rehab**

\$898,775 project funded by ARPA funds

Elm City DW-Valve and Main Replacement

\$1,734,325 project funded by ARPA funds

Mike Tolson requested that the board consider and vote to allow funds to begin the Elm City Organizational Structure Study, which would require a check in the amount of **\$900.00** to get started. He also asked the board to consider and vote to allow funds to begin the Elm City VU MRF Sewer Regionalization Study, which would require a check in the amount of **\$1,875.00** to get started.

Commissioner Bridgers made a motion for the town to accept and authorize the resolutions and proposals by Mack Gay & Associates and authorize Mayor Moore to execute documents on behalf of the town. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mick Rankin came to speak on behalf on Representative Fontenot. Representative Fontenot is a combat veteran, a teacher, a pastor of his own church, and has a proven record of success. Mr. Rankin urged citizens to vote for Mr. Fontenot in November.

Action Items:

Transfer Powell Bill Monies from Capital Management Account to General Fund – Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to transfer \$84,000 from Capital Management account back into the General Fund. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator & Town Clerk Positions – Mayor Moore asked for a motion to fill both the Town Administrator & Town Clerk positions within 30-60 days. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to fill both the Town Administrator & Town Clerk positions within 30-60 days. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Town Staff Reports:

Melissa Younger asked the board to secure the date for the Elms Fest. The two options were October 19, 2024 and October 26, 2024.

Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to secure October 26th for the date of the 2024 Elms Fest. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Younger also brought the interest of Rev. Larry Gunter using the Train Depot for his church every 3rd Sunday for worship in front of the board. The only concern was how the deposit would be done.

Mayor Moore recommended a \$600 deposit for a six-month lease with a signed contract and an option to renew after those six months were up. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to allow rental with a \$600 deposit for a six-month lease with a signed contract and an option to renew after those six months were up. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shawn Lucas stated that there will be a Planning Board Meeting April 22, 2024. They plan to discuss an ordinance for vape shops in city limits as well as the steps that need to be taken for the mural. Anything that cannot be discussed in April, will be discussed in May.

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Mayor Moore read the Town Administrators report in detail, which included, but was not limited to, a visit with Greg Isley, journal entries being updated and entered into SmartFusion, the Hometown Strong Initiative meeting at the Train Depot., and two part-time employees being hired. Mayor Moore also spoke about the mural with Wilson Arts, and some questions that Mr. Michael Russell had.

Per Zoning officer Lucas, the design of the mural would be as the discretion of the board, the town does have a sign/wall ordinance (section 10.2.14), a permit will be needed to keep on file, but because it is for the town, there will be no fee. If it was decided to paint more than 25% of the building, the ordinance would need to be redone.

Mayor Moore asked the board what percentage of the wall they would like to see done, then Zoning Officer Lucas would take it through the necessary avenues to have the ordinance redone. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion that the mural not exceed 75%. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wheeler would like to get quotes to have streets paved where there were leaks previously. He would also like to continue removing trees from Cedar Grove with the profits from selling cemetery plots. Commissioner Wheeler would like to continue using Pitt's Tree Service to do so. He also expressed his concern about the easement at Hertiage Cemetery which may hinder trucks for tree removal to access easily when and if that time comes. Commissioner Wheeler stated that the target date for the carpet to be replaced at the Elm City Library is May 21st-June 10th.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion for Commissioner Wheeler to continue with his work at Cedar Grove Cemetery and use the company he has built a relationship with for removing trees. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion for Commissioner Wheeler to continue with his work at Cedar Grove Cemetery and use the company he has built a relationship with for removing trees. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Moore asked for motion to budget monies for the upcoming year to include lawn care maintenance for Hertiage Cemetery. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to budget \$8,000-\$10,000 for the upcoming year to include lawn care maintenance for Hertiage Cemetery. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Wimberly would like to see the front of Town Hall beautified.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to allow up to \$100.00 to have someone clean out the flower beds in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to allow up to \$100.00 to have someone clean out the flower beds in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Pro Tem is in agreeance with Mr. Batchlor about speedbumps around town and is interested in looking into, and getting information on how to go about getting them.

Town Attorney Slade Rand recommended a vote to start the process for Greg Isley and Collen Callahan to have access to SmartFusion. Mayor Moore stated that they already have access. Mayor Moore asked for a motion for Greg Isley and Collen Callahan to have access to SmartFusion. Commissioner

Wimberley made a motion for Greg Isley and Collen Callahan to have access to SmartFusion. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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