



**TOWN OF ELM CITY  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 9, 2023, 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 David Greene (hereinafter, Commissioner Greene)  
Commissioner Zackery Mercer (hereinafter, Commissioner Mercer)  
Commissioner Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)

**Also in Attendance:**

Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)  
Office Assistant Ashley Bass (hereinafter, Ashley Bass)

**Call To Order:** Mayor Moore called the regular council meeting to order on May 9, 2023 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 May 9, 2023 council meeting. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve April 11, 2023 regular council meeting minutes and also May 3, 2023 special called meeting minutes. Commissioner Mercer made the motion to approve these minutes and Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

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

- A. Melvin Whitman with B Q Grills wants to take it upon himself to clean the town's ditch that aligns his property. Majority of the board had no problem with that. Mayor Moore mentioned that she doesn't want the town held liable if anyone was hurt while cleaning our ditch. Mr. Whitman assured us that the town would not be held liable. Mr. Whitman also wants to use town property as an access to his property. He is willing to do the upkeep if we allow him access. Zoning Officer Lucas made a motion that we allow Mr. Whitman to use the

town's property to gain access to his property. Commissioner Wheeler also made a motion for that as well and Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

- B. Eunice Lindsey spoke about how her ditch needs cleaning out at 203 S. Railroad St.
- C. Danyelle Howard that lives at 225 Elms Drive Apt 6B wants to put something on her land across the street from the old Johnson Chapel Church. She wanted to learn about our zoning. She is interested in putting a modular home or single wide there. Zoning Officer Lucas is getting her started with a text amendment.

#### **Presentations/Discussions:**

- A. Bekki Manning from Carolina Pump and Sewer spoke and gave update on our town. She also mentioned a public notice that needed to be mailed out by May 18<sup>th</sup>. She informed us that the records are kept on file at the old spray field. She spoke on our water usage from Wilson and says we are right on track. Commissioner Wheeler wants one figure each month instead of a chart of multiple reports. They are waiting for numbers from Finance Officer Owens for a permit renewal.
- B. DOT- Conzuela Cogdell presented a proposal for a closure at the Nash St railroad crossing. She explained the protocol for the closure. The arms are in need of being replaced. Board does not want to close crossing. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to keep Nash St crossing open. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.
- C. Zoning Officer Lucas spoke about 302 S. Parker St. Kevin Lucas is supposed to pick up the stumps for \$500 when he goes to cut the tree down. We will bill the property owner. Commissioner Wheeler suggested that we offer a payment plan idea for the owner to pay back. We will pay upfront to remove the tree and Zoning Officer Lucas will figure out a pay back plan. Commissioner Greene made a motion to accept this. Mayor Moore seconded. Vote was unanimous. Zoning Officer Lucas spoke about 602 Leo Drive and their failure to comply. He recommends administrative warrant. Zoning Officer Lucas has bid for clean-up of \$700-\$800. It was suggested to get Wilson County to go look on the inside and possibly deem it to be condemned. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion for Zoning Officer Lucas to get in touch with the county and see what can be done. Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Zoning Officer Lucas spoke about 307 N. Parker St and said he would get quotes for clean-up on this property and will have Sheriff dept on site during clean-up. It was suggested we have the county to look at this property as well. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion for Zoning Officer Lucas to check with the county and see what can be done to this property as well. Commissioner Mercer seconded it. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Action Items: (see above)**

#### **Old Business:**

- a. Ashley Bass spoke on the depot lighting. Ordered drivers are in and waiting for them to be replaced.



- b. Ashley Bass explained that Greg with GooRoo computers is going to update one of the website pages at the time and we will approve each page as we go.
- c. Ashley Bass explained that the AC at the Library has been fixed.
- d. Ashley Bass explained how Carla Stutts is concerned about the standing water at the end of her driveway when it rains. Gave the board the estimate gotten of \$1,800. Commissioner Wheeler suggested that the grass on the side of her driveway be shaved to allow the water to flow better to the drain.
- e. Ashley Bass spoke about the complaints at Cedar Grove Cemetery. She asked if we can get loads of crush and run and level out all the ruts. The board is ok with filling in the ruts. It was also mentioned about expanding the cemetery.
- f. Ashley Bass spoke about how nice the National Day of Prayer Meeting was.

#### **New Business:**

- a. Mayor Moore introduced Andrea Hinnant. Andrea went to the podium and spoke.
- b. It was mentioned about paving around town. We may be able to do all the paving on the estimate when we get all our money in the same place. It was suggested for Williams to pave it, expedite it, and get it rolling up to \$84,368.35. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to accept this. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Town Staff Reports:**

Zoning Code Enforcement: Zoning Officer Lucas gave his zoning report. He also wants to get quotes for name plates for the Planning Board.

Clerk Report: Ashley Bass spoke on how we need a Town Clerk to be able to administer cemetery deeds. New ideas were discussed by the Board for extensions. Mayor is going to check with neighboring municipalities to see what their protocol is. We are to have a receipt from the customer for any adjustments made.

#### **Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:**

Commissioner Mercer spoke about the fire safety festival wanting to know if we can block off the streets we normally do for the Elms Festival. Board was ok with that and fire dept would be responsible for everything. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to accept this. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Greene wanted a budget draft to review. Mayor Moore is supposed to email everyone with this. The finance report needs updating. Dena will update and email the updated report.

Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson spoke about the Town Clerk issue and issuing deeds. We need to update cemetery plot costs. Pro Tem Atkinson suggested to table raising the plot cost and she will do some further research and email the board.

Commissioner Wheeler wondered if we have heard anything about reconciliation for 2021-2022. He wanted to know what the outcome was from hiring the company to do schoolhouse well. Mayor Moore will call.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Mercer motioned to go into closed session. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.