



**TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 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:

Office Assistant Ashley Bass (hereinafter, Ashley Bass)
Customer Service Administrator Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Melissa Younger)
Public Works Supervisor Wilbur Etheridge (hereinafter, Wilbur Etheridge)

Absent

Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the regular council meeting to order on August 15, 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 August 15, 2023 council meeting. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve July 11, 2023 regular council meeting minutes. Commissioner Wheeler 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) Bridget Wimberly of 112 Cedar Ridge Trail, has been a citizen for 23 years. Ms. Wimberly has applied to run for a commissioner seat. She hopes to be more active and learn more about Elm City.

- b) Vonica Carr of 710 Daniel Drive, has been a citizen for 31 years. Ms. Carr is running for a commissioner's seat. Her interests include, helping seniors, the disabled and veterans.
- c) Ms. Rachael Robinson of 304 East Taylor St expressed concern about tree branches extending out to the street and drivers not being able to see children out in the street getting on school buses.

Presentations/Discussions:

- a) Neither Bekki Manning or Carla Stutts were in attendance that were on the agenda to speak.
- b) Mayor Antonio Blue of Dobbins Heights, NC joined us to speak on a several things that he has implemented during his time in office. The main thing was mounting (64) cameras around town. They have been placed at entrances and exits in town, as well as high crime areas. The Sheriff dept has access to camera feed, and that feed is up to 60 days, worth of footage. Mayor Blue also recommended allocating funds from the budget each year for the needs of the cemeteries, and holding community clean up days to assist in beautifying the town. Mayor Blue spoke of a billboard screen that is town that displays upcoming events, as well as important information that can get out to citizens quickly and efficiently. Lastly, he left us with two sentiments: "Nobody should ever feel defeated leaving Town Hall." and "Take care of the citizens and the citizens will take care of you."

Action Items:

- a) Ashley Bass & Wilbur Etheridge spoke on a situation with having the town truck fixed and not having the funds readily available to pay for the services; and having to wait for a check for payment. They recommended having a petty cash bank in the office for instances such as that.
- b) Melissa Younger spoke about getting streets signs done. There are 35 that are needed, as well as the poles and hardware to have them put up.
- c) Melissa Younger spoke about the confusion that the wording for meeting dates can cause on the Town's website, as well the inaccurate time.
- d) Melissa Younger brought up considering a discount for non-profits at the Train Depot.

Old Business:

Train Depot- Window has been fixed.

New Business:

Town Staff Reports:

Wilbur Etheridge spoke of two trucks being down and grass season coming to an end.

Andrea Hinnant discussed going through spare office and getting old documents shredded, as well as, having Mr. Donnie Price repair library window, the wood surrounding the window, the awning, benches and light pole. She also spoke about getting estimates for repairing HVAC unit (heat) for upcoming cold weather.

Melissa Younger discussed the Facebook page is now up and running. All office staff has email and password information, as well as The Elms Fest & Car Show being planned, and vendors being booked.

Ashley Bass spoke about pool adjustments and payment plans being paid off. She also spoke about playground equipment handouts and end of the month reports from Dena Owens.

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Mayor Moore asked for \$20,000-30,000 for Spivey Park, street signs and library projects. Commissioner Bridgers motioned to use ARP funds to pay for projects, Commissioner Mercer 2nd motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mercer recommended a "Clean-up my park day" for Spivey Park, in conjunction with Toisnot Fire Dept. He also spoke about the controlled burns for September, being done for training purpose by the fire dept.

Commissioner Greene recommended getting a tent with the Town's logo on it for use at the Elms Fest as well as other uses.

Commissioner Bridgers is continuing to work on getting Greenlight services into town

Commissioner Wheeler recommended raising the cost of cemetery plots to \$1,000 and putting the difference of the cost now back into the cemetery.

Commissioner Wheeler also spoke about getting the new town logo put up at the entrances in to Elm City. Mayor asked Board to vote, including this project into the ARP funds. Commissioner Bridgers motioned to use ARP funds for putting up the new logo at entrances into town, Commissioner Wheeler 2nd motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn regular council meeting and go into closed session. Commissioner Mercer motioned to adjourn regular council meeting and go into closed session, Commissioner Bridgers 2nd motion. The motion passed unanimously.