



**TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 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 Bridget Wimberley (hereinafter, Commissioner Wimberley)

Also in Attendance:

Town Attorney Slade Rand (hereinafter, Slade Rand)
Town Clerk Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Clerk Younger)
Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)
Finance Officer Tiondra Fields (hereinafter, Finance Officer Fields)

Absent:

Commissioner Vonica Carr (hereinafter, Commissioner Carr)
Commissioner Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)
Public Works Supervisor Wilbur Etheridge (hereinafter, Wilbur Etheridge)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the Regular Council Meeting to order on November 12, 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 November 12, 2024 with the adjustment of adding Dana Hill with Clear Water Solutions to Presentations & Discussions and moving the Public Comment portion to after Action Items. Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to approve the agenda for November 12, 2024 with the adjustment of adding Dana Hill to Presentations & Discussions and moving the Public Comment portion to after Action Items. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Monthly Council Meeting on October 15, 2024. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to

approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on October 15, 2024. **Commissioner Wimberley** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Moore had the honor of swearing in Tiondra Fields as Finance Officer and Melissa Younger as Town Clerk.

Presentations/Discussions:

- **Mack Gay Associates – Mike Tolson** came to provide us with an update of projects around town. He began with the AIA Sewer Study that has been taking place. There were closed circuit cameras put through over 40,000 sewer lines to survey leaks, splits, and broken pipes. Another project he discussed was the Lead Service Inventory, which consisted of checking what type of fittings were connected to the meter, by digging small holes by meters. There were roughly 10 customers that will need to be notified and have those galvanized fittings replaced. There will be discussions on how the town would like to do so. Mr. Tolson also talked about the Cedar Ridge Lift Station and the 2 million in funds that will allow the system to function properly with new pumps, motors, etc. Once approved by the state, the necessary equipment should be available within 4-6 weeks.

Commissioner Wimberley asked Mr. Tolson if it would be possible to use a portion of the 2 million dollars and put it towards digital meters. Being that the funds are for water and sewer infrastructure, it would absolutely be possible.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to allow up to 260k of the 2 million to be put towards digital meters. **Commissioner Wimberley** made a motion to allow up to 260k of the 2 million to be put towards digital meters. **Commissioner Atkinson** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Clear Water Solutions – Dana Hill** came to follow up about previous talks about bringing Clear Water to Elm City and answer any questions.

There was discussion around the table between the Mayor and Commissioners.

Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to bring Clear Water Solutions on for a year, contingent on contract/pricing approval from the LGC, if necessary. **Commissioner Atkinson** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Action Items:

- **NCLM** – Free grant services up to \$30,000 available for projects in town.

Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to accept free grants services for up to \$30,000 through the NCLM. **Commissioner Atkinson** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Mural Project** – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Melissa Younger, who contacted the Wilson Chamber of Commerce, stated their available dates were December 10th or December 12th at 11am.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to hold the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, December 12th at 11am. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to hold the Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, December 12th at 11am. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Sheriff Substation** – Painting

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to spruce up and upgrade the appearance of the substation building. Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to spruce up and upgrade the appearance of the substation building. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **HLG/SmartFusion** – Finance Officer Tiondra Fields presented figures of what is being spent on current bill mailing. The cost of \$1,411 for envelopes, \$1,335 for paper, and \$450 in bulk mailing on a monthly basis. By switching to the mailing services provided HLG/SmartFusion it would cut cost down to a one-time payment of \$589.94 and then \$439.94 thereafter monthly. The services would include printing and mailing of bills and monthly newsletter (printed out newsletter verses a QR version may cause a slight price increase).

Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to begin billing services with HLG/SmartFusion. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Hearings/Comments:

Johnny Batchlor, a resident of Elm City came to advocate for Summerlin Oil and the Fire Department. He informed us that every drop of fuel for the Fire Department is provided as a donation by Summerlin Oil.

Chief Kevin Johnson, of the Toisnot Fire Department came to speak in support of Summerlin Oil. He stated that there has been a lot said on social media and otherwise which led people to believe that the Town of Elm City would no longer be using Summerlin Oil for their fuel needs. He said he hopes that if that is the case, it would be reconsidered and that Elm City's funds would stay in town.

Mr. Braxton, Board President for the Toisnot FD, came to speak in support of Summerlin Oil. He stated that they provide life saving fuel and offer lower rates to businesses in town. He also stated that the town should continue to buy local.

Gene Wells, feels as though his wife, Marsha Wells didn't receive a fair amount of time when she spoke at October's meeting.

Marsha Wells, stated that she feels certain people and businesses have been targeted in town. She would like to know where the revenue from the tax increase will go, as well as receive the historic documents she needs to provide to the county; which she has already contacted the town about. She also expressed her dissatisfaction with the Elm Fest.

Shane Robinson, offered some suggestions as a new resident to Elm City. He feels that pouring into the staff would be a better choice than to hire an outside service, such as Clear Water Solutions. He would like to see the meeting agenda posted before the meeting. He feels it would be helpful for citizens to know what issues are being discussed ahead of time.

Gabe Merando, inquired about Summerlin Oil continuing to service the Town. He also spoke about news articles being written that are not favorable towards the town on an app named "News Break".

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Town Staff Reports:

Slade Rand presented resolutions that he would like the Mayor and the Board of Commissioner's to look over before December's meeting.

Tiondra Fields stated that she will be contracting Greg Redman to get started on the next audit.

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Commissioner Wheeler, presented quotes for Cedar Grove Cemetery's arch. One was from Isbell's Iron Works for \$9,400 and the other one was from Randy Hales was for \$4,800.

Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to accept the quote from Randy Hales for \$4,800 to repair/rebuild Cedar Grove Cemetery's arch. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment: **Mayor Moore** asked for a motion to adjourn the November 12, 2024 Regular Monthly Council Meeting. **Commissioner Wheeler** made a motion to adjourn the November 12, 2024 Regular Monthly Council Meeting. **Commissioner Atkinson** seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** Meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM.