



**TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 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 Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)
Commissioner Zachary Mercer (hereinafter, Commissioner Mercer)
Commissioner Bridget Wimberley (hereinafter, Commissioner Wimberley)

Also in Attendance:

Town Attorney Slade Rand (hereinafter, Slade Rand)
Customer Service Administrator Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Melissa Younger)

Absent

Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)
Public Works Supervisor Wilbur Etheridge (hereinafter, Wilbur Etheridge)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the regular council meeting to order on May 14, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Invocation: Mayor Moore

Pledge Of Allegiance: Mayor Moore

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the May 14, 2024 council meeting. Mayor Moore asked to add the approval of May 13, 2024 Special Called Meeting Minutes to the agenda. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, as well as both Special Called Meeting Minutes from April, 18, 2024 and May 13, 2024. Commissioner Mercer made the motion to approve the April 9, 2024 Regular Council

Meeting, as well as both Special Called Meeting Minutes from April, 18, 2024 and May 13, 2024. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Carla Stutts discussed the recent article in the Wilson Daily Times and a story on WRAL News. She also discussed Commissioner Mercer's driveway. She stated that she was misinformed about the May 2, 2024 Special Called Meeting not being open to the public, when she called the Town Office. She would like everyone to work as a team to get Elm City back where it needs to be.

Teresa Summerlin attended a recent budget meeting on March 6, 2024 and stated it was very informative. She suggested that Special Called Meeting be better advertised (Facebook), moving forward so that citizens are aware. She inquired about the Sheriff Department and renewing the contract. She stated that she would like to help in any way to bridge the gap between the Town and the Sheriff's Department.

Phylis Davis was visibly upset about a letter that she received from Shawn Lucas about her grass being high. Her husband stated that if a violation is written that there should be proof, a picture, etc. He also expressed his concern about the potholes at Cedar Grove Cemetery and the archway there as well.

Deborah Paquin spoke on behalf of her neighbor, Phylis Davis. She stated that Ms. Davis' yard is manicured beautifully and believes that the letter from the Town was sent in error. She also spoke about a missing street sign that she inquired about over two years ago that has yet to be replaced, and the tractor that is used for leaf and limb pick up leaving holes in her yard.

Susan Pittman along with Carla Stutts weeded, transplanted, and beautified the front of the Town Office. Miss Pittman asked that the flower beds be watered on a regular basis so the flowers would not die.

Presentations/Discussions:

Kendra Boyle, with the NC State Treasurer's Office came to discuss the responsibilities of the board, expectations of budgeting, and Elm City being on the unit assistance list. She shared that they offer training on their website for board members. Ms. Boyle stressed the importance of audits being done in a timely manner and how that can affect how the annual budget is done. She informed us that the Town of Elm City is in roughly 6 million dollars of debt, stemming from as far back as 2008. Some of those debts include: \$145,000 from the Division of Water Quality, a bond at 1.5 million for sewer rehabilitation, a \$2.8 million dollar bond issued for rehabilitation of the sewer system (year 2008), a loan for \$711,500 with an interest rate of 3.75%, and a loan for \$460,000 with an interest rate of 2.75%. She also mentioned that the town has \$250,000 of debt services annually, and that should be the 1st item considered when beginning the budget.

Action Items:

Budget Discussions – Pending updating current transactions, the amendment(s) were tabled for a future meeting.

Response to Late Audit - Mayor Moore stated that a letter had to be drafted in response to the late audit, and asked the commissioners for their feedback on the reasoning. The commissioners felt it was due to many reasons, some of those included: inadequacy in staff, employee turnover, inconsistency, and no onsite Town Clerk/Finance Officer. Commissioner Wheeler stated that he hasn't seen an audit contract. Kendra Boyles stated that there is no contract for the 23-24 year, but there is one for 2022. She also stated that there would need to be an amended contract due to the date not being met. An appeal would need to be made in order for the town not to be subject to losing 150% of the audit fee (\$11,500) which would then equal roughly \$17,000. Mayor Moore asked the Board's permission to address the appeal. Commissioner Mercer made a motion to allow Mayor Moore to address the appeal. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion for Attorney Rand Slade to renegotiate terms for the 2022 amended contract that is needed with the auditor (Redman). Commissioner Bridgers made a motion for Attorney Rand Slade to renegotiate terms for the 2022 amended contract that is needed with the auditor (Redman). Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Town Staff Reports: None

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Mayor Moore read Towns Administrators report in detail.

Commissioner Mercer requested a list of potholes from Public Works that need to be fixed around town.

Commissioner Wimberley is still actively working on getting a meeting with Sheriff Woodard.

Commissioner Bridgers is continuing to work on bringing Greenlight services to Elm City.

Commissioner Wheeler -

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