



**TOWN OF ELM CITY  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 24, 2024, at 6:00 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)  
Commissioner Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)

**Also in Attendance:**

Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)  
Town Clerk Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Clerk Younger)

**Absent:**

Town Attorney Slade Rand (hereinafter, Slade Rand)  
Public Works Supervisor Wilbur Etheridge (hereinafter, Wilbur Etheridge)

**Call To Order:** Mayor Moore called the Regular Council Meeting to order on September 24, 2024 at 6:00pm.

**Invocation:** Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson

**Pledge Of Allegiance:** Mayor Moore

**Approval of Agenda:** Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 24, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, with the additions of Anita Lynch, Nick Wright and Russell Michael. Commissioner Atkinson made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of Anita Lynch, Nick Wright and Russell Michael. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the August 13, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to approve the

Meeting Minutes from the August 13, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Carla Stutts** expressed her concern for the lack of transparency and management she believes the Town has. She spoke about the leak that has been present on her block for over a year and she also spoke about other leaks around town.

**Commissioner Wheeler** made a motion to have all of the leaks that the Town is aware of fixed.

**Commissioner Atkinson** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Gene Wells** stated that he was disappointed that after he spoke out about issue at a previous meeting, that he received a letter from the town about an abandoned car. He also stated that he was recently in the hospital with E Coli and believes that it is due to the water quality in Elm City.

**Marsha Wells** listed many concerns, some of them included water quality, leaks, revitalization, events in town, new businesses, the open commissioner's seat, and having different people pray at meetings.

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

**Anita Lynch** with the organization, Road 2 Recovery, came to talk about a new local reentry council that assists citizens returning from incarceration with employment, housing, transpiration, education, and other resources.

**Nick Wright** came to discuss his interest in leasing the 301 spray fields (62 acres) to use for farming. Mr. Wright stated that the land would be used to farm cattle (1 per acre), sweet potatoes, and peanuts. He would be responsible for the maintenance and equipment.

**Commissioner Bridgers** made a motion to consider a 5-year lease with a 1-year trial contingent on DEQ approval and price discussions. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Russell Michael** presented a model of a container building as an idea for the land donated to the Town on N. Parker St.

#### **Action Items:**

**Open Commissioner Seat** – **Commissioner Wheeler** made the recommendation that the vacant seat be filled by Bud Pittman. **Commissioner Wimberley** made the recommendation that the vacant seat be filled by Vonica Carr, who was previously a candidate who ran for the seat in 2023. **Commissioner Bridgers** agreed with **Commissioner Wimberley** and stated if Ms. Carr was still interested in the seat that she should be considered. **Commissioner Atkinson** called Ms. Carr and put her on speakerphone to gauge her interest in the vacant seat. Ms. Carr stated that she was still interested in being a commissioner.

**Commissioner Wimberley** made a motion to have Ms. Vonica Carr fill the vacant commissioner seat. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. Commissioner Wheeler opposed. The motion passed 3-1.

**Mike Tolson** was not in attendance, but Mayor Moore explained the Resolution that need to be adopted by the board for the Multiple Lift Station Rehab Project from DWI in the amount of \$898,775.

**Commissioner Wheeler** made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Town Staff Reports:** None

**Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:**

**Commissioner Wimberley** spoke about the Utility Management training class she attended.

**Commissioner Wheeler** expressed his concern about the overgrown railroad ditches and stated he received a quote for the arch at Cedar Grove Cemetery that seemed too high. He will revisit with the insurance company to see what can be done.

**Mayor Moore** read the Town Administrators report in detail, which included, but was not limited to, a quote from Williams Paving, an update of the painting of the basketball court that will take place at Spivey Park, a contracted worker to clean ditches around the Town, a completed 2022 audit, and up and live Town website. Mayor Moore also spoke about property owned by the Methodist Church that lies within the property of the Public Works Department. She asked for a decision to be made on how they would be able to access their property when the PWD gate is locked.

Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to allow the Methodist Church to have a key to access their property through the gate of the PWD. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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