

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Eastover Community Center  
Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Presiding Council Members: Lawrence Buffaloe, Willie  
Geddie, Cheryl Hudson, Donald Hudson, Benny Pearce, and Sara Piland**

**MINUTES OF MEETING – July 7, 2009**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members Lawrence Buffaloe, Donald Hudson, Sara Piland, Cheryl Hudson and Benny Pearce were in attendance at the July 7, 2009 Eastover Town Council Meeting. Council Member Willie Geddie was absent from the meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. Matt Rooney from the Cumberland County Joint Planning & Inspections Department, Mr. John Jackson, Town Attorney, Mr. Thomas Taylor, Interim Town Manager, and Ms. Jane Faircloth, Town Clerk.

**I. Call to Order:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the July 7, 2009 meeting of the Eastover Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**II. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance:**

Council Member Benny Pearce gave the invocation and led the attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**IV. Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Thomas Taylor requested that Item #7: "Approval of Budget Amendment No. 03-2009"; and Item #8: "Approve Renewal of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department Contract", be added to the Discussion Agenda.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to approve the Agenda with additions. The motion to approve and amend the Agenda was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The motion was carried unanimously.

**V. Consent Agenda:**

1. Consider approval of the June 2, 2009 minutes.
2. Consider approval of the June 16, 2009 Town Council Meeting minutes.

### **3. Consider approval of the May 31, 2009 Financial Report.**

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Donald Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **VI. Discussion Agenda:**

### **Agenda Item #1:**

**Consider approval of Subdivision Review, Case No. 09-077, Destiny Drive Property. Property Location: West Side of NC HWY 301 (Dunn Road), Southwest of SR 2814 (Flea Hill Road).**

Mr. Morgan Johnson of the Eastover Sanitary District (ESD) **spoke in favor** of Case No. 09-077. Mr. Johnson stated that the ESD initiated the process to have Destiny Road turned over to the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for public maintenance. Based on this information the ESD requests that the Town Council approve this subdivision. He said that Destiny Road is a one lane dirt road through a field at this time. This will become a NCDOT right of way and maintained road. Mr. Johnson said that NCDOT has stated that they will accept this road and maintain it. He stated that the purpose of use in doing this is to run sewer down this road. It has a few houses now but others planned. Mr. Johnson stated that the ESD is prepared to install the sewer line in the month of July 2009 using the grant money. The Sewer Line Grant money expires in August 2009, and if we do not approve this now, sewer may never be installed in this area.

Mr. Matt Rooney of the Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department briefed the Town Council on Case No. 09-077. Mr. Rooney stated that the developer is proposing to divide one existing tract into two lots and to create a public State maintained road along the existing dirt trail known as Destiny Drive. He said the proposed development has 62 feet of road frontage along US HWY 301 (Dunn Road). Mr. Rooney stated that the NCDOT has stated that they have been in contact with the developer about the existing dirt trail known as Destiny Drive being taken over for maintenance. Mr. Rooney said that Mr. Gary Burton at NCDOT said that Destiny Drive would become a State maintained road as long as the right-of-way can be given to the State by the affected property owners, but at this time there has not been any further contact regarding this matter. Mr. Rooney stated that the developer would need to provide documentation to the Planning & Inspection Department prior to final plat approval that NCDOT has accepted the right-of-way and added the street to their system. Mr. Rooney stated this site has public water & sewer provided by the Eastover Sanitary District. Mr. Rooney stated that Staff recommends approval of the preliminary plat.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to approve Subdivision Review Case No. 09-077 with conditions as presented in the documentation by Cumberland County. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #2:**

**Consider approval of Sponsorship of Eastover Heritage Day 2010.**

Mr. Taylor, Town Manager stated that he had received a letter from the Eastover Civic Association requesting the Town of Eastover be a sponsor of Heritage Day 2010.

Mayor McLaurin asked how much did the Town pay in 2009 for our sponsorship. Mr. Taylor replied it was \$400. Mayor McLaurin requested that the Town sponsor the Eastover Heritage Day 2010 in the amount of \$500.

Council Member Benny Pearce made a motion to approve the Town of Eastover to be a sponsor for the 2010 Heritage Day in the amount of \$500. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Donald Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 3:**

**Discuss status of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) application.**

Mr. Taylor, Town Manager stated that he is in mist of preparing a “Request for Proposal” to be sent out to Architect firms. He said as soon as we have an Architect in place then we can start dealing with USDA in August 2009. Mr. Taylor stated that USDA requested that they be notified when we send out the Request for Proposal. He stated that USDA has several Architects they want notified. Mr. Taylor stated that we must have an Architect before we can file the USDA application. Council Member Benny Pearce asked how soon the Town could send the notice. Mr. Taylor stated that he wanted the Attorney to review what he has prepared before it is sent out. He stated that this could be accomplished this week.

**Agenda Item #4:**

**Discuss status of Department of Transportation (DOT) responses to our highway requests.**

Mr. Taylor, Town Manager stated that he and the Mayor met last month with a group from the District Office and went over a list of items. One of the items was to have a sign installed on Interstate 95-South, that sign is up. Several signs on HWY 301 have also been put up. Mayor McLaurin stated that the DOT is also going to put a sign on Dobbin Holmes Road North side. Mr. Taylor stated that the DOT gave him some contact name’s of individuals in the Raleigh Office in terms of grants/funding for sidewalks in our 301 Business District.

Council Member Sara Piland stated that she had been approached by some of the residents about the quality of asphalt used on some of the roads. She stated that residents had compared the smoothness of asphalt at other places, and it seems ours is much rougher. Mr. Taylor stated that he had not discussed the quality of asphalt with the DOT. Mr. Taylor stated sometimes prior to putting the final asphalt down they will scrape the old. Mr. Taylor stated that he would call the DOT and ask about the asphalt and report back to the Board.

**Agenda Item # 5:**

**Discuss the possibility of having a County Landfill Dumpster within the Town of Eastover.**

Mayor McLaurin stated that residents have called the Town Hall about a County Dumpster within the Town of Eastover. Council Member Benny Pearce stated that are County Dumpster sites on Hummingbird Road (I.N. Carter Site) off Baywood Road, and on Rich Walker Road (Cooper Site) by the I-295 overpass. Council Member Sara Piland stated that we would need to discuss with residents if a County Dumpster were installed within the Town.

**Agenda Item #6.**

**Consider payroll and salary adjustment.**

Mr. Tom Taylor stated that in April 2009 the Town Council increased the Town Clerk’s salary to \$15.00 per hour. We have now increased the duties of the Town Clerk to include Finance Officer, and request her salary be adjusted to \$20.00 per hour.

Council Member Sara Piland asked if Mr. Taylor had researched what other Town Clerk/Finance Officers are being paid. Mr. Taylor stated that he had researched the salary’s State wide and \$20.00 is less than most Towns, due to the fact that the Town has fewer services.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to increase the salary of the Town Clerk/ Finance Officer to \$20.00 per hour effective July 4, 2009. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 7:**

**Approval of Budget Amendment No. 03-2009.**

Mr. Tom Taylor, Town Manager briefed the Town Council on Budget Amendment No. 03-2009. He stated that this adjustment is to amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows: decrease the Administration Department by \$4,000, and increase the Zoning & Planning Department by \$4,000. This will result in a net increase of \$0.00 in the expenditures of the General Fund. The total General Fund Budget with amendment is \$1,274,382.

Mr. Taylor also informed the Town Council that budget amounts for fiscal year 2008-2009 under Administration have been adjusted as follows:

	Increase	Decrease
Professional Services		\$10,000.
Retirement	\$ 3,000.	
Postage		500.
Travel & Schools		3,000.
Maintenance & Repair Bldg & Grounds		500.
Property Tax Refunds	100.	
NC Local Option Sales Tax Reimb.	10,900.	
	<u>\$14,000.00</u>	<u>\$14,000.00</u>

Mr. Taylor stated that this results in no change in the total budget for the Administration Department. He said the Budget Officer is authorized under Section 4, item a. to make adjustments within a department without limitation and without a report being required.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson stated that she and Mr. Taylor had talked, and the adjustments are necessary to cover our accruals better than we did last year. This is one thing the Auditors look at closely.

Council Member Donald Hudson made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment No.03-2009. Council Member Cheryl Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was carried

unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 8:**

**Approval of Renewal of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Contract.**

Mr. Taylor, Town Manager briefed the Town Council concerning the renewal contract from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office for a Deputy assigned to the Town of Eastover. Mr. Taylor stated that the verbiage had changed some-what from last year's contract but nothing to prevent the renewal of the contract. The cost is approximately \$5,000 less than last year, as we do not have to pay for a pistol, shotgun etc. The total cost of the contract is \$60,167. The contract is an estimate on some of the items and actual will be billed to the Town. Attorney Jackson has reviewed the contract and has approved it as to form.

Council Member Sara Piland asked if the Town could have an input into the Deputy's performance appraisal. Attorney Jackson stated that he advised against that, but the Town could write letters of commendation and request it be filed in the Deputy's personnel file. Mr. Jackson stated that the Sheriff would want to keep this personnel matter in house.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to approve renewal of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office Contract for a Deputy for the Town of Eastover. Council Member Benny Pearce 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**VII. Mayor's Comments:**

1. Mayor McLaurin stated that Cumberland County has a new law and it is "Unchain Your Dog". It is the law effective August 1, 2009, and will be enforced after that date.

2. Mayor McLaurin reminded everyone about the upcoming elections. Mayor McLaurin stated that Eastover has three Town Council positions and the Mayor's position open. Mayor McLaurin asked Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe to read the letter received from the Cumberland County Board of Elections. Council Member Buffaloe stated that filing will begin on July 6, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. and end on July 17, 2009 at noon. All filing will be done at the Cumberland County Board of Elections at 301 E. Russell Street, Fayetteville, NC. He stated that if a candidate that does not wish to go to the Cumberland County Board of Elections to file, they may download the filing paper from the State Board of Elections website at [www.sboe.state.nc.us](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us), if they choose to file this way their filing paper must be notarized and in the Board of Elections office by noon on July 17, 2009.

3. Mayor McLaurin stated that Mr. Tim Mitchell from the Cumberland County Emergency Services will brief the Town on the NC Hurricane Guide and provide helpful information.

4. Mayor McLaurin asked Attorney Jackson if the Cumberland County Deputy's car could have an Eastover logo on the vehicle. Attorney Jackson stated that the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office is very particular about their name and doubt it would be approved as the cars are used outside the areas. However, it would not hurt to ask.

5. Mayor McLaurin stated that an individual came by the Eastover Town Hall and complained about the Eastover Ball Team. This individual stated that they were present at

McDonald in Hope Mills when the Eastover Ball Team came in. The individual stated the ball team members were on the children's play equipment while small children were on this equipment. The Eastover Team had their cleats on, and the ball team players were too big to have been on the play equipment. Mayor McLaurin stated that the Ball Team did not represent Eastover well. Mayor McLaurin stated that he had called Mr. Henry Bowden, President of the Ball Park and informed him of the ball team's conduct at the McDonald's Restaurant. Mayor McLaurin conveyed to Mr. Bowden that when the kids are wearing Eastover on their shirts he wants Eastover portrayed in a better way, as this reflects on the whole Town.

### **VIII. Council Members Update:**

There were no updates from the Council Members.

### **IX. Town Managers Update:**

1. Mr. Taylor commented on our current budget and the report in the consent agenda. He stated that we should be at 92% of income and expenditures. He stated that the Town is a little low in income, as the Town is only at 88%, but doing very well in expenditures at 62%. He stated that you are a very conservative Council. Mr. Taylor stated that he projects that the Town will be very close to our \$200,000 going into our un-appropriated Reserve Fund. Council Member Sara Piland commended Council Member Cheryl Hudson and Mr. Taylor for their work in keeping the Budget and our finances accurate.

2. Mr. Taylor stated that he had received notification from the North Carolina Retirement System that we are officially part of their system effective July 1, 2009. Mr. Taylor stated that the Town of Eastover had made a deposit to the NC Retirement System in the amount of \$7,500 for our one employee that was employed before the Town joined the system. Mr. Taylor stated that he thinks this is a big plus for the Town.

3. Mr. Taylor stated that our street lights are still in limbo. He and the Mayor had talked with the Department of Transportation and they stated that had not received our request. He stated that this request must go through the District Office before it can be approved. Mr. David Vencill stated that it sometimes takes six months or more before they respond. Mr. Taylor stated that our request has not reached Mr. Gary Burton, and he is the one who must sign off on our request.

4. Mr. Taylor stated that he received notification this afternoon from the "Small Town Main Street Program" that Eastover is one of ten in the running. He stated in late July they will narrow the ten down to five, and by mid August they will award three.

5. Mr. Taylor stated that he had sent each of you a copy of the advertisement for a Town Manager position for your review. Unless any of you have any changes to that I will publicize that in the Fayetteville Observer, and the two League of Municipalities papers, and schedule the process that we will be going through the next couple of months for interviews, etc.

**X. Motion to Adjourn at 7:35 p.m.**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Benny Pearce made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Sara Piland 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Town of Eastover**

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**Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk  
**Jane F. Faircloth**