

**Town of Eastover Planning Meeting
5:00 PM Thursday January 23, 2020 at the
Eastover Community Center, 4008 School Road**

**Mayor Charles McLaurin, presiding.
Council Members attending: Lawrence Buffaloe, Stan Crumpler,
Cheryl Hudson, Kimberly McPhail, Brian Pearce, and Bruce Sykes**

**Also in attendance was Town Attorney, Mr. Tim Smith, Interim Town Manager,
Mr. Ronald Autry, and Town Clerk, Ms. Elizabeth Bass**

MINUTES

Mayor McLaurin opened the meeting at 5:00PM, and recognized Mr. Autry. Mr. Autry stated that a meeting was held on Wednesday January 22, 2020 with the Eastover Fire Department. It was stated that the fire department needs financial help and that they would like \$240,000. Several Council Members asked for specific things needed and also asked if the fire department has given the Town a copy of their audit for the current year or years past. This has not been done. After a long discussion the Council decided they were going to update the contract and base it off Cumberland County's Contract, have the Eastover Fire Department to present specific items needed with estimates, ask the Fire Department how are they helping themselves (maybe have 2 fundraisers a year) and request their budget with financials.

Council Member Sykes stated that he is unable to get Mr. Gibson or Mr. Furman to return his calls. He said the fence on the Pickle Ball Court is not correct and the sand for the Beach Volleyball has not been put in. After a lengthy discussion the Council stated they wanted to have a meeting with Mr. Gibson and Ms. Amy Cannon.

Mr. Ronald Autry asked the Council if they wanted to start on the PARTF Grant, a grant to help with funding of the Eastover Ballpark additions and upgrades. He stated that it would be rushed and not done properly. The Council said they did not want to do the application at this time. A new engineering firm is requested to start on the PARTF Grant because the current firm has not followed through on other matters.

The Council decided that once a new engineering firm was selected the Town of Eastover would start working on cleaning up trees and debris at the back of the ballpark to get it ready for the walking trail.

Mr. Autry told the Council that Duke Energy will install 35 new lights in the Town of Eastover with 18 receptacles. There will be a onetime cost of \$18,006.48 and the monthly bill will cost approximately \$1,092.30, for all street lights.

After a brief discussion Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove adding the additional poles with receptacles and pay the onetime fee. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve adding the 35 lights with receptacles and paying the onetime fee. Council Member Kim McPhail 2nd the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Christmas Decorations need to be purchased before February 28, 2020 to receive the discount. After some discussion the Council decided to order 9 pole decorations, 3 presidential snowflakes, 3 silhouette angels, and 3 silhouette holly candles. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the purchasing of the 3 presidential snowflakes, 3 silhouette angels, and 3 silhouette holly candles. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the purchase of 3-6ft Presidential Snowflakes, 3-8ft silhouette angels, and 3-7ft silhouette holly candles all with LED lighting. Council Member Bruce Sykes 2nd the motion.

Mayor McLaurin asked Attorney Tim Smith to look into the Ordinances just passed and get with the Sheriff's Attorney and see if the ordinances need to be changed. Mr. Tim Smith stated he had contacted the Sheriff's Attorney but has not been able to speak with him as of yet.

Council Member Bruce Sykes stated the Town needed to have an ordinance enacted with Cumberland County so that the Town of Eastover will be able to enforce the sign ordinance. Town Attorney Tim Smith stated he could send a letter to the offender and let them know they are in violation.

Mr. Autry informed the Council that Powell Bill Funds need to be spent. He told the Council that with certain conditions unpaved roads could be paved if the Department of Transportation would give ownership to the Town of Eastover. Mr. Autry will look into this and give specific streets.

Mayor McLaurin stated that the Town will not be building a New Town Hall. He said once the Eastover Sanitary District builds their new building the Town is going to look into moving into that building. Mayor McLaurin and Council asked to get a meeting scheduled with Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson, the current owners of the Eastover Sanitary District building, to let them know the Town is interested in purchasing the building.

Mr. Autry stated there was no policy for the handling of confidential materials and one needed to be enacted. The Council instructed Mr. Autry to draw up a policy for the handling and disposing of confidential materials.

The Council decided to only charge \$75.00 Clean up deposit to local businesses to rent the Community Building if they are using it for training purposes. The \$75.00 will be refunded if the building is left in a clean state.

Ms. Elizabeth Bass stated that the Town Manager position could be changed to a Town Administrator position. The form of government of Council-Manager will need to be changed to Mayor-Council. With this type of government the Council will have more active role in the day to day operations of the Town. Mr. Tim Smith told the Council that to switch forms of government is not hard all that is needed is an amendment.

Ms. Bass stated that whichever way they decided a Deputy Clerk needed to be hired, either part-time or full time in order to help her and also be able to operate the day to day business of the office.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 PM by Council Member Bruce Sykes, and a second by Council Member Kim McPhail. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth S. Bass, Clerk