

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Eastover Community Center**

**x☐ Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Presiding.
Council Members: ☐x Cheryl C. Hudson, x☐ J. Lawrence Buffaloe,
x☐ M. Stan Crumpler, x☐ Bruce R. Sykes, x☐ Kimberly F. McPhail,
and x☐ Frederick A. Williams**

MINUTES OF MEETING – March 12, 2024

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Bruce R. Sykes, Cheryl C. Hudson, Frederick A. Williams, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the March 12, 2024, Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also, in attendance were Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, and Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator, and Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the March 12, 2024, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator, gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the agenda as stated. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to add agenda item 2a: Eastover Ballpark Association to the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Council Member Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Agenda Item 2a: Eastover Ballpark. Council Member Cheryl Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the public may address the Town Council on items not listed on the printed agenda. Please state your name and address and observe the three (3) minute time limit. The total comment period will be 15 minutes or less. Citizens should sign up with the Clerk to speak prior to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Herman Britt, Eastover Fire Department, and Ms. Nina Morton, Cumberland County GOP Chairwoman, signed up to speak to the Council.

Mr. Herman Britt informed the Council that Mr. Danny Matthews was sick and unable to attend the meeting. He stated that he will be presenting the information for Mr. Danny Matthews.

Mr. Britt stated that the contract between Eastover Fire Department and the Town of Eastover has not changed since 2008. Mr. Britt said that in the original contract the fire department can request the Town to increase the fire department funding to \$.15 cents on the 100 dollars. He gave each council member a letter from the Eastover Fire Department requesting this change.

Mr. Britt stated the Eastover Fire Department is requesting this increase to help with staffing, call volume, fuel, and equipment cost. He said that the ISO rating is at a 3 and would like to keep it that way so the residents/businesses in the Town of Eastover can continue to receive insurance at a discounted rate.

Ms. Nina Morton, Cumberland County GOP, Chairwoman introduced herself and told the Council and audience that her office was located at 210 Russell Street in Fayetteville. She said they need volunteers. She invited the public to come to the office on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday from 10am-4pm. She thanked the Council for their time.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2024.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2024.**
- 3. Consider approval of the February 27, 2024, Work Session Minutes.**
- 4. Consider approval of the January 2024 Financial Reports.**

Mayor McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Consent Agenda. There were none. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the Consent Agenda as stated.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

Agenda Item #1:

Brandon Dickerman-3161 Sheraton Road

Mr. Dickerman told the Council that he owned chickens, and that Animal Services informed him that he was in violation of the Cumberland County Ordinance. He stated that he talked to the Director of Animal Services, and they told him to speak to the council about getting a waiver.

Mr. Dickerman stated that he had read the ordinance and also pulled the state statute. Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, said he would research the statute and let Mr. Dickerman and the Council know what he finds out. Mr. Autry, Town Administrator said he would notify Animal Services of the extension for the violation.

Agenda Item #2:

Danny Matthews-Eastover Fire Department

This was covered in Public Comments.

Agenda Item #2A:

Eastover Ballpark

Mr. Richard Walker, President, Eastover Ballpark Association stated that the ballpark association would like to run the new concession stand for soccer and other events. He said in order to do that some equipment needed to be purchased. Mr. Walker stated that the equipment is on sale and by purchasing early the town would save some money. He said they needed a refrigerator, microwave, popcorn machine, hot dot roller, pretzel display/warmer, chips warmer, and a food warmer.

After some discussion Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve a reimbursement to the Eastover Ballpark Association up to \$10,000.00 if the funds are available in the grant account. Council Member Frederick Williams seconded the motion. the vote was 5 ayes and 2 nays. The motion passed.

Agenda Item #3:

Cardinal Landscaping Contract-April 2024-December 2024-\$13,813.20 Same as contract price for 2023.

Mr. Ronald Autry told the Council that Cardinal Landscaping sent a contract for April 2024 to December 2024 for \$13,813.20. The contract is the same as the 2023 contract with no changes. The contract would not interfere with hiring the new part-time maintenance person.

After a short discussion Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve the Cardinal Landscaping Contract for the 2024 year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4:

Rezoning Bullock Property

Council Member Stan Crumpler stated that the newly acquired ballpark property needed to be rezoned from RR (rural residential) to A1 (agricultural). This would cause all of the ballpark properties to be zoned the same, A1.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to start the process with planning to change the zoning for the Bullock Property. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Agenda Item #5:

FAMPO Update

Council Member Cheryl Hudson stated that she attends the FAMPO (Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) meetings. She said for a township under 5,000, the Council would have to vote to continue to contribute to the local match. The Town of Eastover has been contributing since the town's incorporation (2007). The estimate to pay is under \$3,000.00.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to continue to contribute to the local match for FAMPO. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:

- Mr. Walt Brinker was unable to attend the meeting. A plaque was presented to recognize him for his community service

- Former Council Member Willie Geddie passed away. He was one of the founding members of the Town of Eastover and was also one of the first Council Members
- The month of April is Clean Sweep month
- April 6, 2024 is opening day for the Eastover Ballpark

VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:

- None

IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

- The purchaser of the manufactured home is having trouble getting a permit to move the mobile home
- Need April agenda items no later than March 26, 2024
- Child Abuse Prevention Month is March. Faith Behmer, Prevention & Volunteer Coordinator with the Child Advocacy Center will be planting Pinwheels at the Town Hall on March 27th at 12:00pm with the Eastover Town Council
- Thursday March 28th is the Mid Carolina Council of Government annual dinner in Salemburg at 5:30pm

X. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bruce Sykes at 8:21 p.m. The motion was second by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, **Town Clerk**
Elizabeth S. Bass