

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 9, 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 – April 9, 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 April 9, 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. Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk, was absent from the meeting.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the April 9, 2024, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the agenda as presented. Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stan Crumpler. 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. Danny Matthews, Eastover Fire Department, Mr. Herman Britt, Eastover Fire Department, Nicole Vargo, Town of Eastover resident, and Mr. Walt Brinker, Town of Eastover resident, signed up to speak to the Council.

Mr. Danny Matthews stated that the fire department would like a meeting with the Council to renew the contract between the Eastover Fire Department and the Town of Eastover. He stated that the Town of Eastover Charter, Article 9 section 9.1 states that the contract terms and the amount paid by the Town of Eastover to the Eastover Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., and the Vander Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., shall be mutually agreed upon and annually renewed by the Board of Directors for the Eastover Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., and the Town Council and the Board of Directors for the Vander Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Mr. Matthews stated that when the County does the reevaluation the Eastover Fire Department will be in better shape but not looked after. He said the unincorporated areas are paying .15 in fire tax, but the incorporated areas are only paying \$.10. Mr. Matthews said the fire/rescue calls in the Town of Eastover are more frequent than in the unincorporated areas. Mr. Matthews stated that if the Council would vote to increase the Eastover Fire Tax he would not come and ask the Town for any more money on behalf of the Eastover Fire Department.

Ms. Nicole Vargo asked the Council about starting a Farmer's Market in the Town of Eastover. After some discussion the Council requested Ms. Vargo to get more information. Mr. Ronald Autry asked Ms. Vargo to come to the Town Hall Office and he would let her know the information he has on farmers markets.

Mayor Charles McLaurin stated that he asked Mr. Walt Brinker to come to the Council Meeting. He said that Mr. Brinker does a lot for this community and its residents. All Council members thanked Mr. Brinker for all he has done for the Town of Eastover. Mayor McLaurin said he doesn't only pick up trash, but he helps stranded motorists as well. Mayor McLaurin presented Mr. Brinker with a plaque for Outstanding Community Service. Mr. Brinker thanked the Council for their recognition.

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2024.**
- 2. Consider approval of the February 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 Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stan Crumpler. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

**Agenda Item #1:**

**Sara Bandurraga, ICON Summer Internship, Cumberland County Schools**

Ms. Sara Bandurraga from Cumberland County Schools presented information to the council about hiring a summer intern. The students will fill out an application for the summer internship program. Then they will attend several skills workshops. On May 11, 2024, the interviews will be held. The internship will start June 10, 2024, and run through July 19, 2024. The students have to work 120 hours to receive credit and they can use it on their transcripts. Out of all the high schools in Cumberland County they have had about 500 students sign up. Internships run 4-6 weeks for 36 hours a week. Students have to be at least 15 to apply, if the job requirement age is older than that, then the required age would then be the requirement. Interviews start on May 11, 2024.

After some discussion, the Council tabled this item until the work session meeting.

**Agenda Item #2:**

**Brandon Dickerman, follow up**

Mr. Donald Hudson stated that the Bona Fide Farming exemption does not apply to municipal ordinances. The Council could amend the existing ordinance, but they cannot exempt just one resident from the ordinance.

Mr. Autry will respond to the Animal Control and let them know that the Council is working on a solution to this matter, so Mr. Dickerman will not be sanctioned.

After some discussion, the Council tabled this item until the work session meeting.

**Agenda Item #3:**

**Amended ARP Grant Ordinance**

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that this ordinance involves the ARP monies that were received from the federal government. He stated all expenditure documents need to be finalized by December 31, 2024. This ordinance will allow the town to finalize the ARP funding documentation and satisfy all requirements.

After a short discussion Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the amended ARP grant ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The vote was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #4:**

**Baywood Road Street Light Proposal**

Mr. Ronald Autry said Duke Energy has completed the design of the streetlights for Baywood Road. Duke Energy would need to install one extra pole at a cost of about \$3,000.00. The monthly increase on the streetlight bill will be \$113.62.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the Baywood Road light proposal. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Agenda Item #5:**

**Award Paving Contract for New Parking lot at Eastover Ballpark**

Mr. Ronald Autry stated that he had received the bids for the grading and paving of the additional parking lot at the Eastover Ballpark. After paving the parking lot, it will be painted, and the entrance will be widened to make it more user-friendly. The bids are as follows:

- Johnson Brothers Utility & Paving Co., Inc. \$80,210.00
- Highland Paving Company, LLC \$105,150.00
- Wellons Construction Inc. \$126,280.00

Mr. Autry stated that he would recommend hiring Johnson Brothers Utility & Paving Co., Inc. at \$80,210.00 and they will be able to start within 30 days. This company paved the back parking lot at the Eastover Ballpark.

Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve Johnson Brothers Utility & Paving Co., Inc. for the paving contract. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #6:**

**Budget Amendment No. 2024-03: Office Supplies**

Mr. Autry stated this amendment is to increase the funding for department materials and supplies. There have been unforeseen expenditures for office supplies. Travel and Schools will be decreased by \$1,500.00, and Maintenance, Repair, and Equipment will be decreased by \$1,000.00 so Department Materials and Supplies can be increased by \$2,500.00. The budget will remain the same.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment 2024-03. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

**VII. RECEIVE MAYOR'S UPDATE:**

- Mayors' coalition first Friday in May at Eastover Community building
- Took pinwheels and distributed to community
- Community watch starts in May, on the second Monday, May 13, 2023
- Sargent Green stated that he had been doing speed enforcement in the Town. He would like to get a few more 35 mph speed limit signs for Beard Road. Speeders have decreased on Middle Road. The speed limit on James Dail Road is 55 and people are speeding, Sargent Green would like to get more 55 mph speed limit signs for James Dail Road. He suggested getting a traffic light for Baywood Road and Dunn Road.
- Sargent Green would like no solicitation notifications sent to the residents of the town so they would be aware of the new solicitation ordinance.

**VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- Council Member Crumpler stated that the Town needs to proceed to initiate an ordinance concerning homelessness

**IX. RECEIVE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:**

- Second set of lights have been put in place at the pickle ball courts
- The basketball courts are ready for goal posts. We are waiting for a response from Fayetteville Parks and Rec about them paying for them. Also, the contractor for the pickle ball court say they can also paint the court
- Bathroom and concession stand are complete except for stall dividers, they should be installed on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Concession stand equipment that the Eastover Park Association purchased has arrived
- The awning on the amphitheater should be completed before the May 11<sup>th</sup> concert.
- Waiting on quotes for fencing around the basketball court, dog park, and the ballpark
- Animal ordinance will be discussed at the work session on Monday April 22
- Waiting on plans from Jenkins Engineering for the new maintenance building
- Waiting Duke Energy to get encroachment approval form DOT for streetlights on Church Street
- Baywood Road streetlight design has been completed and paperwork signed for the documents to send to NCDOT for encroachment

**X. Closed Session**

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Stan Crumpler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**XI. CONSIDER A MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Stan Crumpler at 8:42 p.m. The motion was second by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Town of Eastover**

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**Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Town Clerk**  
**Elizabeth S. Bass**