

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, October 8, 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 – October 8, 2024**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members: Kimberly McPhail, J. Lawrence Buffaloe, Cheryl C. Hudson, Frederick A. Williams, Bruce R. Sykes, and M. Stan Crumpler attended the October 8, 2024, Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also, in attendance were Mr. Donald Hudson, Town Attorney, Mr. Ronald Autry, Town Administrator, and Ms. Elizabeth S. Bass, Town Clerk.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the October 8, 2024, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

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

Mayor Charles McLaurin 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 Bruce Sykes made a motion to approve the agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. 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.***

Ms. Susan Baggett, 3602 Dunn Road, Mr. Tom McInnis, State Senator-District 21-Incumbent, Mr. Josh Ballard, Cumberland Soil and Water District candidate, Mr. Henry Tyson, Cumberland County Board of Commissioners candidate, signed up to speak.

Ms. Susan Baggett stated that she would like clarification on the Flea Drop. She wanted to know if the Town of Eastover was going to pursue the Flea Drop, at what location it would be held, and about monetary funding. The Council told Ms. Baggett that they would like to continue with the Flea Drop and move it to the Eastover Ballpark. The Town of Eastover will continue with some funding for the Flea Drop but they would like it to stay small just for the community.

Senator Tom McInnis stated that he is running for re-election of State Senate District 21. He said that the senate is working on budget items for next year and requests should be submitted. He has served on several committees to include Chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee for Policy and Appropriations as well as the Co-Chair of the Agriculture and Forestry Study Commission. Other committee appointments include Commerce and Insurance, State and Local Government, Agriculture Environmental and Natural Resources, Select Committee on Prison Safety, Education and Higher Education, Appropriation and Base Budget.

Mr. Josh Ballard stated that he makes his living through the fishing industry. He said that throughout his career and personal experience he has developed a deep appreciation for our natural resources, while recognizing their essential role in our everyday lives and future. He stated that he has been encouraged and motivated to run for this position so that the resources would be usable for his eight-year-old son.

Mr. Henry Tyson said he was a candidate for the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners for District 2. His service includes serving on the City of Fayetteville's Historic Resources Commission, The Government Relations Committee for the Fayetteville Chamber, and The Legislative Action Committee for The local Board of Realtors. He is a Campbell University graduate with a BA in Government and Political Science.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2024. See Exhibit A.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Minutes for September 10, 2024. See Exhibit B.**

**Consider approval of the August 2024 Financial Reports. See Exhibit C.**

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 Cheryl Hudson 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:**

#### **DeLaine H. Jones, Public Health Educator, Public Health Education Division: Upcoming Events**

Ms. DeLaine Jones said that she was a Public Health Administrator with Cumberland County Health Department. She stated the Health Department was located at 1235 Ramsey Street in Fayetteville, N.C. Ms. Jones said she would love to help the Town of Eastover with community activities.

Ms. Jones stated there were several programs that the Health Department offers:

- Health Programs
- Family Planning
- In-store assistance for WIC-SNAP
- Opioid Settlement Funds
- Transportation
- Vaccines for Humans and Pets
- Holiday Toy Drive
- Utility Assistance
- Clothing
- Shelters & Housing
- Food Pantries
- Senior Help
- Mental Health

Ms. Jones said there were several other things the Health Department could help people with. She then thanked the Council for their time and support.

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

#### **Playground equipment discussion**

Mr. Autry stated that he has looked at pricing for new playground equipment at the splashpad. He stated that he was looking at a swing set, see-saw, and spring rider equipment. He said the swing set, spring rider, and see-saw with labor and set up would cost approximately \$20,000.00.

After some discussion, it was decided for Mr. Autry to proceed to obtain quotes for installation of equipment, assembly of equipment, and the groundwork for placement of equipment.

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

- Several local churches had a concert at the amphitheater on September 29, 2024. There was good attendance and great feedback from it. Council Member Stan Crumpler paid the sound people for the equipment set up and using their equipment. Mayor McLaurin made a motion to reimburse Council Member Stan Crumpler the \$500.00 he paid. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 for approval.
- The Town should make a monetary donation to the people in the mountains because of the devastation from Hurricane Helene. Mr. Donald Hudson said that the Town could make a donation, but it couldn't go to an evangelistic organization or to a specific town.

Mayor Charles McLaurin made a motion to donate \$2,000.00 to the victims of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. After further discussion Council Member Stan Crumpler proposed \$5,000. Mr. Autry confirmed the funds were in the budget. Mayor McLaurin revised his motion to \$5,000. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

- The Flea Drop will be held at the Ballpark this year.

**VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- Need an irrigation system between the Pickleball court and the splashpad or have a hydrant put in. This will allow for the grass to be watered.
- FAMPO:
  - a. I95 at Murphy Road Exit 55 to Exit 70 is 96% complete. All lanes north of Exit 58 are expected to be open in late 2024
  - b. The on and off ramp exits to/from I95 on Murphy Road and I95 south of Exit 58 should be open at the end of 2025.
  - c. A grant is available to apply for to add bicycle lanes. FAMPO will assist in applying for this grant. The deadline is November 12, 2024.
- The Town has received a request to pave Destiny Drive. The Town has the paperwork giving the right of way to the Town of Eastover. Funds for Powell Bill need to be examined before moving forward with this project

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

- Getting the stop light at Baywood Road and Dunn Road has been denied by the NC Department of Transportation. According to their assessment, this location does not qualify for a stop light.
- Stop signs at Underwood Road and Middle Road have been modified
- Plans for the new maintenance building are at the Town Hall. Solicitations for Informal Bids will be requested to be sent in by November 11, 2024.

**X. Closed Session: IN ACCORDANCE WITH GS 143-318.11(a)(3)-ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

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

**While in regular session Mayor Charles McLaurin made a motion to have a work session on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. Council Member Cheryl Hudson 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 Bruce Sykes at 8:17p.m. The motion was second by Council Member Fred Williams. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Town of Eastover**

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**Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor**

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