

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 10, 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 – December 10, 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 December 10, 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 December 10, 2024, Eastover Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

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

Council Member Frederick Williams gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the agenda as presented. Council Member Kim McPhail made a motion to approve the agenda as stated. 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, President, Eastover Fire Department Board of Directors.

Mr. Danny Matthews informed the Council that their support and efforts are working to help improve the Town of Eastover by:

- The Eastover Fire Department has placed a wreath with red lights outside the fire department. If one or more of the lights has been changed to white that means, there has been a house fire (the number of fires is represented by the number of white lights).
- Purchased a used rescue truck
- Insurance Services Offices (ISO) rating is a three for residential and commercial properties in the Town of Eastover. The ISO rating is important because it will save commercial properties and residential properties on insurance rates. Commercial Property savings are based on the insurance company. Residential savings are \$433 per \$100,000 based on home value, because the ISO rating in Eastover is below a five.
- Thanked the Council for their continued support

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

- 1. Consider approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2024.**
- 2. Consider approval of the Closed Session Minutes for October 8, 2024.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Work Session Minutes for October 17, 2024.**
- 4. Consider approval of the September 2024 Financial Reports.**
- 5. Consider approval of the October 2024 Financial Reports.**
- 6. Consider approval of Resolution #2024-03, Eastover's 2025 Observed Holiday Dates.**
- 7. Consider approval of Resolution #2024-04, Town Council Meeting Dates for 2025.**

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/deny 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:**

**Fiscal Year 2024 Audit: Meredith G. Singletary, Senior Accountant, S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP**

Ms. Meredith Singletary informed the Council that this is the third year S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP, have performed the annual audit. She stated the FY 2024 Audit was a clean audit and there were positive financial trends. The only finding was segregation of duties

which is normal for a staff of this size. She stated that the Town had a strong fund balance, was very conservative, and was in good financial order.

Ms. Singletary said the total fund balance for FY 2024 is \$9,472,798.00, with \$474,442.00 in restricted funds. She stated that the town has \$46,677.00 in long-term debt that has decreased since FY 2023. The property collection percentage for FY 2024 is 99.31%. The Town of Eastover is required to have a minimum of 34% of funds in reserve, for FY 2024 the Town is at 66.4%.

Mayor McLaurin asked the Council if they had any questions concerning the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit. There were none. Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve/deny the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit as presented.

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce Sykes. The vote was unanimous for approval.

## **Agenda Item #2:**

### **Destiny Drive Project**

Mr. Ronald Autry stated the Town of Eastover received a request from a resident who wanted to have Destiny Drive paved. The cost will be approximately \$100,000 and come out of the Powell Bill Funds. The road will need a 70-foot cul-de-sac at the end of the road. An engineer will need to conduct a survey in order to get the project started.

After some discussion Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to approve or deny the Paving of Destiny Drive. Council Member Stan Crumpler made a motion to approve the paving of Destiny Drive. Council Member Lawrence Buffalo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

## **Agenda Item #3**

### **Recreational Maintenance Building Bid**

Mr. Ronald Autry told the Council that Haywood Builders put in bid for \$1.2 million to construct the maintenance building, parking lot, and office space. Mr. Autry recommended waiting on doing this project. He stated instead of pavement, rock could be used for the driveway and the office did not need to be constructed as of now. He said he would get bids on the new designs and present them to the Council at a later date.

After a brief discussion, Mayor McLaurin asked for a vote to approve or deny Haywood Builders Maintenance Building bid. Council Member Lawrence Buffalo made a motion to deny Haywood Builders Maintenance Bid as presented. Council Member Cheryl Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to have new designs drawn up with rock instead of pavement and to exclude the office space at this time. Council Member Cheryl Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Agenda Item #4:**

**Budget Amendment 2025-01**

Mr. Autry said Budget Amendment 2025-01 is to add two new accounts, increase Admin Contingency account, and debit the Appropriation to Fund Balance account.

<b>Department Expense:</b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
10-420-18 Demolition	\$ 20,000.00	
10-420-99 Administration Contingency	\$ 5,000.00	
10-420-50 Sales Tax Reimbursement	\$ 17,000.00	
10-420-90 Appropriation to Fund Balance		\$ 42,000.00

**(Total General Fund Budget with amendment will remain at \$2,535,150.00)**

Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2025-01. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

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

- Nativity in the Park-Lebanon Baptist Church will have Nativity in the Park on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm-They will serve Hot Chocolate and cookies
- The Town of Eastover will have the Eastover Flea Drop at the Eastover Ballpark on December 31, 2024. It will start at 10pm. There will be a fire pit, food truck, and D.J.

**VIII. RECEIVE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- Council Member Bruce Sykes was hospitalized with Pneumonia. He is recovering well
- The on and off ramps to I95 off Murphy Road will open at the end 2025
- Lee Jernigan with NC DOT stated that lights will be placed on Highway 13 at intersection of Hwy 13 and Pembroke Lane. Mr. Jernigan stated that all roundabouts in rural areas will have streetlights

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

- Mr. William Douglas Chessher Jr. installed two new benches at the Eastover Ballpark for the new dog park. This was his Eagle Scout Project
- The Boundary for the dog park fence has been set and the post installed.

- The new playground equipment will cost approximately \$15,000.

Council Member Kim McPhail made a motion to purchase the new equipment. Council Member Cheryl Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

- The updates for the older bathrooms at the ballpark will continue in January 2025

**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 Stan Crumpler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Once out of closed session Council Member Cheryl Hudson made a motion to approve mid-year bonuses for the staff in the amounts discussed in closed session. Council Member Bruce Sykes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

**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 8:40p.m. The motion was second by Council Member Kim McPhail. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**Town of Eastover**

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**Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor**

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