



**TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2023, at 6:30 PM
Town Hall Office 117 S. Railroad St.**

In attendance:

Mayor Tawanda Moore (hereinafter, Mayor Moore)
Commissioner Gil Wheeler (hereinafter, Commissioner Wheeler)
Commissioner David Greene (hereinafter, Commissioner Greene)
Commissioner Zackery Mercer (hereinafter, Commissioner Mercer)
Commissioner Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)

Also in Attendance:

Finance Officer Dena Owens (hereinafter, Finance Officer Owens)
Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)
Office Assistant Ashley Bass (hereinafter, Ashley Bass)

Absent

Mayor Pro Tem Tammie Atkinson (hereinafter, Mayor Pro Tem)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the regular council meeting to order on April 11, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Invocation: Mayor Moore

Pledge Of Allegiance: Mayor Moore

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda for April 11, 2023 council meeting. Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas wanted to add public hearing to agenda. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve March 14, 2023 regular council meeting minutes. Commissioner Wheeler asked about minutes from March 28, 2023 meeting. Mayor Moore said we could get him a copy. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to approve the March 14, 2023 minutes and Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

Public Hearings/Comments: Mayor Moore opened the floor for public comments.

- A. Vanessa Mercer expressed her concern of water standing in her ditch, 709 Cobb Rd., and that it needs cleaning out. Financial Officer Dena Owens said it was last done by Donnie's

Home Services in 2021. We are to have Wilbur Etheridge and our public works department look at it.

- B. Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas discussed the text amendment for Frederick Douglas. He found out that between rezoning and text amendment that text amendment would be the best way to go. Zoning Officer Lucas' recommendation is to accept schools as special use permit in R20 zoning.
- C. Mayor asked for motion to close regular council meeting and go into public hearing. Commissioner Greene made the motion to close meeting, Commissioner Wheeler seconded motion. Vote passed unanimously.
- D. There were no public comments concerning public hearing. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to close the public hearing, Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion.
- E. Zoning Officer Lucas recommended again to accept schools as a special use permit in R20 zoning. Commissioner Greene wanted to know if the county would have any issues with it being special use. He was curious about the logistics. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to go with special use in R20 zoning and Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

Presentations/Discussions:

- a. Steps have already been put into motion for annexation of the cemetery. Dennis Knight took the podium and wants someone on the advisory board for the cemetery. He wanted to know if Cedar Grove Cemetery is segregated now. Commissioner Wheeler said it is segregated. Mr. Knight wants to make sure Heritage Cemetery will still be upkept if new board come into office. It was discussed that we could have a contract in writing. The Town could have a resolution and contract and keep it in a safe place at the Town Office. \$93,750 was awarded for Heritage Cemetery to restore and rehabilitate the cemetery once application was accepted. Zoning Officer Lucas recommended to hold off on annexation until they are ready and that a public hearing would need to be held. An advisory board is wanted for both cemeteries
- b. Mayor Moore spoke on raffle tickets and encouraged them to sell tickets.

Action Items:

- a. Ashley spoke about the outside depot lighting and explained that situation. She proposed to order the drivers and have them fixed for a total of \$825. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to fix lighting. Financial Officer Owens explained monies spent and monies available. A budget amendment could be done within the department to get this done. Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- b. Finance Officer Owens recommended to look into the pumps. All have already been replaced. Repairs on pumps need to be made according to state law. Finance Officer Owens recommends using ARP funds and do a budget amendment before.
- c. Ashley spoke on Greg Narron from Goo Roo Computers revamping and maintaining our old website. It was suggested to try to offer \$3,500-\$4,000 for a 2 year contract.
- d. It was discussed about the Library AC repair. The board is wanting to get quotes to replace and also quotes to repair. They are wanting 3 quotes.

- e. Commissioner Wheeler suggested we rent out land to Rock Ridge Farms and get the money for that. Farming is the better way to go with the land. Commissioner Greene wants a proposal from each person wanting to rent with an amount and what they intend to use it for. No grazing. Farming only.
- f. The carpet at the substation was discussed. We are to ask Wilbur Etheridge if the public works department can replace the carpet squares.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Town Staff Reports:

Zoning Code Enforcement: Zoning Officer Lucas gave report and designated AJ Jones as the grass cutter for the season. Also discussed Dennis Knight going forward with his live controlled burn. Commissioner Bridgers suggested we go with Carlos' estimate of \$500 for tree removal from 206 S. Pender St. We need to offer less \$400-\$500. Commissioner Wheeler suggested to put a tree removal line item in the budget. It was also mentioned that if Carlos could cut it up small enough then our public works guys could possibly remove it. Commissioner Bridgers made the motion to accept Carlos for the job. Commissioner Mercer seconded the motion. Vote was passed unanimously.

Clerk Report: Ashley spoke on cutoffs and people cutting their water back on. It was suggested that after 7 days of being cutoff, if payment has not been made to cut back on, to send someone out to check their meter to see if water is still off.

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Mayor Moore addressed Eunice Lindsey concerning her ARP application to fix the leak and/or damages from the leak in the Frederick Douglas Alumni Association house for approx. \$13,000. She explained that the funds could not just go to them for repairs, but would have to be carried out a different way. We could direct funds to scholarships so they could use their money to make repairs.

Commissioner Mercer thanked Zoning Officer Lucas for what he has done.

Commissioner Bridgers said he has standing water in his back yard and wants to know if he can get the pipes from the shop yard since they aren't being used. It is ok to do this per the Board.

It was discussed about getting a used combo truck.

Adjournment: Commissioner Wheeler motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the Motion.