



TOWN OF ELM CITY
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2024, at 6:30 PM
Elm City Train Depot 101 Nash St.

In attendance:

Mayor Tawanda Moore (hereinafter, Mayor Moore)
Mayor Pro Tem Tammie Atkinson (hereinafter, Commissioner Atkinson)
Commissioner Gil Wheeler (hereinafter, Commissioner Wheeler)
Commissioner Bridget Wimberley (hereinafter, Commissioner Wimberley)
Commissioner Tim Bridgers (hereinafter, Commissioner Bridgers)

Also in Attendance:

Town Clerk Melissa Younger (hereinafter, Clerk Younger)

Absent:

Town Attorney Slade Rand (hereinafter, Slade Rand)
Public Works Supervisor Wilbur Etheridge (hereinafter, Wilbur Etheridge)
Zoning Officer Shawn Lucas (hereinafter, Zoning Officer Lucas)

Call To Order: Mayor Moore called the Regular Council Meeting to order on August 13, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Invocation: Mayor Pro Tem Atkinson

Pledge Of Allegiance: Mayor Moore

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 13, 2024 council meeting. Melissa Younger asked that Dana Hill with Clear Water Solutions and Mike Tolson from Mack Gay Associates be added to the presentation section and that the Tax Settlement from Wilson County be added to the action item section. Commissioner Atkinson made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of Dana Hill, Mike Tolson, and the Wilson County Tax Settlement. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the July 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Wimberley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Patricia Harris spoke on behalf of her mother **Noel Harris** and their concern for a rotten tree and its limbs, that are starting to fall near 405 E. Main St. Commissioner Atkinson stated that she would follow-up with Shawn Lucas again and give Ms. Harris a call with an update.

Mr. Johnny Batchelor shared his concern for speeding issues through town and asked again about speedbumps. It was stated by Melissa Younger that due to the roads being state owned the town was unable to place speedbumps.

Mr. Garner of 304 N Railroad St. talked about a storm drain that he has had problems with for years. It floods the property.

Ms. Carla Stutts doesn't believe that the storm drains were cleaned out before the tropical storm and there was a lot of flooding because of it. She also inquired if the seat that Zachary Mercer held as Commissioner was open and stated that she would like to add her name for consideration.

Ms. Vann Atkinson of 101 N Branch St. came to discuss the water quality, and stated that due to her medical history, she takes the water to her Dr. to be tested because of the notices she has received. She said there is still wreckage from an accident that happened awhile ago at Main St. & Branch St. Ms. Atkinson also inquired about "the books being in order".

Ms. Howell came to make everyone aware of the flooding at E Nash St & Pender St. due to the drains being clogged.

Ms. Michelle McKoy came to discuss the flooding at The Elms Apartments, located at 400 E Church St. She would follow up with pictures.

Presentations/Discussions:

Train Depot Quotes: Mayor Moore presented a quote from Tru Quality Maintenance LLC for refurbishing/fixing the floors at the Train Depot. The amount of the quote was \$23,917.50 for the interior of the building. There was another quote for the exterior for \$49,700.

Dana Hill presented a proposal through ClearWater Solutions. The proposal included, but was not limited to, operations and management of public works and utilities, transitioning current DPW employees over to become ClearWater solutions employees, performing the duties that our Public Works Dept currently does, as well as what Carolina Pump & Sewer currently handle. The proposal was for \$40,965/monthly, for a one-year contract with a five-year renewal period.

The discussion was tabled pending more research into the proposal and the cost comparison & breakdown of what the Town is already paying for services.

Mike Tolson with Mack Gay and Associates came to provide an update as well as follow up with the grant projects that are going on around Elm City. Commissioner Wheeler stated he would like to see meetings held in between regular Council Meetings with Mack Gay Associates, Town Staff and Commissioners that would be interested, to keep everyone updated and keep things moving forward. Mayor Moore inquired about the reimbursement fee for the closing cost, in the amount of \$18,840, that after her speaking with someone at the state learned it was, in fact, not reimbursable to the Town. Mr. Tolson stated that Mack Gay Associates had went ahead and paid that fee on behalf of the Town for the project to move forward. Mayor Moore asked for conformation of the payment before moving forward to sign any documents. Mike Tolson said he would arrange that.

Action Items:

Jean Winstead – Mayor Moore asked the Board to consider a token of appreciation for Ms. Winstead for her land donation to the Town of Elm City. Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to have a plaque made and present that, along with flowers, to Ms. Winstead; with the cost not to exceed \$150. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Moore asked the Board to hold a Back-to-School free haircut event, at the Train Depot on Sunday, August 25, 2024 from 2pm-5pm. Like she has done in past years, she will provide free haircuts as well as school supplies. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to allow Mayor Moore to hold a Back-to-School event at the train depot. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Spivey Park – Mayor Moore asked for a motion to hold a community day at Spivey Park at a later date. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to hold a community day at Spivey Park at a later date. Commissioner Wimberly seconded the motion. Commissioner Wheeler opposed. **The motion passed 3-1.**

Tax Settlement – Mayor Moore presented the 2023-2024 Tax Settlement from Wilson County and asked for a motion for approval. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Tax Settlement from Wilson County. Commissioner Bridgers seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Town Staff Reports:

Mayor Moore read her Town Administrator report in detail, which included, but was not limited to, a visit with Jean Winstead, who donated land to the Town, the Powell Bill Certified statement and expenditure report being completed, auditors being on site working towards the completion of the 2023 audit, a request made from the Mayor to Southern Corrosion for their maintenance reports from the past

year after receiving an invoice for \$13,043.76, and a offer from Bryant Motor Sports in the amount of \$400 for the Town truck; which only has a functioning engine.

Melissa Younger read the Finance Report by Tiondra Fields in detail.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to accept Tiondra Fields' Finance Report. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to accept Tiondra Fields' Finance Report. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion for the Town Administrator report to be accepted. Commissioner Bridgers made a motion to accept the Town Administrator's Report. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Commissioner Wheeler stated that the budget to actual is still inaccurate. He also stated that the residents on Lee St. would like street signs put up. Mayor Moore stated that she was on Lee St. earlier in the day and that there is hardware needed to put up the signs and she is working to make sure they get done.

Adjournment: Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Commissioner Atkinson seconded motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**