

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 1, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Eastover Community Center**

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Presiding Council Members: Lawrence Buffaloe, Willie Geddie, Cheryl Hudson, Donald Hudson, Benny Pearce, and Sara Piland

MINUTES OF MEETING – July 1, 2008

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members Cheryl Hudson, Lawrence Buffaloe, Willie Geddie, Sara Piland and Benny Pearce were in attendance at the June 3, 2008 Eastover Town Council Meeting. Council Member Donald Hudson was not present for the July 1, 2008 meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Attorney John Jackson and Mr. Matt Rooney of the Cumberland County Joint Planning Department were also in attendance.

I. Call to Order: Mayor Charles McLaurin called the July 1, 2008 meeting of the Eastover Town Council 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 led the attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

IV. Recognitions: The Mayor presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Roger Cribb, a resident of Eastover for saving Miss Kassie Carter, age 17 from a firey automobile crash on June 15, 2008. The accident occurred near the Hayfield Road Intersection in Wade, NC. Mayor McLaurin stated that the Town appreciates his heroism.

V. Approval of Agenda: Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to revise the Agenda to add Item #4 to the Discussion Agenda: Receive a presentation from Mr. Matt Rooney from the Cumberland County Inspections & Planning Department on the Eastover Work Program. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Consent Agenda: Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to approve the June 3, 2008 Minutes and the June 17, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Benny Pearce. The motion was carried unanimously.

VII. Discussion Agenda:

Agenda Item #1:

Mr. Howard Piland, Jr. gave the Town Council a briefing on the new Eastover Website in which he plans to implement around the Town's anniversary date of July 27, 2008. The Website has two main purposes: (1) to be a communication conduit (2) Town goals and what is our town interested in today, what are we doing, street lighting, Sheriff's Deputy, what is the

zoning and planning process, etc.). Community events could be posted on the Website. The Town Clerk will have the ability to do this. Use her as a funnel for information, and from her it goes out to the community. He advised that we now have over two hundred applicants that have signed up for emails from this Website. Mr. Piland stated that the Website would be a great community service. Civic Club, Community Watch, church activities, school activities, and town history could be put on the Website. Mr. Piland stated that the Town Clerk could click on the calendar and add activities. The home page is the site map. The Eastover Fire Department and several of the churches also have a Website and could be linked to the Town of Eastover Website. Mr. Piland asked that the Town Council discuss the Website presented, and there may be other things you would want to add to the site. The Town Council will discuss the Website on July 15, 2008 at its Special Meeting.

Agenda Item #2:

Chief, Mark McLaurin gave a presentation to the Town Council concerning the Eastover Fire Department's budget and their needs.

The Fire Department began in 1956. Chief McLaurin stated that the tax rate is the same as it was in 1960 @ a rate of .10% per \$100.00 valuation. The tax rate has not changed all these years. Chief McLaurin stated that the Eastover Fire Department has eight vehicles, one boat, and are forty-five personnel strong. Volunteers is an underscore, could not operate without the volunteers. They work hard to acquire certification and work long hours. Chief McLaurin stated that they cover 37 square miles and 5 miles of Interstate, and stated that Fayetteville only covers one mile of the Interstate at Exit 49. They run Emergency Medical Services, rescue services, and are also responsible for down power lines, trees in the road, and are doing all these things with less funding. For Insurance purposes, ratings are from Class one to ten with Eastover Fire Department rated as a Class six for residential. Class ten is the highest rating. The water system will enable use to get a better rating.

The clothing the firemen wear must be replaced every ten years at a cost of approximately \$29,201.00. Rapid Rescue Teams are on standby for rescue of automobile accident victims, farm equipment, and water rescue. They need additional equipment, thermal camera devices, pagers (radios) need to be replaced as they are ten year or older. The Fire Department does more and more without any more funding. They struggle to make ends meet. Exhibit C in your Agenda Book shows how their funds are spent. 18% goes into the truck fund, the last vehicle cost over \$400,000.00 and they are making payments of over \$52,000.00 per month in payments for this vehicle. The Rescue Team has 19 breathing apparatus at a cost of \$19,000.00 each of which sixteen of these are not up to speed. The sixteen do not have a coupling device that could not have another bottle of oxygen connected. The firemen must have these if they go into a house to rescue another fireman. This coupling connects to the other firefighter's equipment to give them additional oxygen.

Attorney John Jackson stated that the tax rate of 10.5 cents per \$100 valuation could be appropriated, with ½ cent going to the Chief's Association.

Council Member Willie Geddie asked Chief McLaurin if the Eastover Fire Department inspected the schools. Chief McLaurin stated that is the responsibility of the Cumberland County Fire Marshall's Office. Chief McLaurin stated that they do go to the schools in the month of October (Fire Safety Week) to give demonstrations and fire safety lectures to the children and staff.

Chief McLaurin is requesting that the Town Council consider the needs of the Eastover Fire

Department and possible increase in funding. The Town Council stated they would consider the issues presented at the next working session. Council Member Sara Piland stated that the community appreciates the service the Eastover Fire Department does. It is a great community service. We are going to do what we can do to help you and your department. Mayor McLaurin stated that the budget is limited at this time, but we will do what we can to help.

Agenda Item #3:

The Town Council discussed the Petition for Annexation by developer John Koenig property has been received in satisfactory form by the attorney. This was originally presented to the Town Clerk at the May 3, 2008 Town Council Meeting. The Clerk must prepare and sign a Certificate of Sufficiency to the Town Board. Attorney John Jackson stated that the next step was for the Mayor and Town Council to direct the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the voluntary annexation petition by developer John Koenig. Council Member Sara Piland asked if the Clerk could investigate this matter as we are new and this is our first annexation, or should the Town Attorney do this. Attorney Jackson stated that he and Mr. Matt Rooney would help the Clerk with this action. Mr. Jackson stated that statistical data be prepared for voting purposes. Mr. Jackson stated that the property to be annexed must be contiguous to the existing Town of Eastover town limits, all land proposed for annexation in the petition and shown on filed plat is owned by Estate Builders, LLC, and that the name on the application should be Estate Builders, LLC. Attorney Jackson stated that a pre-clearance letter must be prepared with a 120-day effective date, and a “meets and bounds” description will be needed to forward to the State.

Council Member Sara Piland and the Mayor wanted to know how much this would cost the Town. Council Member Sara Piland feels that the petitioner should bear the cost. Mr. Jackson stated that this would increase our tax base and he had never heard of anyone turning down a petition for annexation. Attorney Jackson stated it was up to the Board whether to proceed or not. Upon receipt of the Sufficiency Certificate from the Clerk it is then in the Town Council’s hands whether to proceed for consideration for a Public Hearing. The Mayor directed the Town Clerk to investigate a petition received under G.S. 160A-31 and present a “Certificate of Sufficiency” to the Town Board at the next Town Council Meeting. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe made a motion to proceed and the motion was 2nd by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4:

Mr. Matt Rooney from the Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department gave a presentation on the Eastover Work Program. Mr. Rooney stated that he has provided us with the Eastover Work Program as prepared by the Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department. Mr. Rooney stated he does not think there is anything new in this plan. The following items in the plan have been discussed at our workshop meetings and should be included in the Eastover Work Program. They are as follows:

1. Staff recommendations regarding whether specific zoning districts are consistent with the goals of the Eastover Detailed Land Use Plan and existing and future development.
2. Staff recommendations for development standards within the Town of Eastover and Eastover Municipal Influence Area.

3. Staff recommendations for possible revisions to the landscaping requirements in the zoning ordinance.
4. Staff recommendations for possible revisions to the sign ordinance.
5. Staff assistance with community forums.

Mr. Rooney stated that we have had problems with specific zoning districts (Item #1). There has been an on going debate over the Municipal Influence areas. That is over as to who is included and why. Basically we are proposing that the Town of Eastover maybe wants to consider having specific standards written just for the Town of Eastover (Item #2). Items #3 & #4, appearance seem to have a lot of importance for the Town Council. Mr. Rooney stated that the Board should consider a possible revision to the landscaping requirements, and sign ordinance. Item #5 is for staff assistance and any community forums the Town Council would want to have. Mr. Rooney stated that he did not know if the list was all-inclusive, that members should review and include any items they want added or changed to the Work Program. He is not suggesting that this be the final Work Program. If the Council wants only one or two of the items listed on the Work Program to please let him know.

Attorney Jackson suggested that the Town Council have a work session on the proposed Work Program and add or delete any items as needed. Mr. Rooney stated that the Town does not have to make a decision tonight. Council Member Sara Piland wanted to know if the Council could ask for other services during the coming year. Mr. Rooney stated that they are open to suggestions and could ask for additional services at any time. Council Member Sara Piland stated that she was satisfied with the proposed Eastover Work Program and said these items had been discussed at previous work sessions. She asked the other Council Members if they had any problems or suggestions about the proposed Eastover Work Program. None of the Council Members had any problems with the proposed Eastover Work Program as long as they knew they could add or change at a later date if needed.

A motion to approve the proposed Eastover Work Program was made by Council Member Sara Piland, and asked Mr. Rooney to convey this to Mr. Thomas J. Lloyd, the Director of the Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Benny Pearce. The motion was carried unanimously.

IX. Mayor's Update:

a. Mayor McLaurin stated that everyone should be aware of the new Eastover, NC 28312 address that is effective August 2, 2008.

b. Mayor McLaurin reminded all the Town Council Members of the BRAC Leadership Luncheon at the Hospitality Suite at the Crown Coliseum on July 15, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Council Member Sara Piland stated that eight seats have been committed, already paid, and if we cannot attend we need to get someone to fill the space. A General from Fort McPherson will be one of the speakers at the luncheon. Mayor McLaurin stated that if anyone wants to carpool with him to let him know.

X. Council Members Update:

Council Member Cheryl Hudson gave the Mayor and Town Council an update on adjustments made to the fiscal year 2007-2008 budget on the administration category. The adjustments are as follows:

- a. Telephone and Internet increase by \$100.00
- b. Cumberland County Tax Administration increase by \$100.00
- c. Travel reimbursements decrease by [\$200.00]

This results in no change in the total budget for the Administration Department. The Budget Officer is authorized under Section 4, item b. to make adjustments under \$1000.00 within each department. I am covered under the ordinance to not prepare an amendment, but required by law to let the Council know what I had to do to keep the budget in tact. No approval necessary.

XI. Motion to Adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin requested a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Benny Pearce and 2nd by Council Member Sara Piland. The motion was approved unanimously.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, **Town Clerk**
Jane F. Faircloth