

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 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 – December 2, 2008

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members Lawrence Buffaloe, Donald Hudson, Sara Piland, Willie Geddie, and Benny Pearce were in attendance at the December 2, 2008 Eastover Town Council Meeting. Council Member Cheryl Hudson and Attorney John Jackson town attorney were absent from the Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Mr. Matt Rooney of the Cumberland County Joint Planning & Inspections Department was in attendance.

I. Call to Order:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the December 2, 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 Benny Pearce gave the invocation and led the attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to amend the Agenda to include bonus pay for certain employees and then make a motion to approve the amended agenda. Council Member Donald Hudson 2nd the motion to approve the amended Agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda:

Council Member Donald Hudson made a motion to approve the November 4, 2008 Minutes as presented. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion Agenda:

Agenda Item # 1:

Receive report from Planner Matt Rooney on September 2008 Community Forum.

Mr. Matt Rooney from the Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department gave the Town Council a briefing on the results of the community forum that was held in September 2008 see Exhibit E. Mr. Rooney talked first about planned growth that is consistent with community heritage and values. There were almost 150 items listed as a result of the September 2008 forum. The items in the column with the stars represent the votes that the participants gave to the items considered most important. Some items listed separately were actually addressing the same issue. A good example of this is the individual items related to preserving rural characteristics, recreation, commercial uses, and appearance issues.

Mr. Rooney pointed out that many of the more important issues identified in this community forum were similarly given a high priority at the community forum held three years ago in the initial phases of the 2030 Growth Vision Plan. This would suggest that there is an internal consistency in what the Eastover community values. This is by definition what community heritage and values are all about. Mr. Rooney stated what the Town should gain from the community forum is a broader view of what the Town can attempt to accomplish. He stated there is a predominance of planning issues on the list, which some of these issues can be addressed by elements of the Planning Work Program that the Town Council adopted in late summer. Not all the issues are directly related to planning, such as the desire for a new post office. Mr. Rooney stated his recommendation to the Town Council is that the ongoing planning program for the Town of Eastover becomes a part of the Eastover Community Action Plan, and further that the Eastover Community Action Plan become the focus of the second community forum. Mr. Rooney gave the Town Council a four-step plan as so stated.

(1) Develop a vision:

Participants search for common images and visions of where they want to be as a community in 10 to 15 years.

(2) Identify internal and external obstacles to realizing the vision:

External are those things the community cannot easily influence such. It is important to identify these obstacles for the purpose of public awareness. Internal obstacles including possible contradictions are those things over which a community can exert varying degrees of influence.

(3) Identify the actions that will address the obstacles:

What can or should be done.

(4) Develop an implementation time-line and action responsibilities:

What, how, where, and when it will be done.

Agenda Item # 2:

Discuss 2030 Growth Plan and recommend any modifications specifically for the Town of Eastover.

Council Member Sara Piland asked Mr. Rooney if the 2030 Growth Plan binds the Town of Eastover in any way. Mr. Rooney stated basically no, especially not in terms of things that are in the best interest of the Town of Eastover. Mayor McLaurin stated that you mean each Municipality can act in their own best interest. Mr. Rooney stated that it is expected that each Municipality will do so in their own best interest. Council Member Piland stated that she wants us to look at the 2030 Growth Plan very carefully and make sure Eastover is mentioned specifically in places that needs to be mentioned. She said, as this will serve as guide for future dollars. I think Eastover needs to be specifically named on several of the items, and especially recreation. The Master 2030 Plan lists all municipalities except Eastover. We were not incorporated at the time this was prepared and this needs to be changed to include Eastover.

Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe stated that they should group many of the items together (i.e. recreation, walking trails ball fields etc.) and come up with several categories. Mr. Rooney stated that the Work Program that reflects the current zoning district ordinances specifically meets the Town's needs. There are portions of the zoning ordinance that can protect the rural character of the Town, and there are other portions of the zoning ordinances that are a disaster waiting to happen. Council Member Sara Piland stated that she felt it would help us set our vision and also to help in budget preparation for next year. This will help in making funding decisions as to what the people want, not just what individuals want. Mr. Rooney stated that we should take a broader view instead of a narrow view from the list. The 2030 Growth Plan and the results of the Community Forum are intertwined.

Council Member Sara Piland asked if it would be appropriate to send a letter to the County concerning the recreation portion and to include Eastover in the Master Plan, since we know this is areas we want to address in the 2030 Growth Plan. Mr. Rooney stated his recommendation would be to send it as a preliminary comment to allow for further comments once we get into these discussions.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion to approve a preliminary letter to Cumberland County. Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to approve the preliminary letter to Director Tom Lloyd, Director of Planning for Cumberland County to include recreation and all appropriate areas in the 2030 Growth Plan, as Eastover was not incorporated at the time the 2030 Growth Plan was prepared. Also we would continue to make recommendations to the County, as needed in the future. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Willie Geddie. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3:

Discuss whether to pursue the designation of the Town of Eastover as a “Tree City”.

Council Member Benny Pearce briefed the Town Council concerning becoming a “Tree City”, and recommended Eastover become a “Tree City”. Council Member Pearce stated that he was on the Board of a Chamber of Commerce near here, and that town took much pride in being a “Tree City”. They took pride and used resources in their community to promote being a “Tree City”. There are only four things necessary for us to become a “Tree City”. To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. It is important to note that they were also designated so that no community would be excluded because of size. The Standards are as follows:

- (1) A Tree Board or Department.
- (2) A Tree Care Ordinance.
- (3) A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of a Least \$2 Per Capita.
- (4) An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

Council Member Pearce stated that we have a least one Garden Club or more in the community, and we could ask them to become members of the required Tree Board to manage the program.

The cost to the Town would be \$2.00 per capita, and the Town would have to budget on an annual basis for this program. We would have to get our Town Attorney involved with this action. We could go through the Agriculture Department (Mr. Autry), and get a voucher to pick up trees at a cost of \$2.00 per tax paid home. The ordinance is going to be as complicated as we want to make it. We would also have to recognize Arbor Day with a Proclamation, and he feels the schools are already doing something on Arbor Day. The Mayor would issue a Proclamation on Arbor Day, which is in April each year. Council Member Pearce stated that he would take ownership of this project and pursue it.

Council Member Sara Piland stated that she went on-line to look at the application and when we meet the standards, and they issue us a certificate designating Eastover as a “Tree City” or green space. It is not like you charge everyone \$2.00 per capita other factors come into play as well (i.e. volunteers, Appearance Committee representative, etc.). Council Member Willie Geddie asked if it would have to be a specific tree, and Council Member Pearce stated it did not have to be a specific tree. Mayor McLaurin stated we could choose a specific tree if we so desire such as a Dogwood Tree, Red Maple, etc. Mayor McLaurin stated that a good time to promote this would be on Heritage Day and perhaps give some trees away to our residents.

Mayor Charles McLaurin asked for a motion to pursue Eastover as a “Tree City”. Council Member Donald Hudson made a motion to pursue. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Sara Piland. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 4:

Discuss whether to pursue with U. S. Postal Authorities, the possibility of a Contracted Post Office for the Town of Eastover.

Council Member Benny Pearce briefed the Town Council concerning a contracted Post Office in Eastover. Mr. Pearce stated that he thought this was a dead issue for a while; however he read a news article last week that changed his thought on this issue. He stated that a community designated as a crossroads got a contracted Post Office, so why would a Town not be able to get one. He stated that the U.S. Postal Service would agree to contract labor in a community and agree to pay expenses for the operation out of a designated place. It is much cheaper than building a facility that we have already been turned down on. Council Member Pearce stated we should go through the Fayetteville U. S. Postal Service to try to get this accomplished. Council Member Pearce made a recommendation to ask the Mayor to get in touch with the U. S. Postal Officials and get a dialog started on this. Mayor McLaurin agreed to do so.

Council Member Benny Pearce made a motion to pursue. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Donald Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5

Bonus Pay for certain employees.

Council Member Sara Piland expressed thanks to Ms. Jane Faircloth for her work ethic and stated she gets along well with people; and Mr. Bob Nail for the good services in setting up the audio and equipment for the meetings during the year. She stated they had both done an outstanding job and recommended a bonus to Ms. Faircloth in the amount of \$100.00, and to Mr. Nail in the amount of \$50.00.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to propose an end-of-year bonus to Jane Faircloth - \$100.00, and Bob Nail - \$50.00. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Benny Pearce. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 6

Eastover Fire Department Request – added to the Agenda at the Town Council Meeting.

Council Member Benny Pearce stated that Chief Mark McLaurin from the Eastover Fire Department had talked with him concerning items they need. He said, as you know when we were being incorporated into a Town, one of the services we put into our legal documents was that fire services would be provided to the Town of Eastover. We would do that by contracting with Eastover and Vander Fire Departments to continue to provide services to our residents. We wish to, and have budgeted for, to enhance the services for the Eastover and Vander Fire Departments to whatever extent our budgets will allow. Chief McLaurin has put on paper exactly

what their specific needs are, and has prioritized the items. They are as follows:

(1) Structural Firefighting Protective Clothing Replacement: Coats, pants, boots, gloves, helmets, and hoods that are due for replacement. Projected cost \$29,201.00.

(2) Modification and Upgrades to SCBA (Breathing Apparatus) Equipment: Necessary to enhance firefighter safety and comply with national standards. Projected cost \$22,400.00.

(3) Life-Cycle Replacement of Firefighting Equipment: Replacement of items which are at or nearing the end of their useful life or will be obsolete soon due to technology. Examples: (fire hose, fire nozzles, breathing air cylinders, pagers, portable radios). Projected cost \$22,000.00.

Council Member Pearce stated that we had anticipated doing this, and we should honor Chief McLaurin's request as much as our budget will allow. We would also give the Vander Fire their proportionate share based on the area they cover. Mayor McLaurin stated that we could not vote on this now, as Council Member Cheryl Hudson is not present. We could get a better view of this in January when Council Member/Finance Officer Cheryl Hudson returns and we get the Audit Report. Council Member Donald Hudson stated he felt we should give the Fire Departments what we have budgeted for them. Mr. Matthews from the Eastover Fire Department stated that over 600 calls have come in and Eastover handled 400 of these calls. Mayor McLaurin stated all of this would be considered in January. Council Member Sara Piland stated that we had anticipated helping the Fire Departments, she does not remember the exact amount, and with the Finance Officer not present we must wait until January to get the dollar amounts.

VIII. Receive Mayor's Update:

1. Mayor McLaurin stated if you have not been to the Eastover Ball Park recently, there are a lot of things going on over there. There has been a lot of land cleared, about twice the size of the field. There is a soccer field being installed, new ball fields and possibly a walking trail. Mayor McLaurin stated that when the Ball Park gets all they can from the County Recreation & Parks, to come to Eastover and perhaps we might fund some playground equipment for the park.

2. Mayor McLaurin stated that on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., there would be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Eastover Central Community Recreation Center with reception to follow. All town Council Members are encouraged to attend.

3. Mayor McLaurin stated that Mr. Dean Clodfelder has volunteered the old tennis courts at the Cloverfield Country Club to be used for recreation if the Town wanted to do so. He stated that the Town would not want to get into that, but the Recreation Department may want to do something with this. Mayor McLaurin stated Mr. Clodfelder hated to tear up the courts if the Town wanted to use them. Council Member Benny Pearce stated that he would refer that to the Recreation Department. He also stated that we would be responsible for the liability and the maintenance, and we do not have a maintenance department.

IX. Motion to Adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

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