

**Town of Eastover - Town Council Meeting & Community Forum
Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 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 – February 3, 2009

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin, Council Members Lawrence Buffaloe, Donald Hudson, Sara Piland, Willie Geddie, Cheryl Hudson and Benny Pearce were in attendance at the February 3, 2009 Eastover Town Council Meeting. A quorum was present at the Town Council Meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. Matt Rooney from the Cumberland County Joint Planning & Inspections Department, Mr. John Jackson, town attorney, Mr. Thomas Taylor, Interim Town Manager, and Jane Faircloth, town clerk.

I. Call to Order:

Mayor Charles McLaurin called the February 3, 2009 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 Cheryl Hudson gave the invocation and led the attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comments:

One individual (Mr. Morgan Johnson) signed up to speak.

Mr. Morgan Johnson from the Eastover Sanitary District gave the Town Council a brief update on the Sanitary District. Mr. Johnson stated there was a meeting this morning with Congressman Mike McIntyre's representative for the possible use of some funds. We do have planned several more phases of our sewer totaling about 41-million dollars at this time. He would like to be included in any meetings the town might have with the congressman, as all of this work would be within the Town of Eastover. If we can work together we have the possibility of getting several more sewer projects. The existing project on sewer is about 98% complete and an agreement with PWC has been reached.

Mr. Johnson stated that they are doing a number of things that will benefit the town. He said that there are several dirt roads of which many are private roads in the town. The Sanitary District is preparing the necessary paperwork to be submitted to the Department of Transportation to have the DOT pick up maintenance of these streets. There are four roads that will now be public roads not private roads in the town.

Mr. Johnson stated that they are in the process of developing a website for the Eastover

Sanitary District and have it connect to the Town's website. He stated that the Eastover Sanitary District has retained Howard Piland Jr. to do this, as he is the one that established the Town's website. Perhaps the two websites can compliment each other. Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Liz Reeser, Board Member for the Eastover Sanitary District is taking the lead on this website. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Reeser. This will also help the town clerk, as they will also have a telephone answering system set up.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Mayor has granted some land to use and have an elevated water tank erected at the Baywood Road and I-95 intersection. This elevated water tank will have Eastover, NC in large letters on both sides of the tower. Our ESD-2 water system is in design and will go all the way to the Sampson County line.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to amend the February 3, 2009 agenda to include an item; consider sending a letter to the N. C. Secretary of Transportation regarding the Middle Road Bridge. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Donald Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda:

1. Consider approval of the January 6, 2009 minutes.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Cheryl Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion Agenda:

Agenda Item # 1:

Consider having the Eastover Community Parks Association having its mail delivered to the Eastover Town Hall address.

Mayor McLaurin stated that the President of the Eastover Community Parks Association had called him and stated that they have such a change over in officers it is hard to get the addresses changed. The Mayor stated that he had talked with the town clerk and saw no problem, would just set up a drop box for them. Mayor McLaurin stated that he would have the President of the Community Parks Association contact the town clerk to set this up.

Mayor McLaurin asked for a motion. Council Member Donald Hudson made a motion to let the Eastover Community Parks Association have its mail delivered to the Town Hall. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2:

Consider the needs of the Eastover and Vander Fire Departments.

Interim Town Manager Tom Taylor stated that he has gone over the Town's Budget very closely. Thanks to Council Member Cheryl Hudson we are in good shape. However, at this point of the year and the economic times I recommend that the Town give only what was budgeted for this fiscal year. That amount is \$12,000 for Eastover Fire Department and \$1,000 for Vander Fire Department. This could be revisited at a later time, as the end of the fiscal year is June 30, 2009. Council Member Cheryl Hudson stated that she had budgeted for \$12,000 for Eastover and \$1,000 for Vander Fire Departments. We can go ahead and disburse these funds to them. The Fire Departments are very appreciative of any amounts to help.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to authorize a disbursement of \$12,000 to the Eastover Fire Department and \$1,000.00 to the Vander Fire Department. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3:

Consider approval of Resolution 1-2009 to allow Absentee Voting in Elections for the Town of Eastover.

Attorney John Jackson stated that this is simply a requirement by the Board of Elections that we must do. Once the Resolution 1-2009 is passed he would send it to the US Department of Justice, for pre-clearance. Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe asked if this was also a requirement for other towns? Attorney Jackson stated it is a requirement for everyone.

Council Member Donald Hudson made a motion to pass Resolution 1-2009 to allow absentee voting in elections for the Town of Eastover. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Willie Geddie. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 4:

Consider sending a letter to the N. C. Secretary of Transportation regarding the Middle Road Bridge.

Council Member Sara Piland stated that the Middle Road Bridge has been closed since August 2008 and has been detrimental to the efficient flow of traffic between parts of the Eastover community and the City of Fayetteville and between parts of Eastover and I-95. Eastover residents work and shop in the City of Fayetteville and use the Middle Road Bridge for primary access to I-95 Business. The bridge is a vital link for residents and local industries to I-95 via I-95 Business. She stated that funding for the replacement of this bridge has been put on hold and we must be very proactive in trying to get the stimulus funds to replace the bridge.

Council Member Sara Piland made a motion to send a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation and key legislators in our area and state, requesting work to resume for replacement of the Middle Road –I-95 Business Bridge. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Donald Hudson. The motion was carried unanimously.

VII. Community Forum.

Mr. Matt Rooney from the Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department gave an overview of the Cumberland County 2030 Growth Vision Plan to the Town Council and residents present at the Community Forum. Mr. Rooney stated that as a result of citizen input from eleven small area meetings, seventeen themes were identified for the development of Vision Statements. They are as follows:

1. A more diversified local economy.
2. Well managed growth and development.
3. Infrastructure that keeps pace.
4. A balanced transportation system.
5. Community-Oriented schools.
6. Expanded Parks and Recreation.
7. Preserved open space and rural character.
8. Quality housing and residential development.
9. Compatible commercial development.
10. Attractive community appearance and image.
11. A healthy, sustainable environment.
12. A vibrant downtown Fayetteville.
13. The Cape Fear River, a regional asset.
14. Public safety services closer to the citizens.
15. Seniors citizens well served.
16. Intergovernmental cooperation and efficiency.
17. An active, involved citizenry.

The staff came up with a Resulting Vision Statement, looking back from 2030. Mr. Rooney stated that they considered the desired future and the unwanted future in preparing the results of the Resulting Vision Statement. He stated that he would open the forum up for questions from the audience.

Question #1: Mr. Steven Groveunder informed the Town Council about the problems he has with the dirt street where he lives. This problem came from the sewer installation, and he has spoken with Mr. Adam Riggsbee an engineer for the sewer project to no avail. The road is so bad that trucks are being stuck up to the axles on the two streets that are not paved in this area. He stated that he was told there must be four driveways to qualify for paving the street. Mr. Rooney stated it is not a Cumberland County requirement, that it is a NC Department of Transportation requirement. Mr. Groveunder stated that now Eastover is a Town, he would expect the streets to be paved. Council Member Sara Piland stated that we do not get funds from the DOT for paving any streets. The streets Mr. Groveunder is referring to are private streets not DOT maintained streets. Mayor McLaurin stated that this is something the Town would look into.

Question #2: Council Member Lawrence Buffaloe asked Mr. Rooney if Eastover was included in the Parks & Recreation portion of the 2030 Growth Plan as the Town requested? Mr. Rooney stated that Mr. Lloyd had received a letter from the Town and knows that this is a concern of Eastover. Mr. Rooney stated that when the Planning Board takes back up the review of the document, a choice would be made at that time. This does not preclude the Town from developing a Master Recreation Plan. Council Member Sara Piland stated that since we have some Eastover residents present they should know that this 2030 Growth Vision Plan will serve as a guide, and there is a statement that a Master Recreation Plan will be developed for small municipalities in Cumberland County. She stated at the time the 2030 Growth Plan was written Eastover was not a municipality, and we want to make sure Eastover is not excluded. She urged residents to get involved and make recommendations concerning the Master Recreation Plan for Eastover.

Question #3: Mr. Morgan Johnson asked if the Town planned to continue using the Eastover Land Use Plan, as Mr. Rooney had talked about lot sizes and rural atmosphere? Council Member Sara Piland stated that zoning standards have been set. A-1 zoning is Agriculture with two acres for a house; RR zoning is Rural Residential and a lot of things can be done with RR and some not so desirable. R-40 zoning is one house per acre and must have stick built houses. Council Member Piland stated that growth would escalate and we want open spaces, green space (i.e. trees, landscaping) and to keep appearance appealing.

Question #4: One resident (did not get name) asked about the Zoning sign in the area Eastover is annexing. Mayor McLaurin explained that Mr. John Koning requested the annexation because the lots in question were split between Fayetteville and Eastover. Mr. Koenig wants the lots to be in the Town of Eastover. This would also cause a big tax problem with half the lots in Fayetteville and half in Eastover. The rezoning process is simply to get it into Eastover zoning.

Question #5: Ms. Christie Davis stated that she knew what R-40 zoning is and it must have a stick built house on one-acre of land. She stated the A-1 zoning lots are larger but can have different types of structures. What is in between these two types of zoning? Ms. Davis wanted to know how do you marry the two concepts together, such as larger space with ugly trailers and smaller space with stick built houses. Mr. Matt Rooney stated that there is nothing between the

R-40 and the A-1 zoning. Mr. Rooney stated that there is nothing to prevent you from putting a stick-built house on a two-acre lot. Ms. Davis stated that everything that has come up for zoning since the summer has been R-40 one-acre lots. Larger lots would decrease the population on a large tract of land. Mr. Morgan Johnson stated that what Ms. Davis is after is A-1 zoning that will not allow a manufactured home. A-1 zoning now allows manufactured homes. Ms. Davis stated that the concept now is nicer looking homes or open space. It does not seem that the zoning in place now puts these two concepts together. Mr. Rooney stated that there is an A-1-A zoning on one-acre lots that will allow for modular homes and stick built homes, and must be for residential uses. Mr. Rooney stated that RR- Rural Residential, minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet or one-acre, also allows a full range from stick-built homes to single trailers. The Town has the option to change the zoning codes if they so desire. Council Member Sara Piland stated the residents should to be informed as to how zoning affects the value of their property. Council Member Donald Hudson stated that the reason we have so much RR Zoning is because of past history before the Town was incorporated.

Question #6: Mr. Rufus House asked a question about planning the parks, land uses and zoning codes. Is the land around the Ball Park available for use? Mayor McLaurin stated that the Recreation Department is putting in soccer fields, and adding ball fields now. Mr. House wanted to know if walking trails and playground equipment could be built. Council Member Sara Piland stated that she felt there is not enough for seniors and pre-school children in our community. Our residents currently have to take their children outside of our community for these services. This is a project the Town really needs to work on. The problem is that the property must be purchased by the Town, Cumberland County or a private organization or could be donated to the Town. Mr. Rufus House stated that the closest place he can take his granddaughters to play is 6-miles away. Council Member Piland stated that the community should get active on these projects.

VIII. Mayor's Comments:

1. Mayor McLaurin stated that the Town had given the Eastover Fire Department \$12,000 and the Vander Fire Department \$1,000 as an incentive. The Town wants to help the Fire Departments as much as financial constraints will allow. Chief Mark McLaurin thanked the Town for its contribution to the Eastover Fire Department. This funding is going toward new protective clothing for the fire fighters. The equipment is very expensive. Council Member Sara Piland asked Chief McLaurin to discuss the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) verses fire fighting. Chief McLaurin stated that they are having to respond to downed trees in the road, hazardous materials, power lines down, and medical calls (about 60%), in which they are not funded for by the County. We are expected to do business as usual with the same funding of twelve years ago. We cover five miles of the I-95 Interstate which includes many personal injuries and hazardous materials. Fayetteville covers only one mile of the 1-95 Interstate. The Mayor and Town Council thanked Chief McLaurin for all they do with limited resources.

2. Mayor McLaurin stated that the Town is trying to get a contracted Post Office. This is not final; it is in the working stage.

3. Mayor McLaurin informed the audience that they are working with the Department of Transportation to get speed limit signs reduced and some new ones.

4. Mayor McLaurin stated that the Town is working on street lighting from Beard Road to the traffic lights. This is a work in progress.

IX. Motion to Adjourn at 8.25 p.m.

Mayor Charles G. McLaurin asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Benny Pearce made the motion to adjourn. The motion was 2nd by Council Member Sara Piland. The motion was approved unanimously.

Town of Eastover

Charles G. McLaurin, Mayor

Attest: _____, Town Clerk
Jane F. Faircloth