

March 11, 2024

Town Hall Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Mayor James W. Dunn, Sr. was present along with the following Commissioners: Dawn E. Hobson, Neal Nichols, Larry W. Adams, and Edward G. Venable.
2. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the February 12, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Adams sent his sympathy to the family of Commissioner Wanda Johnson. She passed away on February 14, 2024. Commissioner Johnson will be missed, she served on the town board for 25 years.
4. Carroll Hoyle from Gibson and Company gave a report from our audit. The town received a clean audit opinion with no violations which means that the audit team believes that the Town's finances are firmly presented and free from material errors and that proper internal controls are in place and being followed. We had to ask for an extension this year and hopefully next year they can get started earlier and get it sent in on time.
5. Susan Venable and Attorney Epley went over a Sweepstakes Business Ordinance that was presented to the board. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to set a public hearing on April 8, 2024 beginning at 5:30 for sign changes and Sweepstakes Business Ordinance beginning at 5:45. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
6. Susan Venable presented the board with a rezoning application. The property owner would have to fill out the application and pay a fee if they wanted to request a change on the zoning status of their property. Commissioner Adams made a motion to adopt the Rezoning Application and charge a fee of \$500.00 for running the Legal Notice in the paper, mailing letters to property owners, and putting a sign on the property, etc. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
7. It was decided to table the Resolution to Approve a Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement until next month to attain more information.
8. It was decided to table the Municipal Accounting Services Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement until next month to attain more information.
9. Mayor Dunn said that the town is in the running for UNC Fellows to come work with us for one year. He will update us when he hears anything. If we get accepted the board will make the decision if we can afford the cost or not to accept the offer.
10. IT Consultant was tabled until next month.
11. The Town and the Friends of the East Bend Town Square are working together with Attorney Epley to produce a document to detail the obligations of the Town and the Friends of the East Bend Town Square so that each will know their responsibilities. Attorney Epley will work on getting a document prepared that can be executed by the board or their representative and the friends that detail their obligations when

- the friends are using the square. This would be an agreement not an ordinance.
12. Erin Haynes at 305 Quaker Ave. had a major water leak using 228,900 gallons. Her bill was \$2,791.71. She asked for additional time to pay. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to give her 6 months or more to pay in full without interest as they have done for others. All other water bills will be due as usual. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
 13. A Budget Workshop will be held on March 28, 2024 at 5:00 pm.
 14. Attorney Epley went over the different ways to go about replacing a board member. The preferred method is nomination and ballot method. There is also a nomination and voting method. He explained the difference. The board agreed to do the nomination and ballot method. It was decided to do a phone tree message and put on the town's website that the town is accepting a letter of interest for a replacement for Commissioner Johnson. If anyone is interested, please send in a letter of interest by March 26, 2024. The board hopes to select someone to fill her seat until the end of her term in December 2024
 15. Commissioner Nichols made a motion for Commissioner Venable to fill in as Commissioner over streets until a replacement is appointed. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
 16. Attorney Epley went over the duties of Mayor and Commissioners. G.S. 160A-67
They set out the basic powers of the mayor as follows:
The powers and duties of the mayor are those that are "conferred upon him by law;" and those that are "conferred upon him by the council pursuant to law;"
The mayor is the official head of the city for the purpose of service of civil process and for all "ceremonial purposes;"
The mayor "shall preside over all council meetings."
The minutes should be detailed in minimum words not maximum. The board can dictate how much needs to be detailed in the minutes.
 17. Mayor Dunn asked if the mayor's office was responsible for obtaining economic development? Attorney Epley said only by the board. Mayor Dunn said that all of those months of effort were useless.
 18. People in the community have asked Mayor Dunn about having 24/7 police coverage in East Bend. He went to talk to the Sheriff's Department and was told they would have to hire 4 more people to cover East Bend with 12-hour shifts. The town would have to pay a lot of salaries and about \$15,000.00 for equipment. We have an answer now and the town cannot afford it.
 19. Mayor Dunn would like us to look into doing online bill payment.
 20. Each department has turned in their inventory sheets.
 21. The board decided that timecards would continue to be done as always with holiday pay and hours worked. You only get time and a half when you work over 40 hours a week.
 22. The Department of Commerce wants a liaison to work with them and the town. Commissioner Nichols asked for Lizzie Morrison contact information.
 23. Mayor Dunn asked for mileage reimbursement for going to meetings, coming to town hall, and going to the post office. Mayor Dunn said G.S. 160A.64. It was stated

that Commissioners and Mayors do a lot of traveling and no one has ever asked for milage reimbursement. Commissioner Venable made a motion to deny the request for milage reimbursement. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

24. Mayor Dunn said to skip the daily mileage record town truck and GPS.
25. Commissioner Nichols wanted everyone to be aware that he had some quotes to clear trees from at the main water line, from Main Street to the water tank beside of East Bend Shop Rite. He has the money in his budget for this and if it is not done the roots could damage the water line. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to have the trees cut down at the main water line from Main Street to the water tank beside of East Bend Shop Rite. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
26. Ron Niland owner of All American Associates told us what he has done for other towns to help them, and he could do for East Bend. He does Board Training, Visioning, Staff Training, Grant and Project Management and more. He also said that Lizzie Morrison was great to work with. He left the board with a lot to think about.
27. Commissioner Adams made a motion to post a sign at the door of town hall to prohibit weapons on town property and to put no trespassing sign at the Old Mill and other buildings if needed. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
28. Chief Shore reported that everything was going well in town.
29. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that comes in until the next meeting. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
30. Mayor Dunn decided against going into closed session.
31. Commissioner Venable made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

April 8, 2024
Date

Dawn E. Hobson, Mayor Pro-Tem
James W. Dunn, Sr. Mayor

Minutes were approved by the Board
Mayor Dunn chooses not to sign them.
Dawn E. Hobson, Mayor Pro-Tem signed

Vickie J. Matthews
Vickie J. Matthews, Town Clerk/Administrator