

MINUTES OF THE EAST BEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 9,
2023

Upon due notice, Mayor Dunn called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. All Commissioners were present.

The minutes of the meeting of September 11 2023 and the Closed Session of September 11 2023 were approved as submitted.

Mayor Dunn asked for public comment. Ronnie Fletcher commented that he had observed improvements at the Town wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Fletcher also praised the Town police department for their work.

There being no other comments, Mayor Dunn closed the public comment section.

After discussion, upon Motion by Commissioner Nichols, second by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted to approve and adopt the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as recommended by NC DOT by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Jeff Jones, who operates the wastewater treatment plant for the Town, reported on the state of operations, including a recent notice of violation from the State of North Carolina. Mr. Jones indicated that he was addressing the problem of excess small solids by adding a polymer to the water. He also indicated that there were some issues regarding the operation of the plant's UV lights, and that he would consult with the manufacturer regarding the issues. Finally, Mr. Jones stated that he had received preliminary results from a smoke test of the sewer lines, and that with the help of the Town, he was moving forward to identify areas where rainwater might enter the system. He commented that large amounts of water entering the plant at one time interfered with effective operation.

After discussion, on Motion by Commissioner Nichols, second by Commissioner Johnson, the Board approved the East Bend Water Shortage Response Plan dated October 1, 2023 by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed and directed that the Plan be submitted to the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

After discussion, on Motion by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Venable, the Board voted to accept American Rescue Plan funding in the amount of \$96,000 to perform an Asset Inventory and Assessment study of the Town's water infrastructure needs by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

After discussion, on Motion by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Venable, the Board voted to accept American Rescue Plan funding in the amount of \$50,000 to perform an Asset Inventory and Assessment study of the Town's sewer infrastructure needs by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Mayor Dunn and Commissioner Nichols gave an update on the Planning Board. They stated that they are looking for people to serve as members or alternates on the Board, which meets every other month, and that citizens were encouraged to apply.

Mayor Dunn gave an update on the stop over of the Mountain to the Coast bicycle ride in East Bend. He stated that it was well done by volunteers, and that the riders seemed to appreciate the hospitality of the Town of East Bend.

Police Chief Shore reported on an inventory of Town street signs which he conducted. A copy of his inventory is attached to these minutes. The Chief commented that in some instances, street signs might be taken down as unnecessary. The Board directed Mr. Brannon (street department) to proceed (consistent with the procurement process) to replace all of the signs marked as "missing" on the list, and to work with Chief Shore to assess and make a proposal to the Board as to the repair or replacement of the signs marked "poor" on the list.

Police Chief Shore reported that there were a couple of crimes reported in Town in September. He agreed with the Mayor that the bicycle ride had gone well. There was discussion of whether and how to mark the new police car.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Nichols, second by Commissioner Venable, the Board voted to approve the bills presented to the Board, and any true bills to come in before the next meeting by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Nichols, second by Commissioner Venable, the Board voted to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussion of the performance of two individual town employees (personnel) by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

When the Board returned to open session, after discussion, the Board directed that town employees proceed to replace the tires on the garbage truck as presently needed.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Nichols, second by Commissioner Venable, the Board voted to adjourn, by a vote of 5 in favor and none opposed.

November 13, 2023
Date

James W. Dunn Sr.
James W. Dunn, Sr. Mayor

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