

December 11, 2023
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: Neal Nichols, Larry W. Adams, and Wanda S. Johnson. Dawn E. Hobson and Edward G. Venable were unable to attend.
2. The November 13, 2023 minutes were approved as written.
3. The November 13, 2023 closed session minutes were approved as written.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Kyle Matthews thanked the town employees for all of their hard work. Mr. Matthews also thanked Attorney Price for all of his years of dedication to the town and wished him well. Alex Nelson stated that he would like to get with the pool board and see what they could do with the six acres between the pool, school, and library to help the citizens and the town. Kendra McCurdy wanted to thank Attorney Price for all that he has done and to congratulate the town and town square committee for receiving the Triad Business Journal Rollout of 2023 Best Commercial Real Estate Projects today with the Small Project category for the East Bend Town Square Park.
5. Mayor Dunn presented the Key to the City to Attorney Robert E. Price, Jr. and thanked Attorney Price for all of his hard work. He also gave him a gift from the town. Commissioner Adams and Nichols also thanked Attorney Price and told him how much he meant to them.
6. Jan Hicks, President of the East Bend Town Square, again mentioned and congratulated Omega Construction on their award and article that was published about construction of the town square. The Friends inquired as to the board's intentions of their involvement with the town square in 2024. Mrs. Hicks expressed disappointment that the Friends did not receive notice of the boards' intent to discuss an ordinance that could have impacted the Friends, however, Commissioners Nichols and Adams explained that the Friends did not receive notice because the board did not understand when they repeal the ordinance, which was repealed due to issues with the wording. Mrs. Hicks noted numerous events that the Friends' planned and the volunteers that provide upkeep for the town square. Commissioner Nichols thanked the Friends for their involvement and hoped that it would continue. Mrs. Hicks addressed an issue with a service truck having access to a port-a-john for service once a week and asked for the board to consider

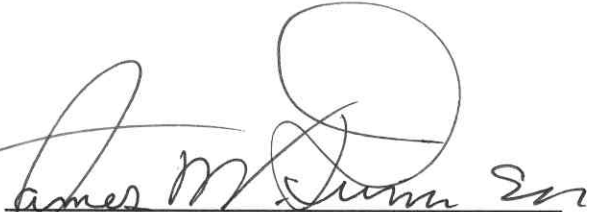
allowing the service trucks access to the port-a-john. Commissioner Adams suggested opening the gates from 8 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. on workdays and closing the gate at night for the safety of the town and its citizens.

7. Vickie Matthews reported that Susan Venable was the new chairperson for the Planning Board and Travis Hopkins is the new secretary. They are going to work on the sign ordinances at the next meeting. Crystal Holcomb is moving out of town, and she turned in her resignation. The town board approved Douglas Johnson as an alternate on the planning board at the November meeting. The planning board ask that Douglas Johnson be moved up to regular member. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to suspend the rules to vote on it. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to move Douglas Johnson from alternate to regular member on the planning board. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
8. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the contract with Kolby K. Epley and PHE Law PLLC to be new town attorney. Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
9. Mr. Alshayer from East Bend Shop Rite received a letter dated Sept. 13, 2023 from the town about weeds and grass being over 12 inches high. He was given 15 days to clean this up. He said he could not get to them because of the large trucks and trailer that were Howard Baum's, and he would not move them. At that time, he was being charged a fine of \$50.00 per day. The fine covers the period Sept. 28 until Nov. 30, 2023 and is \$3,200.00. Mr. Alshayer got Mr. Baum to move some of the trucks and trailer on the property and he removed the weeds. He has requested for the fine be forgiven or reduced. The board chose not to make a decision regarding his request until the remainder of the trailers and trucks have been removed.
10. Commissioner Johnson said that Hennings Construction Company is going to fix the culvert on Benbow Drive. The estimate cost for the job is \$625.00. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the cost. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
11. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to authorize ARP to complete the repairs on the water tank on Rabbit Hill Drive. The estimated cost in September was \$8,600.00 but could have changed since then. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
12. Commissioner Nichols stated that the state is requiring all towns to verify

the composition of their water lines to check for lead pipes and that each of the town's water lines would have to be checked. Any pipe composed of lead or any galvanized pipe downstream from the lead pipes will have to be replaced. The requirement from the State is not an option. Gavin will be required to do a lot of work and spend a lot of time on this project, and he may need some help to get this completed. The town has until October 2024 to turn in the report to the State.

13. Clerk Matthews reported the renewing of the SAM.GOV has always been free, but this year we may have to get someone to help to renew it. The cost is \$649.00 for one year. She is trying to renew it with help from Wendy Thompson from Jonesville. This is something that the town has to have in order to receive grant money. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the cost if the town is required to pay the cost. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
14. Chief Shore gave an update that the police radios being on hold at the moment. The county is working to get a grant to cover the cost.
15. Chief Shore thanked the Town Board for another great year and their support of the Police Department. He thanked Attorney Price for his dedication and service to the Town of East Bend. Idol Gun Vault has sold out to new owners; it will be changing its name to Lux Firearms. Two Bargain Stores have opened in East Bend. The Tattoo & Sandwich Shop has closed. Officer Russell resigned on Nov. 11, 2023, he decided to further his career in law enforcement in a different county. Jester & Mickey said they would be interested in covering some shifts starting next year.
16. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that comes in until the next meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
17. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

January 8, 2024
Date


James W. Dunn, Sr. Mayor


Vickie J. Matthews, Town Clerk/Administrator