



**Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2020
Presiding Mayor Phillip Gunter**

I. Call to Order

The Town Council of Eastover conducted its monthly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at the Eastover Town Hall Council Chamber. Mayor Phillip Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The Council members present were The Honorable Mayor Pro-tem Leroy Faber, the Honorable Heyward Patterson, the Honorable Rhudine W. Robinson and the Honorable Wanda Dash.

II. Invocation

The invocation was given by Mayor Phillip Gunter

III. Adoption of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Councilwoman Rhudine W. Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Leroy Faber, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Leroy Faber and seconded by Councilwoman Rhudine W. Robinson, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from September 14 and October 12, 2020.

V. Acknowledgement of Visitors

VI. Citizens Input – 2 Minutes (Agenda Items) – Omitted due to (Covid-19)

VII. Briefing from Agencies/Commission Appointee

A. Richland County Sheriff's Department – Captain Bill Connors/Lieutenant Davis

Lieutenant Davis made Council aware of an incident that took place earlier that day in the Region 1 area in which a domestic call resulted in gunfire. The officer was not hurt but the suspect was wounded. Mayor Gunter inquired about details on (2) incidents on the Incident Report. Lieutenant Davis stated she would report back with the detailed information. Lieutenant Davis reported that a person responsible for the majority of the vandalism, stolen cars, and thief of items including guns is currently serving time in jail. Two victims testified on a virtual court call and as a result this person was detained. Lieutenant Davis emphasized that help from the citizens including reporting every crime would help the Sheriff's Department cut down on crime in the Town. Mayor Gunter expressed concern about some large gatherings that are taking place and posed a question to Attorney Gaines about a permit for this type of an event. Attorney Gaines stated that if a business is operating without a business license, and having large crowds, they are out of compliance and a letter should be sent.

Councilman Heyward Patterson asked if a permit was needed for a gathering at a house and how often you could gather at a home. Lieutenant Davis stated that gatherings at a home is not a problem unless it disturbs the peace. Lieutenant Davis reported that Region 8 received a call concerning a gathering at a tire shop. The caller was threatening to kill the owner of the shop after a dispute. Attorney Gaines stated that evidence is needed to send the letter about the gatherings at the shop.

B. Eastover Library – Mr. Rashneen Richardson

Richland Library Eastover Announcements and Calendar was included in packet

C. Eastover Park

No update.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Demolition

Mayor Gunter and Mayor Pro-tem Faber are waiting on a response from Mr. Sprouse.

B. Dowdy Street

Attorney Gaines suggested putting a street sign up and Mayor Gunter suggested cutting a path on the Dowdy Street Property. Councilman Heyward Patterson sent a map to Mayor Gunter on Nelson Street. Council will be reviewing it to see who is the owner of this property.

C. Marquee Sign

Mayor Gunter is waiting for a response to his email.

D. Renovation of J. A. Byrd Merchantile Building

No report at this time.

E. Abandon Properties and Buildings

Attorney Gaines stated that Council has to determine prices and fines to enforce the ordinances. Attorney Gaines stated that finding the owner is priority.

F. DHEC Sanitary Survey

No report.

IX. New Business

A. Presidential Election/Town Council Vacant Seat

Mayor stated that we will need Council's help tomorrow from 3pm-7pm with handing out the food trays at the precincts. Mayor Gunter and Council welcomed newly elected Councilwoman Wanda Dash.

B. Penalties/Water Bills

Mayor Gunter stated that collecting penalties will begin in January. An agreement can be made with customers that are delinquent on their bills. If they make the agreement, the service will not be disconnected. Attorney Gaines stated that the Town has the right to disconnect the service for non-payment on the 25th of the month. Attorney Gaines stated that the Ordinance says you "will be cut off". Attorney Gaines will review the ordinance and report back to council.

C. Reopen to the public

Mayor Gunter is considering reopening the Town meetings in January if Covid-19 numbers decrease. In the meantime, Zoom or some form of video conferencing will be used to allow the public to view the meetings.

X. Reports

A. Attorney K. Winchester Gaines

No new reports.

B. Development and Service Committee – Councilman Heyward Patterson

Councilman Heyward Patterson stated that the Town is in need of a clean sweep.

C. Grant Writer – Mr. Robert Reese

Mr. Reese updated the information on the 180,000 grant for the renovation of the Water Tower. Mr. Reese requested a waiver for the 25% that the Town is expected to pay. SCRIA could award the grant without the waiver. The breakdown for the grant is \$135,000 (75%) and \$45,000 (25%). International Paper approved a grant for the Town in 2-3 days. International Paper does not give directly to municipalities so Greater Eastover Community Development Cooperation received the grant money on behalf of the Town. International Paper granted us \$15,000 of the \$20,000 requested. Mayor Pro-temp Faber will bring an emissions report concerning health hazards caused by International Paper. Mr. Reese secured grant assistance from Senator Darrell Jackson to supply the rest of the match for the Water Tower. Mr. Reese suggested that the Town look for a full-time grant writer. Mr. Reese also stated that some entities have indicated that they are hesitant about releasing grants to Eastover based on the history.

D. Finance Committee – Councilwoman Wanda Dash

Councilwoman Wanda Dash read the balances for each account. Mr. Corley stated that the Town is within the budget with expenses. Mr. Corley stated that Mr. Brown is still working on the audit for the Town.

E. Community Relations Committee – Councilwoman Rhudine W. Robinson

Councilwoman Rhudine W. Robinson is planning a meeting after the election to finalize the Christmas Plans for the senior citizens and the youth. Councilman Patterson stated that The Philadelphia Travelers are requesting that the Town help with purchasing toys to give to the children for Christmas. Mayor Gunter stated that it was not in the budget. Mr. Corley stated that the Town can allocate a certain amount for next year.

F. Economic Development Committee – Mayor Pro-temp Leroy Faber

Mayor Pro-temp Faber stated that he has (3) contracts. He stated that the project can be posted in the State Newspaper. He suggested that some labor can be paid to some of the local residents for work on this project.

G. Mayor's Report

Mayor Gunter introduced the new town clerk, Mrs. Outing. Mayor Gunter expressed that he wants to start the annexation process. Councilman Heyward Patterson would like to see a sign placed at highway 764 to increase traffic through the town.

XII. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Faber and seconded by Councilman Heyward Patterson, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:42pm

Respectfully Submitted By:
Veronica Outing
Town Clerk

This is to verify that the minutes of November 2, 2020 the Town of Eastover Council was approved and adopted on November 2, 2020.

During a Town Council meeting upon which a quorum of the Eastover Town Council was duly authorized and present.

Approved by _____ Initials: _____ Date: November 2, 2020
Phillip Gunter, Mayor of Eastover