

January 13, 2025

Town Hall Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Mayor Larry W. Adams was present along with the following Commissioners: Dawn Hobson, Neal Nichols, Kurt Held, Martin Hauser, and Earl Norman.
2. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the December 9, 2024, minutes as written. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the December 9, 2024 Closed Session minutes as written. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
4. Mayor Adams advised Attorney Epley to make one correction to the Special Called Meeting minutes. Item #4 as it pertains to the quote for the 12 X 13 Garage Door at \$12,500, is actually an all-inclusive quote for both doors. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the December 19, 2024 Special Called Meeting minutes as written with this one correction. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Adams expressed his appreciation to all Citizens present who would like to speak during this portion of the meeting. He asked that for the record individuals would please state their name before addressing the Board. Ben Peacock stated that the East Bend God & Country Foundation has appointed new officers. He announced that Ashley Hutchens is the new President and Vice-President is Shani Winship. Both were in attendance. Ronnie Fletcher thanked both for stepping in and assuming these roles from Ben Peacock and Shirley Flood. Mr. Peacock encouraged the community to be involved and to provide their support and assistance to both. This year he stated the event will be held on June 28, 2025. He has applied for an application with the Chief for the event. Ronnie Fletcher thanked Gavin for scraping the roads during the winter storm and stated that he did assist as needed. He thanked Commissioner Held for accepting the position since he was not in attendance at the last meeting and thanked all the Commissioners that we have. He also thanked the police officers that helped over the weekend, Officer Mickey, and Clerk Miller as she adjusts to her new position. Commissioner Held thanked him for his comments.

Former Mayor James W. Dunn, Sr. stated that he would be meeting with State Officials next week. He also stated that at the Town Meeting on December 5th, 2024, an Elected Commissioner who attended 37 of 48 meetings requested that a list be provided of the Businesses that have left East Bend. He read the list and left it for those interested to review. Commissioner Norman questioned the time frame, and it was stated by Former Mayor Dunn that it was over a period of four years.

He stated that he could provide documents as to why some of the businesses left. Also asking that comments be directed to him and not after he leaves or on Facebook. Commissioner Held thanked him for his input. Commissioner Hauser stated that Todd and Penny Coram along with he and his wife had been running the East Bend Community Cruise-in. He mentioned that they would not continue due to the lack of help. He asked for volunteers to take over this event as well.

6. Chairperson Venable from the Planning/Zoning Board requested a Public Hearing for the removal of the fluttering flag verbiage in the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Nichols stated that this was set for this meeting but did not run in the paper in time, so he made a motion that it be set for the February 10, 2025 meeting at 5:45pm. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Chairperson Venable also stated that she has moved from East Bend and therefore must resign. She stated it has been an honor to serve, and she will be leaving the Town with a strong board. She recommended Douglas Johnson as Chairperson, moving Darren Wagoner from Alternate to Board Member, and adding Madi Harbuck and Jan Hicks as Alternates. Mayor Adams thanked Chairperson Venable for her service. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to move Darren Wagoner from Alternate to Board Member. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to accept both Madi Harbuck and Jan Hicks as Alternates. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Jeff Jones reported on Current Sewer Violations. Violations are attributable to outdated equipment. Fecal violations were corrected by installing new UV lights. Mr. Jones presented a quote from Pete Duty & Associates for new blowers which would correct the Ammonia violations. He recommended this be updated by May of this year. The only spare blower in stock had to be installed last week due to a power outage at the plant which damaged the current one and melted electrical wires to the blower. Electrical wires had to be repaired prior to the installation. Currently this leaves him with no backup equipment. This will cause another fecal violation by March of this year to be expected. Equipment is being updated as needed and as economically as possible. He also recommended we have a mobile service installed to notify him of any issues including equipment malfunction. Mission is a mobile service he uses which would be at a cost of \$3600 installed for the first year of 24-hour service with a recurring approximate \$1 a day charge for a notification to come to an app on his phone. He offered to get other quotes together to present at the next meeting. He also reported that Pace Lab costs went up effective January 1, 2025. This increase will be between 5.20% - 7.50%. He offered to get quotes from other labs in the area such as Statesville Analytical to compare pricing.

8. Commissioner Norman has been approached about flood insurance questions. Commissioner Norman would like to contact Gary Colson with FEMA to come and give a presentation on several of their programs. Mayor Adams stated that in 2018 the town signed a resolution to be involved with the county through representative Keith Vestal. Mayor Adams stated that Keith Vestal could be contacted along with Gary Colson as well to give a presentation to the Board. Commissioner Norman offered to contact Mr. Colson. Mayor Adams asked if this would be alright with the board, all agreed. This was tabled until the next meeting.
9. Commissioner Hauser has been approached about the options to pay current water bills by credit card. Clerk Miller and Commissioner Hauser are currently gathering data on cost, availability of service, and interest from the community in this service. There will be a processing fee associated with this service per account. Commissioner Hauser stated the fee is 2.5% to 4% per transaction. Mayor Adams stated that cost and interest were factors to be considered. Ben Peacock will send Commissioner Hauser information on a process thru First National Bank at a cost of \$150.00 a month which the East Bend God & Country Foundation currently uses for point-of-sale transactions.
10. Police Updates were given by Officer Charlie Mickey in Chief Shores absence. He currently works for Sherriff's Office and in a part-time capacity for the Town of East Bend. He reported that this month the East Bend Police department participated in a multi-agency license check. A total of 11 citations were issued. This was a two-hour event on Hwy 67 in front of the East Bend Senior Center involving MADD. Anytime an event is scheduled a briefing is held prior to the event. At this briefing, lunch was provided for all officers involved by MADD. East Bend Police Department was credited with hosting this event. Events such as this for various campaigns provide points credits for the town through the NC Governors Highway Safety Program that in turn can be used to purchase equipment. Officer Mickey now oversees this program as part of his current job with the Sherriff's Department and credits Chief Shore for mentoring him in this program. Recently Chief Shore, through this point system, was able to purchase a new Radar for the new Patrol Vehicle. Chief Shore held another license check in the month with Highway Patrol, which in turn earned the department more points. Chief shore issued one citation and a verbal warning. No other exceptions were noted outside of the normal patrol checks. Ronnie Fletcher thanked Officer Mickey and the Sherriff's Office for their support to the town of East Bend. Mayor Adams and all board members agreed.
11. Attorney Epley and Attorney Andy Fitzgerald were present to update the board on the current water litigation process with Yadkin County. On the 6th of January Attorney Fitzgerald appeared in Wilkes County Court before Judge Long who was

presiding. Judge Long entered a preliminary injunction in favor of the Town of East Bend to keep the County from cutting the water off to the Town. The next step in the process will be to schedule mediation between the County and the Town of East Bend. Attorney Fitzgerald added that it was a good day for the Town.

12. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Hobson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
13. Having returned from closed session, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that come in prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Norman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
14. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hauser seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

2-10-2025

Date

Larry W. Adams

Larry W. Adams, Mayor

Bettina Miller

Bettina Miller, Town Clerk/Administrator