

December 9, 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: Larry W. Adams, Edward G. Venable, Dawn Hobson, and Neal Nichols. Commissioner Kurt Held was absent.
2. Mayor Dunn made objections to the previous minutes as written. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the November 12, 2024 minutes as written. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Jan Hicks reminded the citizens of two upcoming events at the Town Square: the first being the Shephard's House at the Town Square tomorrow (12/10/2024) from 10-2, Baptist Hospital will be there during this time and will have NARCAN to distribute; and on Saturday (12/14/2024) the annual Santa Clause event will be at the Town Square from 12-2 and she noted that last year over 100 children attended. Ronnie Fletcher thanked the Board members that were leaving and welcomed the new commissioners that are joining the Board and he also thanked Vickie Matthews for her time serving the Town.
4. Mayor Dunn gave a brief synopsis of the last 2 years that he has served as mayor, stated that he believed businesses had been run out of the Town during his tenure, and stated that he asked for the bank account information and balances and stated that he had to go to the bank himself to get the information because he was given a financial statement. Mayor Dunn thanked the citizens that appreciated the efforts that he put in as mayor and then he abruptly left the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Dawn Hobson stepped in at this time to control the meeting.
5. Commissioner Venable thanked Chief Shore, Gavin Brannon and Vickie Matthews for everything that they do or have done for the Town. Commissioner Venable also thanked Ronnie Fletcher for his continued support of the Board and also thanked the volunteers that give their time and effort to provide the Town with a library and the Town Square. Commissioner Hobson also thanked Commissioner Venable for his service to the Town.
6. Clerk Bettina Miller thanked Commissioner Venable and presented him with a plaque for his service. Clerk Miller also had a plaque for Mayor Dunn, but he was no longer present at the meeting.
7. Clerk Miller swore in Larry W. Adams as Mayor of the Town of East Bend.
8. Clerk Miller swore in Martin Hauser and Earl W. Norman as the Town's two new commissioners, replacing Larry W. Adams and Eddie Venable on the Town Board.
9. Mayor Adams read a proclamation and honored Vickie Matthews for her service to the Town of East Bend and presented her with a check for her service. Mayor Adams stated that he was honoring Bennie Neal in his service to the Town as mayor and stated that he would cherish the job. Mayor Adams detailed the journey of being elected as the Town's Mayor through a write-in candidacy and stated that the people of East Bend won the election by electing him mayor.
10. Mayor Adams stated that since the Town does not have a manager, department heads need to be appointed. Commissioner Hobson was appointed to oversee the

police department and Mayor Adams asked her to sign time sheets for the police department; Commissioner Hauser was appointed to oversee buildings, grounds and sanitation; Commissioner Held was appointed to oversee streets; Commissioner Nichols was appointed to oversee water and sewer; and Commissioner Norman was appointed to oversee administration. Mayor Adams stated that the Town has customarily appointed the commissioner with the most votes in the recent election to serve as Mayor Pro Tem and asked Commissioner Norman to serve in that capacity. Mayor Adams stated that he would like Clerk Miller to begin drafting the minutes in January 2025.

11. Mayor Adams stated that it takes two individuals to sign the checks of the Town and that the Clerk is one signatory and it has been customary for the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to have signatory authority. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as signatory authority. Commissioner Norman seconded. The motion carried 4-0. Attorney Epley asked the Board to consider appointing the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as financial officers for the Town. Commissioner Hauser made a motion to appoint the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as financial officers for the Town. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0. Clerk Miller asked that the Board consider adding a line item to the budget for professional services based on the advice of the CPA. Mayor Adams asked that this be added to the January agenda for discussion.
12. Susan Venable stated the planning board met on Thursday, December 5, 2024 regarding the inflatable signs. The planning board is asking for a public hearing to remove inflatable devices from the prohibitive list. Mayor Adams stated that the next meeting would be January 13, 2025 and that the public hearing would be 5:45 on 1/13/2025.
13. Adam Schull was present from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. Mr. Schull stated that the Town needs to sign a contract or purchase order by 12/31/2024 to spend approximately \$87,000 of ARP funds or the Town will lose those funds. Mr. Schull recommend that the grant project ordinance be updated and that someone have the authority on behalf of the Town to enter in to a contract or purchase order to spend the funds. Commissioner Nichols stated that these funds were set aside for expenditures related to the water tanks and that the funds weren't necessary due to lesser repairs being needed than were expected. Commissioner Nichols stated that the town had discussed purchasing a backhoe for the Town's use and asked that a special meeting be called to discuss this expenditure. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to set a Special Meeting on 12/19/2024 at 5:45 PM. Commissioner Norman seconded. The motion carried 4-0. Board discussed amended the grant project ordinance but ultimately decided to discuss this amendment at the Special Meeting.
14. Chief Shore stated that Unitrends was the Town's backup system for police and administrative matters and provided a cost of renewal of \$1,694.60 and he further stated that this was the cheapest option available. The current backup contract expired 12/4/2024 and the Town isn't currently covered. Commissioner Hauser asked to work with Chief Shore on this issue in the coming months. Commissioner

Hauser made a motion to approve the renewal contract. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

15. Chief Shore provided input on the equipment and systems needed to live stream the Town meetings and informed the Board that the Town can't restrict or edit the content in any way and also that the Town can't edit or restrict comments on any livestream or video of the Town meetings. Commissioner Norman made a motion to table this issue. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
16. Chief Shore stated that the everything is going well in the Town and stated that he is still looking for a second officer and that he has been for a year, but the Town has not had any interest in the position. Chief Shore stated that he has had approximately 60 applicants but none of the applicants are sworn officers.
17. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that come in prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Norman seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
18. Commissioner Hauser made a motion to go in to closed session. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
19. Having returned from closed session, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norman seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

1-13-2025

Date

Larry W. Adams

Larry W. Adams, Mayor

Bettina Miller

Bettina Miller, Town Clerk/Administrator