

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ECLECTIC TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF ECLECTIC, ALABAMA  
ECLECTIC MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.**

At the regular meeting of the Eclectic Town Council held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eclectic Municipal Court Room, persons present included, Maggin Edwards, Mayor Davenport, Linda Reed, Jackie Stearns, Stephanie Stepney, David Goodwin, David Ingram, Stephanie Ingram and John Causey.

Proceedings were aired live on Facebook.

Mayor Gary Davenport called the meeting to order: 7:20 p.m.

Invocation was then given by Mayor Gary Davenport.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Davenport.

Roll call was conducted by Shannon Duck:

Mayor:	Gary Davenport	present
Mayor Pro-tem	Linda Reed	present
Councilmembers	Jackie Stearns	present
	Stephanie Stepney	present
	Lindsay Mothershed	<b>absent</b>
There is a quorum.	David Goodwin	present

**A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Pro-Tem Reed and seconded by Councilor Goodwin. (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

The consent agenda consist of the following:

Financial reports for February 2024

Overtime Reports

Minutes of the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Council Meeting

Mayor allowed Shannon to present a software alert system for water works and town wide communication. Text My Gov costs \$1800 yearly compared to Mayor Command at roughly \$6,000 yearly, with additional capabilities. Shannon proposed this software after extensive research with similar products. She stated that this software will assist our offices to communicate with citizens in emergencies such as the water outage on Hwy 63 for several days.

**A motion to table the decision until further information is presented was made by Councilor Stearns and seconded by Councilor Stepney. (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

Mayor presented a suggestion from Planning Commission to rezone 1574 Kowaliga Road from agricultural to general business.

**A motion to rezone 1574 Kowaliga Road to general business was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Pro-Tem Reed. (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

Mayor presented the Council with the County and Board of Education Quality-of-Life plan for review. Mayor Davenport is the only signature required for this plan however he wanted to share with the Council. Councilmember Goodwin was very upset that he had no prior information on this matter, and he was concerned that Mayor waited till the last minute due to the desire to state there was a 1-day deadline. Mayor Davenport stated we have all been working on this for about a year. After much discussion no motion was made.

David Ingram requested approval to amend the budget and allow for monies for a spare Ambulance.

**A motion to allow for \$38,000 for the ambulance as well as additional funds for travel expenses to pick it up, from the Acquisition fund account was made by Councilor Stepney and seconded by Councilor Goodwin (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

Council will wait to approve equipment and outfitting expenses until they have the vehicle in possession.

**A motion to approve the Fire Department to spend \$750 to have the ductwork cleaned at the station, using Fire Department funds was made by Councilor Stepney and seconded by Councilor Goodwin (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

Mr. Causey presented an idea he had called Locks-of-Love. He would like use of a spot at Panther Palace or Aaron Park to display it. It requires a chain link fence and people can purchase a lock in honor of a loved one they have lost. After discussion, the Council decided Aaron Park would be ideal because it already has chain link fences.

Mayor presented Policy 9 and the changes needed to satisfy AMIC's risk assessment. The addition that all drivers of Town vehicles must wear seatbelts at all times.

**A motion to approve Policy 9 as presented was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Pro-Tem Reed (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

**Departmental Reports:**  
Reports in packet. No questions.

**Old Business:** Mayor announced the Panther Palace close-out Public Hearing for 1:00 p.m. on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The same day at 2 p.m. will be the Bid opening for the Sidewalk project.

**Mayors Comments:** Mayor announced the voting delegate for the League conference must be designated by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Goodwin expressed interest in attending but no motion was made officially.

Mayor reminded the public that the next "Network Eclectic" meeting will be held April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at the Wright's Design at 8:15 a.m. He encourages all to come!

Mayor gave Council an estimate for the sewer department to use NEC for the soil mapping for the new sewer property.

**A motion to approve the expense from the Acquisition fund was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Stepney (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.**

A special called Executive session was scheduled March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at the Senior Center for the purpose of discussing police matters. Afterwards a special called public meeting will open at 7:30 p.m. to allow for business to take place that was not finished in this regular scheduled meeting.

Opening day for the EYBO is April 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8 a.m.

The Elmore County Spring clean-up is April 5-7<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to reconsider the Quality-of-Life project at the Special called meeting was made by Councilor Stearns and seconded by Councilor Goodwin (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.

Internet /Public Comments: none

**Council Comments:** Councilor Stepney has concern that the public and local citizens have not been informed enough of the Quality-of-Life project.

Councilor Goodwin stated that the nature of this project bugs "me" and I do not like turf. Mayor called Bart Mercer to confirm that we have more time to discuss it with the Council.

Councilors Stearns and Stepney did state that there was a lot of push for community feedback when considering these projects, but Stepney wishes to be a little more thorough and do her due diligence for the Citizens she represents.

A motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. was made by Pro-Tem Reed and seconded by Councilor Stearns. (4 yea, Mothershed absent). Motion passes.

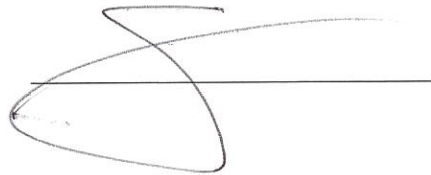
  
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Gary W. Davenport, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Shannon Duck, Town Clerk

**Council Members**

  
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