

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE
ECLECTIC TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF ECLECTIC, ALABAMA
ECLECTIC MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
AUGUST 11th, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.**

At the special called meeting of the Eclectic Town Council held August 11th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Eclectic Municipal Court Room, persons present included: Shannon Duck, Mayor Davenport, Linda Reed, Jackie Stearns, Lindsay Mothershed, Stephanie Stepney, David Goodwin, Maggin Edwards, Daren Davis, Colby Bellew, Grace Bellew, Dawn Hamilton, Camp, Betty Stroud, Donnie Banks (Montgomery Water Management), Andrew Crawford (Alabama Rural Water Management), Kathy Horne (Alabama Rural Water Management), Angela Stephens, Barbara Gilmore, Chad Shaw (Central Elmore Water authority), Philip Wellman, Denise Webster, Jonny Wingard, Susie Wingard, Wanda Estes, Claudia O'Connell, Tammie Willis, Chris Evans, Lincoln Herman and wife, Becky Hall, Vickie Leonard-Oliver and several other concerned citizens.

Proceedings were not aired live on Facebook.

Mayor Gary Davenport called the meeting to order: 6:01 p.m.

Roll call was conducted by Town Clerk Shannon Duck:

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

Mayor Davenport opened the meeting with the Invocation.

Mayor Davenport opened the discussion to the first topic on the agenda, the fence proposals for Aaron Park.

Councilor Stepney stated that because her husband placed a bid for this job, she will be abstaining from any discussion regarding the matter as well as a vote.

Chris Evans, President of the Eclectic Youth Ball League (EYBO), was given the floor to discuss the bidding process. He explained that although the job did not meet the threshold to have to bid the job, according to state law, he gathered four bids originally in order to not show favoritism to any potential bidder. The lowest bid by far was Stepney Fence and Deck because most of the labor was going to be donated for the children of the community. Several of the bidders decided not to provide an itemized bid once they realized they were not in the ballpark of being the low bid. The need for the fence at Aaron Park was essential to secure the property and protect the work done on the fields already. Damage has already been done with four wheelers. Chris Evans also expressed his concern of a candidate gathering a public records request on the bidders and then calling them to ask them to lower their bid. He did not provide the candidates name, but felt it was an unethical use of a public records request. An audience member stated that cheaper is not always better. Chris Evans stated that politics needs to be kept out of decisions regarding the youth of Eclectic that play with the EYBO. Councilmember Goodwin asked who would call and interfere with the bidding process. Chris Evans agreed it was unethical but would not mention the name but stated the bidders that were called told him and several pulled their bids because of it. Jason Stepney from Stepney Fence and Deck mentioned that the bid he provided originally increased a small amount because the need for more gates was discussed in the last meeting. His bid of \$15,232 was the lowest bid. Councilor Goodwin asked Chris Evans what his recommendation was, as he is the President of the EYBO. Chris Evans stated it was Stepney Fence and Deck because his work ethic on other jobs in Town has been excellent, and he was the lowest bidder. Mayor Davenport went through each bid publicly.

A motion to accept the low bid of the fence project for Aaron Park was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Stearns (4 yea, Stepney abstains). Motion passes.

Councilor Stepney stated that she called Cole Hilyer and he wants to donate his last bid of \$7,500 to clear the land at Aaron Park for more parking if he receives a letter of donation from the Town of Eclectic. Mayor Davenport assured the council he would certainly provide the letter and appreciates the kind donation.

Mayor Davenport moved to the final topic on the agenda, the complaints about the water quality on Hwy 63 near Hwy 14. He encouraged citizens if they wish to address the Council that there was a sign-in list and a 3-minute discussion limit so all citizens can be heard. Donnie Banks from Montgomery Water Management spoke first and stated that ADEM tests the water regularly and Eclectic Water has never received a bad report. Mr. Banks informed the public that area of piping has experienced several breaks in the lines lately and the problems derive from the flow of water being changed from the Hwy 14 and Hwy 63 intersection to now flowing from the opposite direction coming from the pumping station near Central Avenue. In Mr. Banks' experience the water pressure has never been as high as it is reading now at 130 pounds per second. It should be at 80. He recommends that the Town purchase pressure reducer valves at various locations to help regulate the pressure because the natural flow of water is traveling downhill, which is increasing the pressure. Mr. Banks stated that the change in flow was a decision by the Town several years ago to alleviate other problems they encountered at the time. Each pressure reducer valve costs approximately \$18,000 and he feels confident that a few of them, as well as, a couple of air release valves would solve many of the leaks the Town is experiencing, as well as, alleviate the air that gets trapped after a repair causing the water to appear milky at times. Each air release valve runs about \$200 a piece. Councilor Stepney asked Mr. Banks if he would be the person who installs the valves. Mr. Banks assured Council that Camp is more than qualified to install them himself and it does not require a licensed water operator to do most of the work that is done on the lines because it is overseen by Alabama Rural Water as the certified entity overseeing the work. Guy Sanders asked if the valves were adjustable to accommodate more houses later. Mr. Banks stated yes, they can be. Angela Stephens questioned the last report on the water and asked why certain levels were undetected. Mr. Banks stated that we are not a treatment facility therefore we are not required to test those things. ADEM does that already. Barbara Gilmore asked why Water Works has not already provided the pressure regulator valves on the lines. Camp stated that all households could purchase them at the cost of the owners. Kathy Horne from Water Management Services said they could help by analyzing the problem areas and develop a gameplan for the Town. Wanda Estes asked how long the water pressure regulator lasted. Mr. Banks said about 20 years. Angela Stephens also stated there has been so much sediment in the lines she is having to replace her toilet guts often because they are leaking. Phil Wellman said we are all adults; we can check our own water quality and provide accordingly. Councilor Stepney wants a risk assessment ran on all the lines. Angela Stephens said one was provided in the comprehensive plan done in 2016. Cliff Williams stated that the plan is old and would not address problems that arose since the original draft and that a new one would be beneficial. Steve McDonald from McDonald Wastewater informed Council that he has an engineer willing to start looking into a comprehensive plan to update the water lines and is a phone call away. Denise Webster spoke up and stated that she is not informed when the water will be off or on again and this has posed a serious issue for her because she has already blown a washer machine up because of the lack of communication when work is being done. Chad Shaw from Central Elmore Water Authority expressed that ADEM does not have an issue with us not having a certified water operator since we are purchasing our water from an entity and not treating it ourselves. Councilor Goodwin spoke up and stated that a line item was budget for water training and has already been expended, period. Betty Stroud is taking courses to be certified to help alleviate citizen concerns.

Councilor Stepney spoke up and stated there are plans at the end of the month to map our entire water system with Alabama Rural Water to the tune of \$34,000 and this will be the start of the plan for updates.

Mayor Davenport asked if there were any further questions. There were none. He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and hopes citizens realize how seriously this has been taken for consideration and improvements are being made every day.

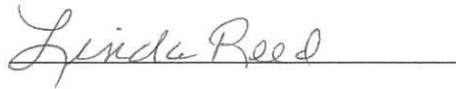
A motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. was made by Councilor Stepney and seconded by Pro-Tem Reed. (5 yea). Motion passes.


Gary W. Davenport, Mayor

ATTEST:

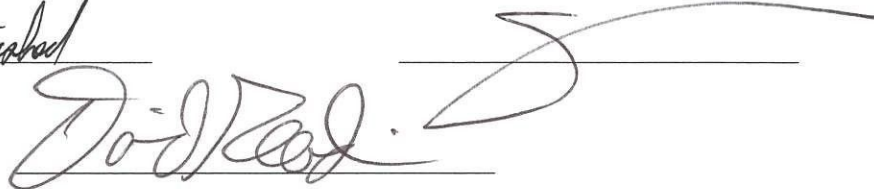

Shannon Duck, Town Clerk

Council Members









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