

**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY SPECIAL CALLED
COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ECLECTIC, ALABAMA
~~MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM~~ Senior Center
March 27th, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**

At the Emergency Special Called Council Meeting of the Eclectic Town Council held on March 27th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the ~~Municipal Courtroom~~ Senior Center, people present included Mayor Gary Davenport, Linda Reed, Shannon Duck-Town Clerk, Jackie Stearns, David Goodwin, Stephanie Stepney, Lindsay Mothershed, Lynn Shockley and Maggin Edwards.

Mayor Gary Davenport called the meeting to order: 6:41 p.m. There was a quorum.

Councilor Stepney requested an update from Mayor Davenport since the Executive session last week and wanted to know what the Plan B update was. She stated she, along with other Council members, was contacted by Josh Mathews from ALDOT regarding an incident on March 26th with Water Works personnel.

Mayor didn't recall what Plan B was.

Councilor Stearns reminded Mayor that he was asked to contact Rural Water to see what services they offer as a backup if the need arises and we had no field water works personnel due to illness, etc.

Councilor Mothershed reminded the Mayor that they were seeking a backup plan if a Water works employee was sick. What would the town do?

The mayor stated that Gary from Rural Water would come on site immediately and could be a backup, but only for a week. Long term is not an option. Gary is a certified 2 Water personnel at Alabama Rural Water Authority.

Councilor Stepney would like to seek further the concept of contracting our water management to a third-party company. Councilor Stearns agrees. Shannon Duck expressed she still has the packet when they started looking into that 2 years ago.

Councilor Stearns expressed a deep concern that Mayor billed a local business for a mistake our Water Works created, Mayor apologized for his mistake.

Councilor Stepney asked the Mayor if he pulled the policy that the Town and McDonald Wastewater created a couple years ago, that outlined who is to work on the sewer and the proper procedure to handle work orders.

Mayor Davenport stated he did not, but he met with all 3 water works personnel and wrote one in particular up but has not had him sign it yet.

Councilor Mothershed pointed out that Mayor did not write up this employee 2 years ago when the same thing occurred, and he wants to know why.

The mayor said he knew nothing about it.

The mayor stated he has called the League, the Town Attorney and the Judge for advice on this matter. They all advise keeping a proper paper trail on hand outlining all infractions. And also, that three times is when an employee should be terminated. This makes two for this employee. The council retorted that there are only two because the Mayor failed to write the last one up.

Councilor Stepney stated she does not believe that it is enough discipline for ADEM standards and Councilor Stearns agrees that sufficient action must be taken since this is the 2nd infraction for the exact same thing.

Mayor Davenport showed the Council the employee write-up and promised to provide the policy and a signed write-up to them asap.

Discussion about why the job was not permitted began.

Mayor Davenport stated that unless it is a new Main service line hookup, a permit is not required from ALDOT. The only verbal requirement is that ALDOT is called. The mayor stated he called them 12 times himself with no answer. Councilor Mothershed wanted a clarification of what a new Main service line was.

Mayor Davenport also stated that the work order was a repair that was only called in this week. The Council questioned the integrity of that answer and wanted to see work orders on all that pertained to this address and homes close by.

Councilor Stepney reiterated that she was concerned about the safety of citizen driving by and also employees and was called by ALDOT stating that no safety protocol was adhered to. The mayor showed the Council pictures of the signs that were out, and police vehicles illuminated and stated that he was out at the scene that day for 6 hours himself, and that the pictures sent to him were sent by the same individual. Councilor Stearns expressed her concern about the truth of the pictures because she could tell that the signs were placed after the fact based on the sun exposure in the first pictures versus the other pictures Mayor showed tonight.

Councilor Stepney stated that regardless, the PD officers were in plain clothes, unmarked cars and proper safety protocol were not followed according to the agreements with ALDOT.

Mayor Davenport told the Council that the ALDOT employee that contacted them by the name of Josh Mathews had several complaints against him and that his boss Mr. Bohanon was going to hold a meeting directly with him next week to get to the bottom of the matter. He also stated our Chief of Police was witness to the dialogue between Josh and our waterworks personnel.

The Council requested from the Mayor signed documentation that this matter has been addressed with both the employee as well as ALDOT. And also requests a copy of the policy for sewer.

Councilor Stepney asked did we call 811? The mayor stated we did a locate.

Councilor Mothershed said that the old lines have no tracer in them and cannot be accurately located. Mothershed shared a story for full transparency about his son-in-law that works for a cable company. They had to call our Waterworks department to get a locate done. Our water personnel came out and marked a spot that was 6 foot off the mark and the water line wound up being hit. It's not a simple task.

The Council also questioned Mayor Davenport as to why he claimed he made the calls that morning to ALDOT when the usual protocol was Betty or Camp making those calls. Mayor Davenport did not answer the question but rather stated he will get the Council copies of the agreement between ALDOT, the sewer policy and the write up regarding our personnel.

Councilor Reed stated that on her way to this meeting she passed Asplund, and they had several flags out and were more than visibly seen. We need to do the same.

A motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Stepney (5 yeas). Motion passes.



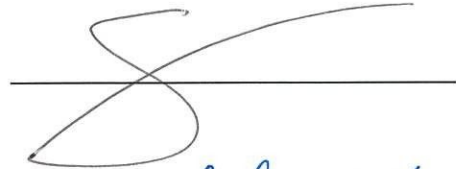
Gary W. Davenport, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shannon Duck, Town Clerk

Council Members



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