

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ECLECTIC TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF ECLECTIC, ALABAMA  
ECLECTIC MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM  
APRIL 19, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

At the regular meeting of the Eclectic Town Council held on April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eclectic Municipal Court Room, persons present included Chris George, Jennifer Lyle-Mattox, Sonia Taylor, Tony Thomas, Brenda Thomas, Jason Stepney, Nathan Collins, Josh Dorminey, Officer Thornton, Chief Head and Shannon Duck – Assistant Clerk, and other citizens and employees. Proceedings were aired live on Facebook.

Mayor Gary Davenport called the meeting to order: 7:03 p.m.

Invocation was then given by Mayor Gary Davenport.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Davenport.

Roll call was conducted by the Town Clerk Deborah Rowe:

|                   |                    |         |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Mayor:            | Gary Davenport     | present |
| Mayor Pro-tem:    | Linda Reed         | present |
| Council members   | Jackie Stearns     | present |
|                   | David Goodwin      | present |
|                   | Lindsay Mothershed | present |
| All were present. | Stephanie Stepney  | present |

A motion to approve the consent agenda with striking of Emergency Meeting minutes was made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0).

The consent agenda consist of the following;

- Financial reports for March 2021
- Minutes of the March 15, 2021 Regular Council Meeting
- Minutes of the March 15, 2021 Public Hearing
- Minutes of the March 30, 2021 Public Hearing

Mayor Davenport gave his monthly update on the Coronavirus Pandemic. He stated that the Governor has begun the reopening of the State and felt the Town should do likewise. Motion to reopen Town offices to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the exception of the Water Works office opening from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. was made by Council member Reed and seconded by Council member Goodwin. A motion to defer late fees and processing until the next day due to closing early was made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Stearns. After further discussion, a motion to resend both previous motions were made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney. A motion(new) to reopen Town offices to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with Water Works office opening from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the exception of the day bills are due on which they will remain open until 5:00 p.m. were made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0).

Resolution 2021-04-001 to Surplus Property Fire Truck was explained by Mayor Davenport. A motion to approve the Resolution as read was made by Council member Reed and seconded by Council member Goodwin. Upon note of incorrect date by Council member Stepney a motion to resend the previous motion was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney.

A motion to approve the Resolution with the change of date to read April 19, 2021 was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney. The motion carries (5-0).

A motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation to hire Tony Thomas as Public Works supervisor was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion to adjust the budgeted amount for Town Sewer manager (George) to provide for the pay increase associated with the successful completion of Sewer Operation Certification was made by Council member Mothershed and seconded by Council member Stearns. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion to approve the use of GPS trackers on the Town Public Works and Water Works vehicles was made by Council member Reed and seconded by Council member Stepney. The motion carries (5-0.)

Council member Mothershed made a recommendation that a Town use and policy for the GPS trackers be drawn up for Council approval.

A motion to approve the additional coverage of Reserve and Part-time Police Officers by the Town's workman's comp coverage for Medical payments in the event of an injury as well as disability coverage at a cost of \$135 per person, per year was made by Council member Stearns and seconded by Council member Reed. The motion carries (5-0.)

The next item of business, possible land purchase, was tabled until later in the meeting.

A motion to approve the purchase of a new custom building for the Sewer plant at a cost of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney. Upon further discussion, a motion to resend the previous motion was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney.

A motion to purchase the quoted 12' x 32' custom building for the Sewer plant at a cost not to exceed \$7,500 to be paid from the Acquisition account was made by Council member Reed and seconded by Council member Stepney. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion the purchase materials and finish the interior of the custom building for the Sewer plant at a cost not to exceed \$7,500 was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation to promote Officer Tim Thornton to Corporal was made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion to approve the microchipping of the Town's K-9, Ivo and to amend the budget to cover the \$200-\$250 cost was made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion to approve the purchase of eight (8) new bodycams from Pro-Vision as quoted with the monies for the initial purchase to come from the Acquisition account was made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0.)

A motion to advertise for an open medic position as a third shift on the Town's EMS staff was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Reed. The motion carries (5-0.)

#### **Departmental Reports:**

**Police Department - Chief Head**

**Fire Department - Chief Dorminey** – has received the new fire truck- **A motion to surplus the 1978 Mac truck was made by Council member Reed and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0).**

**EMS- Sonia Taylor** –

**Senior Center- Mayor Davenport** – have decided not to reopen at this time due to the restrictions placed on management by CAAC

**Library- Mayor Davenport** - Council member Stearns reported the Library is in need of some work primarily outside. – no word on their grant application.

**Water Works- Mayor Davenport**

**Sewer- George** – **A motion to authorize Mayor Davenport to oversee the purchase and change out of the pump station alarms was made by Council member Goodwin and seconded by Council member Stepney. The motion carries (5-0).**

Council member Stepney asked if there were any restrictions on the interdepartmental use of Town equipment. Mayor Davenport the only concern would be the use of equipment by sewer due to possible contamination.

**Municipal Court – Court Clerk Thomas**

**Events –Winslett**(not present) Geer – Community Yard Sale rescheduled for May 1 – still looking for participants. ACF meetings have begun – looking for Chairpersons for the Chicken Race and the Art & Photo Contest.

**Public Works/Parks and Recs. – Mayor** – Busy time cutting grass – Welcomed new supervisor Tony Thomas. Council member Stepney questioned the grass cutting of Panther Palace and the Recycle Center being left open. Mayor Davenport stated that the Town was once again pursuing a grant for Panther Palace.

**Planning Commission** – Chairman Davenport – Next meeting is tomorrow April 20, 2021

#### **Old Business:**

- The Mayor meet with the Eclectic Youth Ball Organization April 18, 2021. The ball league stated that they cannot and will not be paying anything to the Town at this time.
- An additional sewer extension Public Hearing was not scheduled. Council member Mothershed stated that the Town had meet its obligation by holding 2 Public Hearings. Recommendation was made and authority given to Mayor Davenport to pursue obtaining permission and signatures for a sewer right of way from all property owners involved.

#### **Mayor Comments:**

- The Mayor has received a request from Council member David Goodwin to rename a Town street for the late Mr. and Mrs. Terry Burt. It seems like a fitting tribute to an influential Town couple with the recent passing of Wanda Burt. A motion to pursue the necessary paperwork to rename Knight Street to Burt's Way was made by Council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0.)
- The Town has received a formal complaint in regard to the parking of 18 wheelers on the parking lot along Claud Road near downtown. While this is private property, Council member Goodwin stated that it should be noted that a truck stop is not a permitted use of this property in this area. Recommendation was made and authority given to Mayor Davenport to pursue discussions in an effort to resolve this issue before the Town pursues further measures.
- GFL Environmental, the new trash company, is still experiencing problems. The Town has been in contact with the parent company as well as the County Commission. The phone numbers, email addresses and websites are now listed on the Town website and Facebook page. The County Commission has taken the lead to resolve this problem.

#### **Council & Public Comments:**

- Stephanie Stepney requested that the Town look into and address the drainage issue along Fleahop Road.
- Jason Stepney asked if there was any possibility of reviving the Town Merchant's group and the printing of a listing or handout for Town business.

**Internet Public Comments:**

**Questions centered around business trash service for downtown business.**

- The question was asked if the Town could get a larger rollaway dumpster since the current one seems to always be full.
- It was pointed out that the Town did not supply a dumpster for the businesses.
- Response was that this matter needs to be cleared up since some businesses were told they could not get cans.
- Mayor Davenport stated that cans are permitted. He realized that some businesses do not have space for rollaway dumpsters and that maybe businesses could look into a shared dumpster where space is available.

A motion to adjourn Regular Session and move into Executive Session in order to discuss real estate matters was made by council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Reed (8:33). The motion passed (5-0).

A motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session was made by council member Stepney and seconded by Council member Goodwin (9:00). The motion passed (5-0).

A motion to authorize Mayor Davenport to purchase property for an amount not to exceed \$182,000 was made by Council member Mothershed and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion carries (5-0).

A motion to adjourn was made by council member Reed and seconded by Council member Goodwin. The motion passed (5-0).

There being no further business the Mayor adjourned the meeting (9:08).

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Gary W. Davenport, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Deborah Rowe, Town Clerk

**Council Members**

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