

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE  
ECLECTIC TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF ECLECTIC, ALABAMA  
ECLECTIC MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM  
JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.**

At the regular meeting of the Eclectic Town Council held June 10th, 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, Zac Lyles, Tim Thornton, Antonio Brown, Joseph Fuller (Town attorney), Cliff Williams (Tallapoosa Publishers), Chris Evans, Brittany Evans, Guy Sanders, Maggin Edwards, Officer Schulte and Spencer Mann and wife.

Proceedings were not aired live on Facebook. Our technology is down.

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 introduced a discussion about the Masonic Lodge property. In the deed, it states that the Town sold the Masons the property for \$1 with the criteria that if they stop meeting then the Town will assume the ownership of property again. The Masons are requesting the Town remove clauses within the deed that prevent them from mortgaging the property and removing the affiliation of the Town altogether so they can repair the building or erect a new one. One member of the audience identified as a Mason (Guy Sanders), although he was not in attendance as a representative for them. Councilor Mothershed asked Mr. Sanders to explain what the Masons have done for the Town over the years and the benefit of having them apart of the community. Mr. Sanders explained that the Masons are who basically built this Town during its founding era. He also explained that being a Mason is the first step to being a Shriner, which many people recognize as a charitable organization. He also explained that they average between 10-20 Masons in attendance yearly and still utilize the building even in the shape that it is. They also meet in Kent at times as well. It is becoming difficult to maintain membership with the premises being so dilapidated. Councilor Stepney spoke up and stated she went to the County courthouse and pulled the deed and requested the title to determine who was paying taxes on the building. The tax accessor stated that no taxes have been collected on the property because it was deemed historical. Joseph Fuller explained that if that is the case, the Masons could not tear down the building but only repair it with the consideration of the original Facade being preserved. Councilor Stearns suggested we stipulate they can only mortgage against it for repairs. She also stated that the Mason's do own the building, they built the building, however she would like to see in the deed the Town given the first right to refusal if they sold the property. Councilor Mothershed suggested that the Mason's contact the historical society to determine what they can/cannot do to the property to determine what they may want to do to the building and bring it back to Council with the proposal and a discussion on the legal steps can be made at that time.

Mayor Davenport read in full Resolution 2025-06-001 appointing election officials for the 2025 Municipal Election.

**A motion to accept Resolution 2025-06-001 as read was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Pro-tem Reed. (5 yea). Motion passes.**

Mayor Davenport opened up discussion on the next topic on the agenda, the Aaron Park Lease. He explained the only thing that changed was there will be no money exchanged

with the EYBO and Town and the maintenance within the gates will be the sole responsibility of the EYBO. Chris Evans, EYBO's acting president, would like to ask the Town to install a fence to be able to secure the property and prevent the 4 wheelers from destroying the grounds. The Council wanted to place the lease on a Fiscal year cycle starting 10/1. Chris Evans will gather quotes on fencing as the Council already set aside funds to do repairs for Aaron Park in the budget. Councilor Stepney would like a clause to be added to the lease that plainly explains that the EYBO be actively responsible for being respectful regarding the usage of water and power since the taxpayer is paying the bill.

Mayor Davenport opened the next topic of discussion about the need for a part-time public works employee.

**A motion to hire a part-time public works employee was made by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Stepney. (5 yea). Motion passes.**

Officer Lyles and Officer Thornton presented a power point presentation on a proposal to purchase the old Worthy building for the Police Department for the price of \$799,000 with two acres of property. Officer Lyles explained that the Elmore County Commission would help partner with the shared space and the expense of it. The main idea of the need for space is not enough office space and security concerns. Also, there is nothing outside indicating that the Police Department is the Police Department. The discussion was open to the Council and the public for questions. The owner of the building stated he would consider a rent to own option for \$7,500 a month. Lyles explained how we could also move the gym into this building and open it up to town employees. Councilor Stepney asked what gym he was referring to. Officer Lyles stated they turned the Teague building into a gym and is open to the town employees. Councilor Stearns asked about the condition of the roof and why it is not fixed yet. Spencer Mann stated he could fix it for the Town if we purchased it. Councilor Stepney expressed to Officer Lyles that the Town is not in a position to afford \$90,000 per year for a building. Councilor Goodwin stated the time is just off with the election only 2 months away. He feels like if he decided now it would only be dumped on a new administration to fund. Officer Lyles thanked the Council for listening and he respected their decision.

**A motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. was made by Pro-Tem Reed and seconded by Councilor Stepney. (5 yea). Motion passes.**

  
Gary W. Davenport, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Shannon Duck, Town Clerk

**Council Members**







