

**Dunn City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m., Dunn Municipal Building**

## Minutes

**PRESENT:** Mayor William P. Elmore Jr., Council Members April Gaulden, Raquel McNeil, Billy N. Tart, Alan Hargis, and Dr. David L. Bradham.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro Tem J. Wesley Sills

*Also present: City Manager Steven Neuschafer, Assistant City Manager Billy R. Godwin, Finance Director Cary McNallan, Chief of Police Cary Jackson, Parks and Recreation Director Brian McNeill, Administrative Support Specialist Amber Groves, City Attorney Tilghman Pope, and Deputy City Clerk Melissa Matti.*

### CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Elmore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Afterwards, he gave the invocation led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND APPROVAL

Motion by Council Member Hargis and second by Council Member McNeil to adopt the August 13, 2024, meeting agenda as presented. **Motion unanimously approved.**

### EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

Assistant Manager Godwin introduced two (2) new City of Dunn employees.

#### Jeremy Martin, Project Manager

Jeremy has been with us since April. He is a licensed general contractor and comes to Dunn by way of Fayetteville. He lives in Eastover. We're fortunate to have him.

#### Alyssa Garcia, Planning Director

Alyssa lives in Vander. She is originally from Maryland and has been in North Carolina for ten (10) years. She came from Cumberland County where she worked in their Planning Department. She has a master's in public administration. She is a CZO and is continuing to further her education. She has been with us for two days.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

#### Police Performance Wellness

##### Grant

Chief Jackson came before the council to ask for approval of the acceptance of a grant from the NC Chief of Police Association. This is a Release Performance and Wellness Grant that we applied for a few months ago. She explained that we were awarded \$7,528.00. With this grant, we plan to purchase software that will allow us to start a profile for each of our employees. With this software, we can track employee performance based on training.

Motion by Council Member Gaulden and second by Council Member Hargis to accept the NC Chief of Police Performance & Wellness Grant. **Motion unanimously approved.**

#### Budget Amendment

##### Fiber line

City Manager Neuschafer explained that Harnett County provides us with IT services for the City of Dunn. They have expressed some interest in having our backups done remotely. We still do backups in-house here at City Hall. Inside the cabinet our server room inside the jail cell. Once the drives are backed up, then they physically drive down, pick them up in a vehicle and drive them back to Harnett County. Right now, they have fiber all the way to the library. They would like to know if we would extend that fiber from the library to City Hall to backup remotely, then they would have an automatic off-site backup at Harnett County on their secure servers there. Of course, it does come with a cost. We've had competitive bids to bore a fire line over to this location from the library. And, of course, it transverses several busy intersections. So, by splitting it out between the general fund and the water sewer fund, it kind of breaks the cost down, but it's the overall estimate from the overall estimate from the contractor that was \$65,000. That would be a permanent fixed asset for the city.

Council Member Hargis expressed his concern and said, "We have raised taxes this year because we are short on budget. And when I look in this agenda, I see how much money that we've spent on water, sewer and the things that we've had to do because of the weather and that kind of thing. This is a great idea, probably. I'm not saying it's not a bad idea. I'm just saying that this time I'm not in favor of this. \$65,000 to do something that we're currently doing every day already. I think we can do that at a time when we have a little bit better financial situation. That's my opinion."

Motion by Council Member Gaulden and second by Council Member McNeil to approve the budget amendment for the installation of a fiber line between the Dunn library and City Hall. **Motion passed with 6 in favor and 1 opposed (Council Member Hargis).** A copy of Budget Amendment (BA2024-25) is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #1.

#### Public Utility

##### Equipment Financing

Finance Director McNallan explained that back in December, the Council approved an agenda item following a public hearing. We approved the purchase of a number of pieces of equipment and then also the application to apply for USDA funding. Through that application process I learned that USDA requires any purchase of enterprise vehicles, which would be our water and sewer and stormwater. Those have to be recorded as general fund loans.