

**Dunn City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Tuesday, June 10, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m., Dunn Municipal Building**

**Minutes**

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

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro Tem J. Wesley Sills, Council Member Billy N. Tart

*Also present: City Manager Justin B. Hembree, Assistant City Manager Billy R. Godwin, Finance Director Cary McNallan, Chief of Police Cary Jackson, Parks and Recreation Director Brian McNeill, Human Resources Director Connie Jernigan, Water Plant Manager Ian Stroud, Wastewater Plant Manager Donrie Dukes, Administrative Support Specialist Amber Groves, City Attorney Wiley Pope, and City Clerk Melissa R. Matti.*

**Call to Order**

Mayor William P. Elmore, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. He welcomed everyone present and thanked the staff members for attending.

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Member Bradham led the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adjustment and Approval of the June 10, 2025 Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Elmore asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda.

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by David Bradham and seconded by Alan Hargis. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Elmore noted for the record that Council Members Billy Tart and Wes Sills were absent due to other engagements, while all other members were in attendance.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Juneteenth Proclamation**

Mayor Elmore read a proclamation for the upcoming Juneteenth celebration. The proclamation highlighted the historical significance of Juneteenth, tracing its origins from the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 to the official announcement of freedom in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. It acknowledged Juneteenth as a federal holiday and mentioned local celebrations planned in Dunn.

Mayor Elmore proclaimed Thursday, June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth in the City of Dunn, encouraging all residents to recognize its importance in African American history and the heritage of the nation and City. *A copy of the Juneteenth Proclamation (P2025-03) is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #1.*

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Mayor Elmore presented the consent items for approval, which included:

- Minutes – April 22, 2025 – Special Call (Budget)
- Minutes – April 22, 2025 – Regular
- Minutes – May 13, 2025 – Work Session
- Appointment of Designated Agents for Division of Emergency Management
- Special Events Park Closure

Mayor Elmore presented items 3 through 7 as consent agenda items. He explained that items 3-5 were approvals of minutes for the specified dates, item 6 was the appointment of Justin to replace Steve Neuschafer on the Emergency Management Designated Agent List, and item 7 was a Special Events Park Closure for the World Series.

**Motion by Council Member Hargis and seconded by Council Member Bradham to approve all consent items.**

**The motion carried unanimously.** *Copies of Designated Agents for Division of Emergency Management and the Resolution Authorizing the Temporary Closing of Tart Park and Tyler Park during the Diamond Youth Baseball World Series (R2025-32) are incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #2.*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION**

**Amendment to Sampson County**

**Water Purchase Contract**

Ian Stroud, WTP Manager, presented a request for approval of an amended water purchase contract with Sampson County. He explained that the new contract would supersede the previous one-year contract, extending it to two years and increasing the sale volume from an average of 75,000 gallons per day to 250,000 gallons per day.

Stroud detailed the financial impact, stating that the revenue from water sales would increase by approximately \$14,957.57 per month based on average usage. He also noted that the impact on the water treatment plant would be an increase of about 175,000 gallons per day more than the current contract.

Council Member Hargis inquired about the reason for the significant increase in water volume and whether Sampson County would be obligated to pay for the full 250,000 gallons regardless of actual usage. Stroud clarified that the contract includes a minimum of 175,000 gallons per day that Sampson County would have to pay for, regardless of actual usage.

Mayor Elmore confirmed with Stroud that the city's water capabilities could handle the increased volume.

**Motion by Council Member Gaulden and seconded by Council Member Hargis to approve the new Sampson County Water Purchase Contract as presented was made. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Sampson County Water Purchase Contract is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #3.**

Mayor Elmore commended those involved in securing this addition to the city's water plan and distribution.

### **Capital Project Ordinance Land Purchase**

Finance Director, Cary McNallan presented a request for a Capital Project Ordinance related to the recent land purchase offer of \$5,000,000 for property near the Water Treatment Plant. Director McNallan explained that the ordinance would appropriate funding for the expenses and show how it would be funded.

Director McNallan stated that while the details of the \$5,000,000 funding were not finalized, installment financing was being proposed for now. Additionally, he requested \$325,000 to cover due diligence costs, including legal fees, property taxes, surveying costs, and potential filing fees if money is borrowed. This amount would be funded from the Water & Sewer Fund.

Council Member Hargis sought clarification on whether the due diligence costs would be credited towards the land purchase. Assistant City Manager, Billy Godwin explained the difference between the due diligence fee mentioned in the purchase contract (which would be credited) and the due diligence costs being discussed (which would not be credited).

**Motion by Council Member Bradham and seconded by Council Member Gaulden to approve the Water Treatment Plant Land Purchase Capital Project Ordinance, Project Reimbursement Resolution, and Related Budget Amendment. The motion carried unanimously. Copies of the Water Treatment Plant Land Purchase Capital Project Ordinance (O2025-11), Resolution Declaring Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds (R2025-33), and Budget Amendment (BA2025-40) are incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #4.**

### **Public Hearing Proposed FY26 Budget**

Mayor Elmore opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed FY26 Budget at 6:44

City Manager Justin Hembree explained that this Public Hearing was required by North Carolina law before adopting the budget. He noted that the hearing had been properly advertised to meet legal requirements and give citizens an opportunity to provide input on the recommended budget. Manager Hembree clarified that the budget was not being presented for approval at this meeting but would be scheduled for consideration at the next meeting on June 24th.

Mayor Elmore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak regarding the budget. Seeing no one, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Elmore confirmed that no action needed to be taken on this matter and that the budget would be acted upon at the next meeting on June 24th.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Elmore announced the following upcoming meetings:

- The next Regular Meeting will be held in City Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30 PM.
- There will be no Work Session in July.
- A Regular Meeting of Dunn City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22nd at 6:30 PM in the chambers.
- The next Work Session will be held on August 12th at 6:30 PM.

### **Juneteenth Celebration**

Mayor Elmore then called on Council Member McNeil to provide details about the upcoming Juneteenth celebration.

Council Member McNeil announced that the Juneteenth Celebration would take place on Sunday, June 22, 2025, next door to City Hall at 501 East Broad Street from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. She stated that the event was open to the entire community and would feature food trucks, vendors, live music, and community involvement. Council Member McNeil also mentioned that a nutritionist would be present to discuss growing food in backyards and provide health and nutrition information. She added that the event would honor Bo Dallas Dafford Sr., Inez Finch, and Carolyn P. McDougall.

### **Grant Funding Accessibility at Codrington Park**

Parks & Recreation Director, Brian McNeill announced that Dunn had scored the highest of 29 applications throughout the State to receive Grant Funding - \$500,000 that will go into addressing accessibility at Codrington Park. This will include sidewalks throughout the park, paving the existing parking lots, adding a new parking lot, rebuilding the bathrooms, and adding a ramp connecting from the park into the Harnett Training School campus. It will require a \$100,000 match.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Council Member Hargis and seconded by Council Member Gaulden to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Elmore adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
William P Elmore, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa R. Matti, City Clerk