Note from Town Manager - In light of the UNC School of Government articles “Local Governing Board Discipline Measures” (April 29, 2026) and “Removing Elected Board Members from Office” (February 4, 2015), the disciplinary options available to a governing board concerning one of its own elected members are very limited. Without the involvement or assistance of third parties, the principal action available to the Town Council is the adoption of a formal motion of censure.

If Council or a member wishes to introduce such a motion, the included draft of the motion to express the concerns, findings, and statements that the member deems appropriate for Council consideration. A proposed motion would be subject to discussion and action by the Town Council. See draft Resolution Motion attached.

Resolution of Formal Motion of Censure for Councilman Aaron Coston

Whereas, the Town Council is aware of Councilman Aaron Coston recent arrest on criminal charges involving extortion; and

Whereas, this is the second time Councilman Coston has been the subject of criminal charges within the past year; and

Whereas the Town Council understands that all elected officials are held to the highest standards of public trust, integrity and ethical conduct in the performance of their official duties; and

Whereas, the Town Council acknowledges that Councilman Coston is deemed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, but nevertheless further understands that such charges undermine public confidence in the integrity of the Town Council, compromises the effective operation of the Town of Edenton and violates the expectations of the electorate; and

Whereas, the Town Council acknowledges its lack of statutory authority to remove an elected Councilman from office or restrict that Councilman's right to vote, but the Town Council does possess the inherent authority to regulate its internal operations, issue formal reprimands and determine non-statutory appointments;

NOW THEREFORE, upon the refusal of Councilman Coston to formally resign as a Town Councilman, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Edenton as follows:

(1) That Councilman Aaron Coston be and he is hereby formally censured, expressing this Town Council's strongest official disapproval, condemnation and reprimand of Councilman Coston for the conduct resulting in the criminal charges; and

(2) That Councilman Coston be and he is hereby immediately removed from any and all internal and external committees, boards and commissions representing the Town of Edenton; and

(3) That Councilman Coston be and he is hereby barred from utilizing any discretionary, non-statutory Council privileges, including travel allowances, official representations at public events and any other non-statutory benefits for the remainder of Councilman Coston's current term.

This 10th day of November, 2026

Motion made by _____

Motion seconded by _____

Aye Votes: _____

Nay Votes: _____

Attest – Town Clerk
Corey Gooden

[Seal]