



## **Edenton Town Council - Meeting Summary Monday, March 25, 2024**

*The purpose of this notice is to summarize items from the meetings and is not comprehensive. This summary does not replace the official minutes. Go to the Town of Edenton's YouTube Channel for a video of the full meeting, or our website for the official minutes.*

Present: Mayor W. Hackney High Jr, Bob Turner, Aaron Coston, Elton Bond, Craig Miller, Patrick Sellers, and Town Manager Corey Gooden.

### **Special Presentation - Social District Six Month Update**

- Assistant Town Manager/Town Planner Dewayne Whealton provided a six month update on the status of the Downtown Edenton Social District.
  - **Zero** negative incidents have been reported to the police department.
  - **Twenty businesses** participate currently (via green/yellow stickers)
  - Downtown Ambassadors recommend larger signage, and increased communication between event planners and their unit. They have also noticed less activity after 5:00 p.m. on Sundays compared to other days.
  - Staff recommends that the district be allowed to continue, with a one-year update being provided to the council in the fall.

### **Special Presentation - Downtown Edenton Economic Update**

- Destination Downtown Edenton Executive Director Ches Chesson provided a downtown Edenton economic update to the council. \$3.2 million in private and public investment was recorded downtown in 2022; 2023 numbers are still being gathered. This investment resulted in 3 net new businesses, 4 historic buildings rehabbed, and 58 net new jobs.

### **Town of Edenton Tree Committee - 2024 Arbor Day Proclamation**

- **Mayor High entered this proclamation into the record**, which acknowledges Arbor Day 2024 and recognizes Edenton's status as a Tree City USA for 45 years straight. The Town of Edenton is one of three communities in North Carolina to be a Tree City USA for 45 plus years, since the program's inception in the state.

## Administrative Committee

### **Confederate Monument Update**

- Town Attorney Hood Ellis brought an update on the Confederate Monument in downtown Edenton. Mr. Ellis stated that Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett indicated in 2023 that he was awaiting a decision from the Vance Monument case in Asheville. The North Carolina Supreme Court recently reaffirmed in a unanimous vote that the plaintiffs did not have standing to challenge the relocation of the Vance Monument in Asheville.
- Mr. Ellis is currently seeking a hearing with Judge Tillett to discuss dissolving the temporary restraining order in place. No date has been set for this hearing as of this council meeting.

## Finance Committee

### **2024 City Vision Conference**

- **Council forwarded this item to the next regular meeting in April.** Councilman Aaron Coston and Town Manager Corey Gooden requested that council approve travel costs for their trip to Winston-Salem in April for the 2024 CityVision Conference, the North Carolina League of Municipalities' annual conference for all members. Travel costs are \$1,591.65 for Councilman Coston and \$1,291.65 for Manager Gooden.

## Closed Session

- The council entered into a closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.