

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
Special Meeting  
March 25, 2024

The Edenton Town Council met in special session on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Hackney High, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Aaron Coston, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Craig Miller, Councilman Patrick Sellers and Councilman Bob Turner.

Mayor High called the meeting to order.

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

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner gave the six month update on the social district in downtown Edenton. He reported that the social district was going well, foot traffic has increased and there was no disorderly conduct or incidents reported by the police. He stated that another update will be given to the Town Council after the spring and summer seasons.

**Special Presentation: Destination Downtown Edenton (DDE) Economic Update**

Ches Chesson, Executive Director for Destination Downtown Edenton, gave the Town Council an overview presentation of his recent attendance at the 2024 NC Main Street Conference in Goldsboro. He shared the 2022 local economic impact of downtown Edenton and provided a downtown building update and upcoming downtown projects and events.

**2024 Arbor Day Proclamation**

Dewayne Whealton, Assistant Town Manager and Planner stated that the Town of Edenton was awarded as a Tree City USA town for the 45th year along with the Growth Award. He stated that this year's annual Arbor Day ceremony will be held on the west end of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (near Gramby Street and Vance Lane). The Edenton Tree Committee will conduct the ceremony on Friday, April 26th at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Whealton stated that a requirement of the Town's Tree City participation is to conduct an annual Arbor Day Ceremony to promote awareness of the importance of street trees and trees on public property.

Mayor High read the proclamation into the record.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

WHEREAS, Edenton has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree planting ways,

NOW THEREFORE, I, W. Hackney High. Jr., Mayor of the Town of Edenton, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2024 as ARBOR DAY in the Town of Edenton, and I urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support our town's community forestry program, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

DATED this 25th day of March, 2024

There being no further items of business, the special meeting was adjourned.