

Edenton Town Council Minutes  
Special Meeting  
March 28, 2022

The Edenton Town Council met in special session on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Jimmy Stallings, Councilman Elton Bond, Councilman Roger Coleman, Councilman Samuel Dixon, Councilman Hackney High, Councilman Craig Miller and Councilman Roscoe Poole.

Mayor Stallings called the meeting to order.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation from Mark Thesier with the Albemarle Sound Base for the installation of a Silent Service Memorial Bench.

Mr. Thesier, local resident, veteran, and business owner, presented a request to the Mayor and Council for a silent service memorial bench to be placed within the public space located along the board walk, near the entrance to the Town's break water and the SW corner of the Barker House parking lot. Photos and the proposed bench design were presented to the Town Council. Mr. Thesier noted that the design and style of wording would be similar to the existing memorial bench located in Colonial Park.

Councilman High made a motion to approve the installation of the silent service memorial bench. Councilman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item was a presentation from Chowan County Tax Department on the 2022 Reappraisal.

Ryan Vincent with Vincent Valuations and Melissa Radke with the Chowan County Tax Department gave the presentation to review the findings. They reviewed that most of Chowan County and the Town of Edenton resident's tax valuations would show an overall increase in the tax value for two main reasons: (1) being the last valuation was completed in 2014, and (2) that the recent increase in the number of home sales and overall increase in sale prices (for comparable units) were much higher in 2022 vs 2014.

It was discussed that the Town of Edenton and Chowan County administration will need to share with the public the reappraisal appeal dead line which is May 2, 2022 and there are two ways of submitting an appeal (1) online at [www.chowancounty-nc.gov](http://www.chowancounty-nc.gov) , and/or (2) by mail or dropping of the appeal from in person at 305W. Freemason St, PO Box 1030, Edenton, NC 27932. No action was needed on this agenda item.

The third item was a resolution for the Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant Project Labyrinth.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that Project Labyrinth is an existing industry in the Town of Edenton seeking building reuse funds from the NC Department of Commerce. They were awarded an incentive package from the Building Reuse Program, as well as customized training funds to be used with the College of Albemarle (COA). The grant amount and company name are confidential until released by the Governor. The award from the Governor's office will be announced on April 21st. Building Reuse funds require a job commitment – Project Labyrinth has committed to creating 139 new jobs in 2 years, and expects an additional 50 in years 3-5. The funds from this grant will be used for a new product line for the company.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The fourth item was a resolution for Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant Project Net.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that Destination Downtown Edenton (DDE), in conjunction with the Town of Edenton, intends to submit a Building Reuse grant via NC Commerce on behalf of "Project Net" in the amount of \$25,000. The Town is required to provide a 5% cash match towards to project, which is \$1,250.00.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman High seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item on the special meeting agenda was a budget amendment for the Freemason Well Rehab Project.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that the Public Works Department and its Water Treatment Division recently started the major project of rehabbing the four (4) Town owned well sites that supply raw water to Town's Water Treatment Plants (WTP). Before starting this major project (known as Phase II), the Freemason well site was removed due to a more pressing and immediate need for repairs to the structure of the well. These repairs were planned and budgeted separately in the FY 21/22 budget and the repairs were based on late 2020 cost estimates. Since this time, material cost and labor has increased drastically for all materials due to the supply chain and logics restraints. The original budget for the repairs was \$32,000 but the actual cost in 2022 was approximately \$56,000.

Town Manager Corey Gooden stated that the Finance Director was able to increase the original budget by \$24,000 and found that two revenue items were over budget. It was stated that the Water/Sewer sales were on target to exceed budget by at least 5%, and that the connection fees over budget by 400% due to reallocation of fees based on Electric Department no longer reading meters and connections.

Councilman Bond made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further items on the agenda, the special meeting was adjourned.