

Zoning Issue To Face Public Hearing



McMULLAN HONORED — Roy L. Harrell, Edenton Security Commission Veterans Representative is shown above displaying a certificate of appreciation presented to Phillip S. McMullan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Edenton Cotton Mills. McMullan, a 50-year member of the mill staff, received the recognition in conjunction with the annual observance of National Employ the Older Worker Week, March 12-18. Harrell stated that the theme of the week was "Ability is Ageless".

A petition to rezone a parcel of land north of U.S. 17 by-pass from Highway Commercial to Shopping Center will come to a public hearing in May but Town Council is not expected to act upon the application until a later date.

The petition is from Thomas Francis who attempted recently to obtain a special use permit under the Highway Commercial classification to provide shops. He later filed the application for a Shopping Center classification and requested that a public hearing be held in April.

Councilman Gil Burroughs has stated previously that he favored

taking no action at the public hearing but allowing time for councilmen to react to what the public has to say.

Councilman Allen Hornthal said he felt the hearing should be at the regular designated times as set out in the Zoning Ordinance, unless it was a matter where there was no opposition.

Town Attorney W.J.P. Earnhardt, Jr., who also has rezoning requests in the hopper, advised the council that unless the ordinance is amended such hearings should not be held at times other than specified. He did say the ordinance did not require council to

act at any particular time.

This prompted Council Jesse L. Harrell to recommend that council not get tied up in another legal battle.

Earnhardt and an associate Tuesday filed an application for rezoning nearby property which will probably also be held in May.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, said bids for utility work in the Community Development project were some \$33,000 less than the earlier bids. The low bids, including alternates, were awarded.

Council also called for a public hearing to allow a child day center

at the corner of Court and Queen streets and to consider changes in the text of the Zoning Ordinance. The hearings will be held April 11.

Upon recommendation of Fire Chief Luther C. Parks steps were taken to establish fire zones in Edenton.

No action was taken on a request of Roy Spruill to lease right-of-way of Fourth Street.

Developers File Zoning Petition

Another in a series of attempts to get property adjacent to U.S. 17 by-pass rezoned for a shopping center was taken Tuesday when Bernard P. Burroughs and Wiley J.P. Earnhardt, Jr., developers, filed a petition with the Zoning Administrator.

The property is on the west side of Highway 32, just north of Chowan Hospital and consists of 10 acres. The property is classified as R-20 (residential-agricultural). In the past the Town of Edenton Planning Board has approved the re-zoning but Town Council has refused to go along with the recommendation.

This is part of the Ward Property which has been involved in litigation, with the N.C. Court of Appeals reversing an opinion by Superior Court Judge Elbert Peel.

Recently, upon petition of the developers, 10 acres on the east side of the highway was rezoned Highway Commercial.

The application is based upon "the Comprehensive Land Development Plan of the Town of Edenton...dated May, 1968." Also, upon the Chowan County-Edenton Land-use plan adopted May 11, 1976, and upon the grounds that the construction and opening of the by-pass "has substantially changed the character and best use of land in the immediate vicinity of the intersection of the by-pass."

"...that the most beneficial use...has not been changed from farming to shopping center or other commercial use."

The application states that construction would begin within one year from the date the petition is granted.

It is expected that a public hearing on the application will be held in May, one of the four times annually the town can legally consider such petitions.

Democrats Set Precinct Meetings

Democrats from throughout Chowan County will gather at their respective polling places at 8 P.M. today (Thursday) for precinct meetings. Similar meetings are being held at the same time throughout North Carolina.

J. Clarence Leary, Jr., county chairman, said the purpose of the meeting is to elect delegates to the county convention; fill any vacancies that exist among precinct officers and committee members and discuss the Precinct Action Now Program.

Also, plans will be made for voter registration, delegate selection and affirmative action plan for 1978 national conference and plan of organization revisions.

In the event a quorum is not present at the first date set for the meeting, there will be a second meeting on March 23 at the same time and place.

The county convention will be held at 12-noon on April 29.

Holy Week Services Slated

Ministers of several churches in Edenton have announced Union Pre-Easter Services which will be held this year in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of North Broad and West Church Streets, from 12-noon until 12:30 P.M. each day beginning March 20.

In addition to meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ, each church will present special music. The ministers conducting services this year will be: Monday — Rev. U.A. Spence of

Kadesh A.M.E. Zion Church. Tuesday — Rev. Willard Lampe of First Presbyterian Church. Wednesday — Dr. Robert Gray, of Edenton Baptist Church. Thursday — James Fenner of Providence Baptist Church. Friday — Rev. Richard Blankenhorn of Edenton United Methodist Church. The public is cordially invited to attend these services as we prepare together for the joyous celebration of Easter.



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Robertson Is Promoted

RALEIGH — The Bank of North Carolina, N.A., has named William L. (Larry) Robertson, vice president of its Edenton offices, it was announced by Charles F. Merrill, executive vice president.

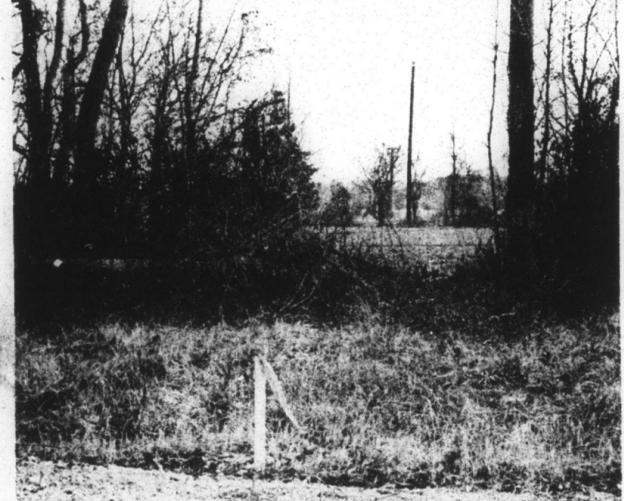
Robertson joined BNC in 1976 as assistant vice president and city executive in the Edenton branch.

Active in civic affairs, he is a member of the Rotary Club, the Jaycees, and has been elected vice chairman of Historic Edenton, Inc. He is a graduate of Campbell College and the Carolina School of Banking at Chapel Hill.

He and his wife, the former Sharon Jordan of Garner, have two sons, Jared and Wes. They reside on Country Club Drive.



Larry Robertson



WHERE STREET WILL BE EXTENDED — The extension of Coke Avenue to Highway 32 will begin as soon as the weather permits. W.B. Gardner, town administrator, reported to Town Council Tuesday night that the work will be completed by the Department of Transportation at no cost to the town. Also, DOT has agreed to extend Freemason Street to intersect with Coke Avenue at a cost of \$7,200.

Civil Court Session Is Held

Judge James M. Long of Yanceyville presided over a civil session of Chowan County Superior Court here this week but no jury trials were conducted.

Settlement was reached in the case where Gerald E. Stephens and others had brought suit against Sheriff Troy Toppin and

others. The order had not been signed Wednesday morning.

Following a hearing Monday, the judge denied the reinstatement of driver's license for James Arthur Pruitt. His license had been revoked because he refused to take a breathalyzer test.

W.T. Culpepper, III, attorney for the Creswell motorist, argued that his client had a memory lapse and was unaware of discussions with law enforcement officers at Chowan Hospital following an accident.

An attorney for the state countered with a statement that action by Pruitt showed a willful refusal. She expressed fear that if the defense motion was allowed it could set a precedent for other drivers seeking return of their license on the claim of lapse of memory.

The case of C.H. Small against Bristoe Perry, etux, was settled out of court.

No action had been taken Wednesday morning in the case brought by M.P. Sexton against the Edenton Board of Adjustment.

Andrew S. Martin and Herman Wolff, attorneys, were not allowed by Judge Long to be relieved as parties in a suit brought by Forest Products, Inc., against Townson Pallets, Inc., and others.

There had been no action taken Wednesday in the case of Ella H. Wilson, etux, E.R. Wilson against J. Wallace Goodwin, Sr., and others.

Postponed Meet

The regular board meeting of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission has been postponed from March 16 to March 23, due to county Democratic Party Precinct meetings.

Riley S. Monds, Jr., chairman, said the meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant in Edenton.

Monds said this will be an important meeting at which time by-law revisions will be discussed.

Action Is Taken

Action was taken Tuesday night to further improve the appearance of Edenton Municipal Airport. An updated Airport Layout Plan was approved by Edenton Town Council which calls for removal of the old hanger building.

The resolution, as adopted without opposition, calls for erection of 10 "T" hangers as money becomes available.

Also, the resolution authorized the trading of two parcels of land.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, said it appeared that the Airport Commission would have adequate funds to go ahead with the capital project. Questioned by Councilman Jesse L. Harrell about operating funds once the reserve is spent, the administrator said it is possible that the town and council will have to budget some small amount in the next few years.

Councilman W.H. Hollowell said the airport is a definite asset to the community and thus far the town and county have been fortunate not to have to spend large sums at the facility.

False Information Is Costly Mistake

A Perquimans County man convicted of giving false information to The Employment Security Commission had his suspended sentence invoked Tuesday morning in Chowan County District Court.

Arthur B. Harrison, 20-year-old Negro, 302 Stokes Drive, Hertford, was charged with nine counts.

However, Judge Beaman stayed execution of the sentence on the condition that Harrison pay \$820 by May.

In other cases called by Asst. Dist. Atty. Larry Overton the following action was taken:

Mary Gilliam Daniels, larceny and forgery, first appearance with probable cause set for March 28.

Joseph Ernest Byrne, improper registration and no liability insurance, \$75 fine and costs.

Joe Johnson, reckless driving and failure to report an accident, \$75 fine and costs.

Elsie Lonella Jones, no liability insurance, dismissed.

Willie McCoy Rankins, no liability insurance, \$60 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Ralph Wayne Smith, traffic violation, dismissed.

William Thomas Forehand, speeding, called and failed.

Joseph Dwight Fuquay, abandonment and non-support of wife and child, not guilty.

Willie Joseph Leary, drunk

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Scout Troop Revitalized

It now appears that the oldest troop in the Tidewater Council of Boy Scouts of America, embracing Southeast Virginia and Northeast North Carolina will live.

At a meeting held by the Edenton Rotary Club Scouting Committee, which sponsors the troop, George Holmes, Jr., a former Eagle Scout and member of the Blue Heron Lodge of Order of the Arrow, pledged his services as Scoutmaster for Troop 156 for the coming year.

Another former Eagle Scout and member of the coveted Order of the Arrow secret Association of Scouts, Lyle Hunnicutt pledged his services as an assistant Scout-

master, as did Tom Phillips and W. Holt Shaw.

Joe Cannon, scout executive for the area attended the meeting and an organizational meeting was scheduled to be held at the Boy Scout Hut on North Broad Street at 7:30 P.M. March 22. The purpose of the meeting is to enlist boys of the age of 11 years and older as members of the troop. Those wishing to enlist as members of Troop 156 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Notices of the meeting will be distributed throughout the Edenton grammar and junior high schools during the coming week.



UNDERGROUND WIRING — Workmen with the Town of Edenton Electric and Water Department are in the process of installing underground wiring along the waterfront extending down Edenton Bay from the corner of Water and Broad streets to the park area near the Masonic Temple. Existing wiring will be removed upon completion of the project, reported W.B. Gardner, town administrator.

Public Parade

Reality And Miracles

Our favorite publisher-legislator meandered along the Public Parade a couple of days last week and found a haven for "rediscover(ing) reality" and found that every day at The Chowan Herald is a miracle.

In between he spent the better part of the week listening to the experts and the philosophers across the state tell how best to achieve utopia.

All of this gave our semi-retired inexpensive columnist of "The Herald Kitchen" time to catch up on her needlepoint.

The Huskins' have a love affair with Edenton, and we hope we are partially responsible. Maybe our enthusiasm, along with charming people and a charming community—not to mention "a small piece of the economy"—keeps bringing them back.

Friend Jay has always had wheels in his head, which means he is an innovator. He can take a \$45,000 piece of machinery and make it function(?) better than the factory reps. In our case, before our new offset press was installed several years ago he had modified it to a point where we could hardly run it.

Then he designed a paper rewinding system which was so good the manufacturer modified it just enough to cut him out of a patent. All this is to say his talents go beyond the typewriter and gusto of the General Assembly.

Last Wednesday was the first time in 13 years he had appeared on the scene on press day. He was so anxious to help our press crew that it was 7:30 P.M. before we got the paper out. (One of the miracles!)

The day before, we were out of town on business, a day when a bulk of the local news arrives, especially from another inexpensive correspondent who does "Chalk Dust" and other mess as a labor of love. There had so much happened on the school scene a lot of it didn't make print and appears this week.

The first thing we heard Thursday morning was from Clyde Slade, who must cope with Jay and Mary Rhea Gardner. "Please don't go out of town again on Tuesday and ask Jay to never come again on Wednesday," he said.

And if that isn't discovering reality while asking for a miracle, there is no "ye ole townie on Queen Anne's Creek."

King James II?

The Hunt Administration is now in its 14th month and is already gearing up for a second bout with the General Assembly. If the legislative body is as generous in May as it was in the last session North Carolina will truly have seen the emergence of a political King James II.

King James I (Holshouser) had a honeymoon with his first General Assembly, primarily because the heavily Democratic

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