



Council Members Continue Consideration Of Sign Sizes

By JACK GROVE

A proposed amendment to the town zoning ordinance on business signs came under fire during a public hearing at town council meeting Tuesday night.

The present ordinance prohibiting "principal use signs" larger than 18 square feet has been ignored for years. Recently, requests from developer Bob Thomas of the new Travel Host Inn near the bypass and representatives from Hardees, building a new restaurant on Broad Street, requested variances.

Thomas requested permission for a 250-square foot sign and Hardees' request was for a 128-square foot sign. They were turned down by the Planning Board, even though town attorney Chris Bean told the board the sign ordinance is probably unenforceable.

The ordinance amendment says that businesses in a highway commercial zone within 1,000 feet from the bypass would be allowed one square foot of sign area for each two feet of road frontage, not to exceed 200 square feet. The Travel Host Inn would still be shy 50 square feet under this provision.

Businesses zoned highway commercial and more than 1,000 feet from the bypass would have the same frontage criteria but with a total of only 75 square feet of sign. Under this section, Hardees would be denied 53 square feet of what they had requested.

Gil Burroughs told the council, "I hope that you will take action that is legally defensible." He said that large signs were unattractive and that the town should ensure "esthetically pleasing" signs.

McDonald's and Golden Corral were mentioned as two businesses that had not requested the town's permission to place signs. Jane Mabry asked if the "signs that are already up" could be removed.

Town Manager Phillip Whitaker said that it could be possible to accomplish through litigation. Mayor John Dowd said, "I don't think we'll be able to go

back and pull down their signs." Jack Pruden, president of Historic Edenton, offered that Charlotte and Nags Head had eliminated large signs through a phase-out period. He said that Nag's Head had a 64-square foot limitation for signs.

Pruden also charged that, "The downtown area, as far as signage, is in total disrepute." Dowd countered with "I tend to think that's too strong."

Richard Bunch, executive director of the chamber of commerce, commented, "It's rather amusing. Without these signs, I wouldn't know how to direct people to those businesses. Without the signs at the bypass, people wouldn't stop at Edenton."

Ms. Mabry asked about the Hardees sign "which was erected today." That took building inspector Amelle Charlton by surprise and she promised to look into the matter. Dowd said, gesturing toward Bean, "We have advice from our legal advisor that we do not have an enforceable sign ordinance."

Bean said, "There is a legal argument - where laws, over a period of time are not enforced, then they cannot be enforced."

Councilman Privott moved to continue the ordinance amendment matter with the unanimous concurrence of the council.

In other matters the council:

- Accepted (if everything is in order) the dedication of streets and water and sewer lines of Village Creek subdivision;
- Postponed consideration of an appointment to the Planning Board;
- Accepted the bid by Cummins-Carolina for two 1,250 KW generators of \$409,842 for local generation of peak load and electrical power;
- Accepted a bid of \$1,826 for the 1945 Ford fire truck, proceeds to be used for renovation of the 1923 Reo fire truck;
- Approved a budget amendment for the purchase of Fisher Field from the Beatrice Hunt-Wesson group at a price of \$66,000;

- Approved the acceptance of a state grant for planning services to update the town's zoning ordinance;
- Approved a total operating budget of \$140,549 for the implementation of the 911 communications system;
- Approved funding for park improvements at Waterfront Park;
- Approved a proposal from Calvin Lamb for sidewalk construction along Park Avenue; and
- Approved the proclamation of October 16 as the Lucy L. Sharpe Day in recognition of over 50

years service as a practical nurse. At the end of the meeting, Roy Harrell observed to the council that "quite a few political posters" were adorning light poles in violation of town ordinance. Mayor Dowd told him, "They will come down."



WEEDS—These weeds of the illegal variety were harvested Monday morning. Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill (left) and Deputy David Jethro show the 33 marijuana plants they uprooted in the Ryland area Monday morning. The plants, with a street value of almost \$40,000, were subsequently destroyed.

Marijuana Plants Are Seized In Ryland

Harvest time is here and Chowan Sheriff's Department has joined in. Sheriff Fred Spruill said that 33 marijuana plants were found growing near the G.U. Road, SR 1307, at Ryland and were confiscated Monday morning.

The mature plants, from five to

seven feet tall, have a street value of \$1,200 each for a total haul of almost \$40,000. He said that they were destroyed by burning that afternoon.

Spruill, Deputy David Jethro and Deputy Harry Ward, with a special assist from Patrolman Greg Whitehurst of the Edenton

Police, participated in the raid.

The sheriff said that his department did not have a suspect in connection with the drug. Information on the location of the illegal crop was provided by a local citizen.

Election Candidates Explain Viewpoints

Edenton voters will go to the polls on November 3 to elect a mayor and three councilmen. All of the candidates were interviewed with the exception of Joe Lee who was unavailable by press time.

Each candidate was asked the same questions with one additional question for the mayoral candidates. The questions are:

1. Given the historic setting of Edenton, do you believe economic growth should be controlled, and if so, how and to what extent?
2. Is there a particular subject concerning town administration that either has not been addressed by council or that needs increased attention?
3. Why are you seeking this office?
4. (For mayoral race) What do you see as the mayor's primary duties?

John Dowd

John Dowd, a native of Edenton, is the incumbent mayor. He is in the insurance and real estate business and has a B.S. degree in Business Administration from East Carolina University. A marketing teacher at John A. Holmes for eight years, he was first elected to public office in 1985. A town council charter change last year now provides for a four year term for mayor.

1. "Edenton, because of its location and recreation facilities

Area Chamber Campaign Set

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce began a "thank-you" campaign today. Area businesses will be visited by chamber officials who will leave a card thanking them for their support of the chamber.

Chairman for the campaign is Jim Elliott, vice-president of the organization.

In keeping with the effort, Mayor John Dowd and County Commission Chairman Alton Elmore signed a joint proclamation lending governmental backing to appreciation of local businesses.

(water) is going to grow whether we want it to or not.

"Our area has been targeted by many national publications for travel and tourism and retirement as one of the best places in the country to live.

"This type of publicity is going to create a type of growth in this area that we need to plan for and control. A cooperative effort by our city and county governments with suggestions and recommendations from such organizations as Historic Edenton, the chamber of commerce and other appointed interested individuals could develop a mass development plan that takes into consideration such factors as population growth, travel and tourism, industrial growth and retail business potential."

2. "Litter is our streets and parks is an expensive problem for our city." He said that the main problem stemmed from lack of pride of people and inadequate

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Roy L. Harrell

Former mayor Roy L. Harrell is an Edenton native and is a veterans representative for the state employment office in Edenton. A graduate of Edenton High School, he was elected to town council in 1971, was elected as mayor in 1973 and served in that capacity until 1985.

1. "The growth of any small town has to be controlled to some extent. Incoming industry must be looked at and proven to be an asset to the Town of Edenton.

"In the past, a very good job has been done in keeping industry in industrial parks and not to interfere with the layout of the town.

"The control is set up with the boards already in action, the planning board, the zoning laws and regulations and very close observation of your mayor and council."

2. "I've been very concerned with the delay in the construction of the electric generating plant (peak shaving generators) which has been proven to be a great potential savings to the citizens of Edenton in their electric bills."

3. "It would be a pleasure work-

ing in the capacity as mayor again, working for and with the citizens of Edenton in making the town a better place to live."

4. "I think one of the primary duties of mayor is being as prepared as possible on all issues and to work closely with the council in providing the leadership needed to move Edenton forward."



Dowd



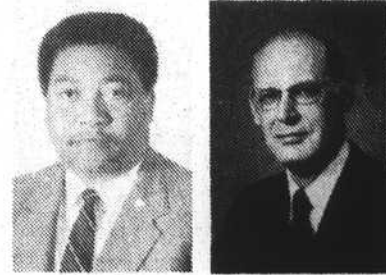
Harrell



Crumney



Lee



Taylor



Hollowell



Allgood



Goodman



Biggs



Mabry

Reverse Treasure Hunt

State Treasurer Harlan Boyles is turning the tables on more than a dozen persons along the Public Parade by seeking to return money to them rather than collect money from them. The money for this reverse treasure hunt comes from some \$7,058,244 in unclaimed or abandoned savings accounts, utility deposits, uncashed checks and the like which, under the law, escheat to the state.

After the money is collected, the treasurer's office makes a concentrated effort to return it to its rightful owners. In the meantime, it is invested and the interest earned is turned over each year to the State Education Assistance Authority, which in turn loans it to worthy students in public higher education institutions.

"This year," Mr. Boyles explained, "we remitted \$3,572,623 to the SEAA which should result in low interest loans to some 1,600 of our North Carolina students."

But the treasurer's office does not lose sight of the fact that the principal still belongs to the owners, if they can be found. Last year the office returned over a million dollars to 3,711 rightful owners. And again this year the state treasurer is calling upon the newspapers of the state to help him find these people.

If you are one of the following Chowan County citizens, you can regain your money by writing to the North Carolina State Treasurer, Escheat and Unclaimed Property Office, 325 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 or calling (919) 733-6876: Deloris White, 319 West Church Street, Edenton, \$175.19; Tony R. Hare, Tyner, \$91; Florence Lassiter, 109 South Dakon Street, Edenton, \$202.10; Thomas A. Dees, Route 2, Edenton, \$52.52; W.H. Floyd, Westover Heights, Edenton, \$51.49; Clarence J. Leary, Jr., Route 2, Edenton, \$127.45; Lee A. Barnes, 600 Edenton Manor, Edenton, \$53.42; Thomas Boutwell, Edenton, \$71.31; William Brotton, Edenton, \$386.89; Sally Ann Brotton, Edenton, \$286.95; Rebecca Jane Brotton, Edenton, \$286.95; Mary Harris, Edenton, \$92.17.

The state treasurer promises that prompt payment will be made once valid ownership has been established. And that doesn't imply a third-degree process. The treasurers will have some simple questions which rightful claimants will have no difficulty answering.

A Good Move By Town

It's been a long time coming, but we welcome the news that Edenton will soon have its two diesel-powered generating units to level out its demand for power during peak periods.

As we recall, the proposal to purchase the auxiliary equipment originated during former Mayor Roy Harrell's administration; but

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Riverboat Officials Visit Town

Owners of a Florida riverboat company visited Edenton last week as part of an Albemarle area tour. Bob Johnson, president of Riverwalk Cruise Lines is considering the basing of a cruise boat in this area that would offer tourists cruises as well as take bookings from local organizations.

Snookie Bond, executive director of Historic Albemarle Tours, guided the Riverwalk group on a tour of the town and they were shown the new video presentation on Edenton's history at Barker House.

The group next went to the chamber of commerce office to view a ten minute film, newly produced, that promotes Edenton and

Chowan County at state line visitor centers. Executive director Richard Bunch presented company officials with facts relating to the town and county, including churches, civic organizations, schools, and the community activity calendar.

Also meeting with the visitors were Sen. Marc Basnight, Rep. Vernon James, Rep. Pete Thompson and County Manager Cliff Copeland. According to Bunch, the legislators were "supportive and excited about the idea," of basing a cruise ship in the area.

Bunch said of Johnson, "He was real pleased with the information we gave him. This guy is planning on marketing this product."

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FAIRS ARE FOR KIDS (OF ALL AGES)—These youngsters took a train ride in the center of the midway at the Chowan Fair on a very chilly and windy Monday night. Temperatures have moderated and the winds stilled as fair officials brace for large crowds for the balance of fair week which ends Saturday night.