

Edenton to aid Colony Tire with \$32M expansion project

Town council voted to facilitate state grant

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

Edenton Town Council approved a grant agreement that will help Colony Tire's latest expansion project.

During its recent meeting, council unanimously approved going into an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Commerce to help facilitate a \$400,000 grant. The Edenton Chowan Partnership agreed to fund the 5% cash match (\$20,000). Part of the conditions of the grants includes a clause that Colony Tire will create 40 new jobs.

Colony Tire will invest \$32 million in building and equipment as part of the expansion. The company will be required to execute a deed of trust and a promissory note for the amount of

the grant, secure the grant (forgivable loan). If Colony does not create the required jobs according to the terms and conditions of the grant, then the town will be required to collect the funds from Colony Tire through the promissory note and or Deed of Trust.

Mayor Roland Vaughan noted that while he was on a recent tour of Edenton with the new College of the Albemarle President Jack Bagwell the most interesting thing about Peanut Drive's industries is that the companies were born and raised in Edenton.

"They're all the dreams of some of our predecessors," he said. "They all have grown and flourished, and provide stable backbone to our economy."

Councilor Jimmy Stallings, who took the oath of office later in the meeting to become mayor, noted that Colony Tire had 80 truck loads, three Friday nights in

a row, pour concrete for the expansion.

Additionally, council approved the town's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. The plan, put together by NC Fellow Saoirse Scott, shows an evaluation of all city-owned properties as to their ADA compliance. It also lists a timeline for addressing compliance issues, as well as projected costs. The plan is available to the public at <https://tinyurl.com/w9y92p8>.

In other matters, town council voted to approve an office lease agreement for Congressman Greg Murphy (R-Greenville). He held an open house to the location, on the second floor of town hall, on Saturday.

"What we could have received in market rent would be far exceeded by how our citizens will benefit by having direct access to congressional staff," said Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton during the meeting.

During the meeting, Councilor Craig Miller noted the new brick sidewalk going in on South Granville Street and the work on making sidewalks ADA complaint throughout town.

According to Knighton, the new sidewalk on South Granville Street and West Water Street is a town sidewalk, located in the town's right-of-way.

"The funding for the sidewalk came through a grant the town received several years from the state, thanks to Senator Bob Steinburg," she said in an email.

The grant funded \$19,340 of the project, which has a total cost \$19,800.

The NC Department of Transportation is responsible for the work taking place throughout town on state-maintained streets, such as Virginia Road and Broad and Granville streets. DOT contracted with Barnhill Contractors to bring

handicap ramps on sidewalks into compliance with ADA requirements.

"Barnhill is installing 23 new ramps, and removing and replacing 87 ramps and retro-fitting four ramps within the city limits," Knighton said.

During the Finance Committee portion of the meeting, council also unanimously approved private sale of the iPads and accessories to Vaughan and former Mayor Pro Tem Steve Biggs, who did not attend the meeting. It also approved legally binding commitment and dead of trust documents between the town and CB of Edenton.

In other news, council approved the roster of firemen. By approving the roster, the town will pay \$10 a month per firefighter into the state retirement plan and will pay dues for the North Carolina State Firefighter's Association, according to Fire Chief Billy Bass.

After the oaths of office were administered for Mayor Jimmy Stallings and councilors Roger Coleman, Samuel Dixon and Hackney High, Stallings announced the following committee and board assignments:

■ Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond: Utilities (chair), administrative

■ Coleman: Finance, utilities, Chowan Cares, Chowan Arts Council, Board of Adjustment

■ Dixon: Finance (chair), Public Works, Destination Downtown Edenton, Historic Preservation

■ Miller: Public works (chair), administrative, Tree Committee, Planning board

■ High: Finance, Administrative (chair), Airport Commission, recreation advisory board

■ Roscoe Poole: Public Works, utilities, HAZMAT

■ Stallings: Edenton Chowan Partnership (along with Bob Quinn and Vaughan)

COUNCIL

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more wood on the wood pile.' That phrase has stuck with me over the years and propelled me into wanting to do something for the community," Vaughan said. "The community allowed our family to live here, work here and my children got a public education here and went on to get college degrees. My father was a doctor and served the community in that way. I didn't have his tools, but I felt confident I could do a decent job as mayor."

Vaughan remembered the first time he sat in the mayor chair.

"I felt like the dog that's been chasing the 18-wheeler and caught it — 'What am I going to do?'" he said with a laugh.

While thanking those who served with him on council, Vaughan noted that no one came to council with a hard-set agenda that they wanted to impose upon the other council members.

"We disagreed but took to the matters with civility," he said.

While thanking the department heads and town employees, he noted a discussion during a recent

lunch with the administrative staff.

Early in his career, the town wanted to buy mechanical garbage trucks.

"Overwhelmingly, the citizens of Edenton didn't want that to happen," he said. "Those guys on the trash truck are really ambassadors to our community and we didn't know it back then. The citizens wanted them to come to their neighborhoods and wave to them. They are just part of what Edenton is."

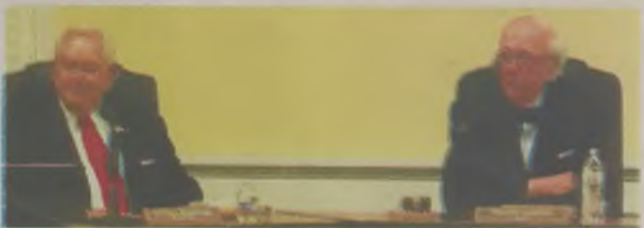
Vaughan also thanked Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton for her mentorship and friendship over the years.

"We have a good relationship and talked about everything openly. Hopefully it brought forward good ideas," he said. "Throughout the state, she is admired and looked at by her peers as being top of her class. It has been a pleasure to work with her and develop relationship we have."

He reminded the council and audience that his speech was not a goodbye speech.

"As Mr. Rogers said at close of his show, 'I'll see you around the neighborhood.'"

After a standing ovation



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Mayor-elect Jimmy Stallings (left) listens as Roland Vaughan gives his last address as mayor during Edenton Town Council's Dec. 10 meeting.

for Vaughan, District Court Judge Meader Harriss administered the oaths of office to the newly elected council members. Vaughan handed over the mayor's gavel to Stallings.

"It is a great honor to be able to stand here tonight to hand off this gavel," Vaughan said, noting he knows Stallings will do a great job as mayor.

The newly sworn-in councilors were given time to make remarks.

Mayor Stallings said that during the recent Edenton-Chowan Christmas parade, he rode in a car with his wife, Pamela, and the Vaughans.

"As we were stopped in front of the viewing stand Mike McArthur said, 'You have some mighty big shoes to fill,'" Stallings said. "It's the truth."

He said he was fortunate

to follow a mayor that he really admires.

"I've been on the council for 20 years, and the town manager and I have developed a good friendship and worked well together," Stallings noted of Knighton.

He thanked his wife, family, friends and others who supported him during his recent campaign.

"I am grateful for the experience and have learned a lot to help Edenton move forward together," Stallings said.

He said he ran for mayor to give back to the community some of what it's given his family.

"I've been here since 1977, and this community has given me a lot," Stallings said.

Coleman thanked the community for the confidence it has bestowed upon him. He also came up with a

slogan "Edenton: The town that says thank you."

"Thank you for the confidence bestowed upon me as I find a new way to serve the community," he said. "I will spend the next four years paying you back all you've given me."

He thanked his wife, Liz, for her support and the sacrifices she made on his behalf so he could pursue his passions.

"I look forward to working with all of you," he said. "I look forward to creating an exciting and hopeful future for our citizens."

High thanked Vaughan for his service to Edenton and his behind-the-scenes mentorship. The new councilor also thanked Steve Biggs for his service.

"Between them both, there is almost half a century of leadership of this town," he said.

High thanked his supporters during the campaign and the people of Edenton.

"Thank you for your trust in me. I am honored to serve and take that honor and privileged very seriously," he said. "I see the leadership team the voters have put into place and we have an incredible team. I see great things for us. As I said during my campaign, I feel

like we can do better and so much more than were we are now. I can't tell you how excited I am for the things to come."

Incumbent Dixon praised Vaughan, liking him to Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life." During a walk through town earlier in the day, Dixon noted the break water, construction at the Conger building, new playground and boats going in and out of the Albemarle Sound.

"None of that would be here without Mayor Vaughan's incredible management of this town," he said. "It doesn't take much to realize that we'd be like everywhere else, if not for his incredible leadership. I'm grateful to be in a place where we can raise our children and they want to come back."

Also during the meeting, council voted Elton Bond as mayor pro tem.

Dixon nominated Bond, saying that the mayor pro tem serves as the vice president to the mayor.

"Elton and I have become great friends through our time on council. He always tells us how he's feeling," Dixon said. "He's in this to make Edenton a better place."

TOUR

Continued from A1

26 years continuously. Her original travel companions did not travel anymore, so she is sharing her tradition with her daughter! It was truly a magical time for our Candlelight Tour guests."

The Iredell Property, part of Historic Edenton State Historic Sites, also opened its doors Friday and Saturday to offer visitors a look at Colonial-era holiday life with its groaning board. (span)Mardell Barrett, who plays the harpsichord during the Groaning Board event, also brought a (span) saltery, a stringed instrument that is played like a violin but has whole notes on one side and flats and sharps on the other.

MORE ONLINE

For more on this story visit dailyadvance.com/chowan.

In the dining room, several trays featuring different kinds of homemade cookies and a bowl of hot chocolate sat on the table. According to groaning board tradition, the treats are so heavy, the table "groans" under the weight.

Members of the Edenton Tea Party National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution made the cookies and decorated the Iredell house. The group owned house prior to it becoming a state historic site. Members also encouraged visitors to sign cards that will be sent to veterans.

Site Manager Bob Hop-

kins noted that by about 4:30 p.m. Friday, the Iredell property had about 150 visitors. He noted that Friday is usually a slower day for the tour and the complimenting events. The rain didn't help, but the amount of visitors was similar to last year's total.

Edenton Historical Commission Executive Director Mike Erwin said the number of tour-goers was up compared to last year, but was unable to provide an exact amount. Commission President Joy Harvill said over 1,000 attended this year's tour.

[This year's Candlelight Tour spanned four centuries, which were represented in homes on West Queen Street, East Eden Street and Pembroke Circle.

Harvill said the organization owed a debt of gratitude to many people for making this year's tour amazing.

Our own Commissioner, Susan Creighton, for heading this thing up since forever, and for recruiting all of the necessary volunteers who bring it together. To the Garden of Eden Garden Club members, who handle the Colonial-era decorations we all so enjoy at the Barker House, Cupola House, Old Courthouse and Jail, much thanks for your enormous contributions!" she said. "To all of the amazing volunteers at the Barker House who greet our guests with such warmth and professionalism, you are much appreciated!"

A special thanks also went to the homeowners.

"Without you, we would have no tour," Harvill said. "Without the tour, we would have no Edenton Historical Commission, and without

the commission, so much of our history would not be preserved to share with future generations. You make a DIFFERENCE!"

Smile, It's Christmas!

Thanks to all of our valued patients for making our year so merry and bright with your visits. We really appreciate your trust in us, and we wish you the happiest of holidays!

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MONDAY DECEMBER 23RD
EASTSIDE SOLID WASTE & DUMPSTERS (TOWN WIDE)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24TH
OFFICE CLOSED "HOLIDAY"
NO COLLECTION

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25TH
OFFICE CLOSED "HOLIDAY"
NO COLLECTION

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26TH
OFFICE CLOSED RECYCLABLES WILL BE PICKED UP

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27TH
WESTSIDE SOLID WASTE & DUMPSTERS (TOWN WIDE)