

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:	Neville Hall
Council Members:	Darryl Carter
	Gerald Ellis
	Jerry Epps
	Angela Hampton
	Phillip Hunnicutt
	Bernie Moore
	Bruce Nooe
Interim City Manager:	Terry Shelton
City Clerk:	Deanna Hunt
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley
News Media:	Roy Sawyers, Rockingham Update
	Mike Moore, Mike Moore Media

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. Pastor Wayne Parlier of Meadow View United Methodist Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Tommy Underwood.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. Proclamation: Black History Month

Mayor Hall called Eden Chamber of Commerce President Angela Fowler to the front before he read the proclamation, noting that Ms. Fowler was the first African American director of the Chamber.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, this annual observance is an opportunity to remember the challenges of our past, but also to honor countless African American heroes who inspire us to shape our country's future, and

WHEREAS, we remember and celebrate the lives of Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and countless other African Americans who triumphed over ignorance, oppression, and injustice to make indelible contributions to our American history. They are an integral part of our Nation's story. We are indebted to the individual and collective perseverance and patriotism of these outstanding men and women;

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we recommit to being a community of opportunity and hope for every citizen;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2020 to be BLACK HISTORY MONTH in the City of Eden and encourage all City of Eden residents to join me in

celebrating the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultures and traditions of African Americans and commit ourselves to raise awareness and appreciation of Black History Month by participating in educational events honoring the contributions of Black Americans.

Presented this 18th day of February, 2020.

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

b. Presentation: Update on the Garden of Eden Senior Center.

Mayor Hall called on Senior Center Director Carla Huffman.

Ms. Huffman requested her advisory board come forward with her. She noted Council Member Hampton was also on that board. Ms. Huffman explained she had been requesting certification through the State for several years, but the Senior Center building's square footage was too small. The State agreed to allow the Center to be grandfathered in if they added square footage. As a result, Parks & Recreation Director Johnny Farmer authorized the addition of a porch. The State confirmed the Center met the requirements to be a multi-purpose senior center upon completion of their inspection in January, which made the Center eligible to apply to receive the Homecare Community Block Funding from the State. In addition, they became eligible to proceed with Senior Center Operations Procedures Evaluations (SCOPE) certification. They would learn the results of their funding requests in the summer. She asked Council to keep the existing Center plans in mind as they needed more space and a safe place to provide more programs for the growing senior population.

Mayor Hall asked Ms. Huffman to remind everyone of the dates of the Senior Games.

Ms. Huffman stated they compete with Reidsville, Madison and other surrounding areas. The opening ceremonies would be April 14 and registration had already started. Games included shuffleboard, bocce ball, tennis and cards as well as art, paintings and literature for those not interested in sports. She requested that seniors sign up now.

Council Member Carter asked Ms. Huffman for the number of seniors she typically served.

Ms. Huffman replied there were over 100 seniors each week that came through the Center, the Bridge Street Recreation Center and the Mill Avenue Recreation Center. She noted that the Center provided free tax assistance to almost 500 people each year in addition to various legal assistance, etc. She reiterated that they were restricted in what they could provide due to limited parking spaces.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

A motion was made by Council Member Hampton to set the meeting agenda. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings at this time.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

There were no requests and petitions of citizens at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

- a. Consideration of an updated report on the nuisance violations at the American Warehouse property located at 206 Warehouse Street.

Mayor Hall called on Planning and Inspections Director Kelly Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated that Piedmont Folk Legacies was the owner of the structure and Louise Price was present to discuss the current condition and plans.

Mayor Hall commented that Ms. Price provided Council with pictures of the site. He stated there was evidence of progress being made.

Ms. Stultz agreed and said that Ms. Price contacted her the previous week regarding the City picking up the trash from the property on the designated collection day.

Council Member Carter stated it appeared work had been done.

Council Member Ellis replied that the progress made was very nice.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to extend the time for an additional six months. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

City Attorney Erin Gilley asked what the additional time was for and if there were conditions.

Council Member Hunnicutt questioned what else they were expecting the owners to do.

Ms. Price said she had the same question.

Council Member Carter asked if there was anything else they had to abate.

Ms. Price replied that she previously met with former Council Member Jim Burnette, Interim City Manager Terry Shelton, and Ms. Stultz at the property and a list was given to her of what needed to be done. It was her understanding the list had been completed. They repaired the fence, removed the debris and placed it at the curb for pickup, and swept up all of the glass. She was not aware of anything else that needed to be done.

Mayor Hall asked Ms. Stultz if she agreed.

Ms. Stultz replied yes.

Mayor Hall stated he did not see any reason to extend the time.

Council Member Carter asked if the abatement needed to be withdrawn.

Ms. Stultz replied no. She stated they could consider that part abated but said that Ms. Price was aware if the violations happened again, they would have to be cleaned up.

Council Member Moore expressed that his concern was that it was maintained.

Ms. Stultz agreed and said she and Ms. Price hoped to not find themselves in the same situation again.

Council Member Ellis said they did an excellent job.

Mayor Hall thanked them for doing what was asked.

Council Member Moore asked if they had any leads on selling the building.

Ms. Price replied there had been a number of interested parties but it took time.

Council Member Moore said he understood.

b. Consideration of Boards and Commissions appointments.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz and stated he was approached by Council Member Moore prior to the meeting in regards to an additional appointment to be filled on the Community Appearance Commission. The other position that needed to be filled was on the Historic Preservation Commission by Council Member Nooe.

Council Member Moore nominated Susan Cunningham for the Community Appearance Committee after receiving an email from Millie Priddy resigning from the position.

Ms. Stultz said that the Strategic Planning Commission nominated Christy Hensley as she had been a sitting member and requested that she be reappointed.

Council Member Nooe nominated Melissa Whitten to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to approve the nominations. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of a forensic audit by Davis Forensic Group.

Mayor Hall called on Bert Davis, Jr., of Davis Forensic Group.

Mr. Davis, owner of Davis Forensic Group, began by stating that his company provided financial investigational support to attorneys and other organizations that needed financial investigations. He was a certified public accountant and a certified fraud examiner in business since 2013. He was asked to do an investigation following the SBI and FBI investigations of previous City Manager Brad Corcoran to see if there were other areas where City funds may have been misused or abused. His investigation methods included interviews with senior City management, Finance Department staff, and the external auditor firm who performed the City's annual audit, and reviews of the City's Code of Ethics, Credit Card Policy and Procedures, and Travel Policy. Those were the areas he felt were of highest risk where Mr. Corcoran was using City money. He noted the risk areas were the use of credit cards, travel, and being reimbursed for personal expenses.

Mr. Davis looked at credit card statements and supporting documentation for all expenses charged on the credit card for the past five years to see if there were any red flags that might have indicated there was some abuse or misuse. He had three findings. The first was the credit card policy. He interviewed finance staff to see if the policy was being enforced for everybody, if there were good controls in place, and if the policy was being followed. He concluded the policy was appropriate and being followed. He stated that Mr. Corcoran's documentations of his expenses were very good, thorough, and that everything added up. However, he stated there might be some concern about some of the things Mr. Corcoran bought. The next

finding was in regards to the travel policy. He examined to see if the proper steps in the policy were being followed when employees were traveling out of town. He found evidence of that being done on a regular basis. He believed the policy was adequate and was being followed by employees as a whole. He referenced that Mr. Corcoran's use of the travel policy was a little different in that whenever he had a conference to go to, he would request reimbursement for the hotel, mileage, air fare, and meals in advance. He would get a check cut to him prior to going on the trip. Mr. Davis stated that there was nothing in the travel policy that said he couldn't do that, but did note that it was unusual since Mr. Corcoran did have a City credit card. He questioned why Mr. Corcoran would not have used the City credit card for the trips rather than getting the check/cash up front. Being a skeptical forensic examiner left him questioning if Mr. Corcoran really went on the trip or to the conference since he received the cash up front. He raised that question but also stated that it would be very hard to determine at this late date. He explained that even if organizations kept track of who registered, they would probably not be keeping track of who walked in the door and attended all of the meetings unless you could find someone who was there. His last finding was in regards to the Code of Ethics policy. He stated that the Code of Ethics policy said that employees cannot use City property for personal use. He quoted the policy: "No City official or employee shall use City facilities, personnel, equipment or supplies for private purposes, except to the extent such are lawfully available to the public." This is the area where he saw there was a risk of misuse of City property but it was also the most problematic to quantify because a lot of Mr. Corcoran's purchases could have been used for City or personal use. He noted it was entirely for the use of the City credit card that he had. Upon his professionally, skeptical, subjective review, he found situations where Mr. Corcoran bought outdoor lighting, fertilizer, and a pressure washer. Mr. Davis questioned why the City Manager would be buying these items. He stated that there might have been very good, reasonable explanations, but that these items could have been used for personal use in addition to being used by the City.

Mr. Davis did an analysis over the last five years and concluded that the potential items that could have been used for personal or City use averaged to just over \$2,200 per year. He felt that determining whether these items were used for personal use or not would be very difficult after the fact but he wanted to let the Council know that he did examine it and it was an area that he found that was questionable.

There was another area that Mr. Davis found unusual. Mr. Corcoran was in the habit of buying gift cards from various retail organizations, such as Subway, Ruby Tuesday, and Walmart, and giving them out to employees and other people at different times. Between 2014 and 2019, Mr. Corcoran's gift card purchases averaged to around \$3,995 per year. Mr. Davis mentioned that providing gift cards of small amounts is not prohibited by the City of Eden or other federal and state regulations as long as the same person was not given too many gift cards, which could cause potential problems with the IRS. The issue he had was that there were no records kept of who received the gift cards. He acknowledged that while the City knew how much was paid for the gift cards, there was no record of where they went. While many people acknowledged receiving gift cards from Mr. Corcoran, there was no record to prove how much of the gift cards bought each year were given to the City employees. Mr. Davis reiterated that he was not accusing Mr. Corcoran of having done anything improper, but because there was no control over the cards, this was an area where there was a risk of abuse. Due to the passage of time and the nature of the expenses reimbursed to Mr. Corcoran, the potential loss to the City was not clear-cut.

Based on his experience, Mr. Davis did not feel that the cost of the additional work and the potential civil lawsuit against Mr. Corcoran would be justified to the City and therefore, did not recommend doing that. In conclusion, Mr. Davis did make two recommendations that he felt could discourage that type of behavior in the future. First, implement a fraud hotline that would allow employees to securely report any suspicious activity to someone outside of the normal management chain. Mr. Davis stated that it was clear that some employees knew about Mr. Corcoran's behavior and some of the items being purchased, and there was concern as to whether the items were legitimately being purchased for City use or personal use.

Research over the years in the forensic community showed that 50 percent of all fraud was discovered by a tip. In those types of situations, a hotline would be the best way to make it as easy as possible to allow people to feel comfortable enough to make a tip, which Mr. Davis felt would have possibly led to Mr. Corcoran's behavior been checked into sooner than it was. With proper employee education and a secure reporting outside the normal management chain of command, Mr. Davis felt a hotline would greatly reduce the chance of fraudulent behavior occurring in the future. He noted there were companies that offered hotlines to businesses, organizations, hospitals and governments. Secondly, he recommended that the City contract with an internal auditor that could provide risk analyses to determine what operational areas were most at risk for fraud and abuse. He did not feel that the City's budget justified a full-time internal auditor, but rather felt that hiring a CPA staff to come in and do internal audit work approximately two to four days a month would be sufficient. Mr. Davis explained that the procedures that the external auditor performed would not have necessarily caught what Mr. Corcoran was doing, whether it was wrong, even though it was fairly well known. He further explained that while the Finance Department is well qualified and does a very good job for the City, they are not in the position to provide the level of skeptical oversight that the City needs on an ongoing basis. While they are processing the paperwork and sometimes will be able to spot certain things, the Finance Director does not have the authority to question the City Manager, which he further acknowledged was what happened in the City's situation. An internal auditor would conduct a risk analysis on the City and look at the areas where there was concern for possible misuse of City funds and would have the authority to investigate those areas. The internal auditor would report directly to Council.

Mr. Davis welcomed any questions and thanked the Council for the opportunity. He stated it was a great experience and was a pleasure working with everyone involved as they were all very cooperative and knowledgeable, which enabled him to complete the investigation in a very effective and efficient manner.

Mayor Hall stated his appreciation for Mr. Davis's expertise, the speed in which he completed the investigation, and the cost of his services being less than what the FBI told them it would be. He hoped that this would finally bring closure and the City would be able to move forward.

Council Member Moore stated that he thought the guidelines and recommendations were good.

Mayor Hall said the City had already implemented multiple new policies and procedures to take care of several things that would prevented it in the first place. He acknowledged the additional recommendations would be beneficial as well.

Mr. Davis replied that the suggestions were good governance and good practice.

- b. Consideration of a resolution to receive the N.C. Water Infrastructure Fund Grant for the Southern Virginia Mega Park Water Line project.

Mayor Hall called on Director of Economic Development Mike Dougherty.

Mr. Dougherty stated that in order to fund the Southern Virginia Mega Park water line, the City was fortunate to receive a \$2 million Economic Development Administration grant federally, up to \$1.8 million in Department of Environmental Quality grants. He explained that this is a state appropriations program for another million dollars and the resolution stated the City will comply with all of their requirements as has been done in the past. The money will be used to complete the line.

A motion was made by Council Member Carter to adopt the resolution to receive the N.C. Water Infrastructure Fund Grant for the Southern Virginia Mega Park Water Line Project. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Resolution of the Council of the City of Eden, February 18, 2020

WHEREAS, The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 and the North Carolina Water Infrastructure Fund have authorized the making of loans and/or grants, as applicable, to aid eligible, drinking-water system owners in financing the cost of construction for eligible, drinking-water infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered a State Appropriations Program (SAP) grant from the NC Water Infrastructure Fund on January 17, 2020 in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the construction of Regional Mega Park Waterline Expansion (DWI Project N. H-SAP-D-19-0024,) hereafter referred to as the "Project"; and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden intends to construct said project in accordance with engineering plans and specifications that have been or will have been approved by the North Carolina Public Water Supply Section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDEN:

That the City of Eden does hereby accept the State Appropriations Program offer of \$1,000,000; and,

That the City of Eden does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that they will adhere to all applicable items specified in the standard "Conditions" and "Assurances" of the Department's funding offer, awarded in the form of the State Appropriations Grant; and,

That Terry Shelton, Interim City Manager and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information, as the appropriate State agency may request, in connection with such application or the Project; to make Assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application; and

That the City of Eden has complied substantially or will comply substantially with all Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the Project, and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this 18th day of February in Eden, NC

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- c. Consideration of a Municipal Agreement with NCDOT to update the City's Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and authorize the payment of the local match contribution of \$12,000.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated the City applied for and became the beneficiaries of the Pedestrian Planning Grant from NCDOT. The City's match was \$12,000 and it was in her budget.

Council Member Nooe said he noticed in the contract that NCDOT would cover up to \$48,000. He questioned if Ms. Stultz had any estimate as to what the cost would be.

Ms. Stultz replied that none of her colleagues that had it done in recent years had gone beyond that amount of money.

Council Member Nooe noted the City was responsible at 100 percent for whatever went over the \$48,000 amount.

Ms. Stultz agreed and said she could not imagine it would be that much and assured she would speak with Council about it if it did.

Council Member Carter asked if the City received one of the grants years ago.

Ms. Stultz replied the City did receive one in 2007. The City was due to have a new Comprehensive Transportation Plan with NCDOT that was also previously done in 2007. She explained that one of the finer points of staying up to date on the required plans was they made the City grant eligible.

A motion was made by Council Member Nooe to approve the municipal agreement with NCDOT to update the City’s Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and authorize the payment of the local match contribution of \$12,000. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

- d. Consideration of a request to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure at 924 Burton Street under the City’s Human Habitation Ordinance.

Sam W. Smith, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
Kenny Frith	\$ 1,800.00
Brad Fisher Hauling	\$ 3,000.00
Loye Grading	\$ 3,500.00
Rabco Inc. of N.C.	\$ 2,390.00

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said the structure had been on their radar for quite some time. The pictures provided from 2018 and 2020 looked virtually the same. The owners had shown no movement towards doing anything about it. Because it was in a residential area, Ms. Stultz recommended that it be demolished.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure located at 924 Burton Street under the City’s Human Habitation Ordinance and to award the bid to Kenny Frith. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

AN ORDINANCE AND ORDER FOR THE DEMOLITION OF
PROPERTY AT 924 BURTON STREET, EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

THIS ORDINANCE is issued pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes §160A-443 and Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code.

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of April, 2018, the Director of the Planning and Inspections Department examined the dwelling owned by Adelaide S. Holt Heirs, Adelaide Holt Hairston, Madeline Holt McBurrows, Jackie Williams, Alicia Nesbitt and Otelia Wright, at 924 Burton Street, Eden, North Carolina and found it to be unfit for human habitation, that said property is more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stake at the northeast corner of Wright and Burton Streets; thence along the east line of Wright Street, South 35 deg. 30 min. East 182 feet to a stake; thence leaving Wright Street, North 54 deg. 30 min. East 82.5 feet to a stake; thence North 35 deg. 30 min. West 183 feet to a stake on the southeast side of Burton Street; thence along the line of Burton Street, South 54 deg. 30 min. West 82.5 feet to the

BEGINNING. Same being a part of Lots Nos. 13 and 17 as per map of Harris Addition, Leaksville, N.C., made 1899 by W. B. Trogdon and being the lands conveyed by S. B. Dillard and wife, Victoria Dillard, deed dated August 28, 1917. Deed Reference: Book 328, page 39.

The above described property being more commonly known as 924 Burton Street, Eden, North Carolina, and being further identified by the Rockingham County Tax Dept. as PIN 7979-10-47-2050-00.

WHEREAS, on the 12th day of June, 2019, the Director caused to be issued a Complaint and Notice of Hearing for the 10th day of July, 2019, which was served on the property owners by publishing on the 19th and 26th day of

June, 2019, copies were served on Madeline Holt McBurrows by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested on the 21st day of June, 2019, on Adelaide H. Hairston by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested on the 15th day of June, 2019, on Jackie Williams by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested on the 17 day of June, 2019, on Alicia Nesbitt by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested on the 17 day of June, 2019, and on Otelia Wright by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, which was returned by the U. S. Postal service marked “Not Deliverable As Address;” however, the first class mail was not returned; and by posting on the subject property on the 17th day of June, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was held on the 10th day of July, 2019, and the Director subsequently issued an Order to repair, alter, improve or vacate and demolish the dwelling located on the property; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Order was served on the property owners by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested as follows: on Madeline Holt McBurrows on the 22nd day of August, 2019, on Adelaide H. Hairston on the 21st day of August, 2019, on Alicia Nesbitt on the 23 day of August, 2019, on Otelia Wright without a date being provided by the U. S. Postal Service; the copy mailed to Jackie Williams was returned by the U. S. Postal Service marked “Unclaimed” and by posting a copy on the subject property on the 21st day of August, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the property owners did not appeal the Order and, pursuant to Chapter 4, Section 4-89(b) of the Eden City Code, a copy of the order has been mailed to any organization involved in providing or restoring dwellings for affordable housing that has filed a written request for such notice; and

WHEREAS, the Owners have had a reasonable opportunity to bring the property into conformity with Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code and they have failed to take any action to comply with the Director’s Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Eden that the Director is hereby ordered to proceed to effectuate the purpose of the Human Habitation Standards set out in Article IV of Chapter 4 of the Eden City Code with respect to the property described above by demolishing the structures located thereon.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy of this Ordinance and Order shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina, and indexed in the names of Adelaide S. Holt, Madeline Holt McBurrows, Adelaide Holt Hairston, Jackie Williams, Alicia Nesbitt and Otelia Wright in the Grantor and Grantee index.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amount of the cost of demolishing the dwelling by the Director shall be a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred, said lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected as the lien for special assessment provided by North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A, Article 10.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 18th day of February, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- e. Consideration of a request to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure at 753 Friendly Road under the City’s Human Habitation Ordinance.

Sam W. Smith, Inc.	\$ 7,000.00
Kenny Frith	\$ 4,900.00
Brad Fisher Hauling	\$ 4,600.00
Loye Grading	\$ 9,600.00
Rabco Inc of N.C.	\$ 3,995.00

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated while the outside of the structure on Friendly Road did not look too bad, the inside was. She explained that it was open and people could get in and out of it. She asked that the Council have it removed.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure located at 753 Friendly Road under the City's Human Habitation Ordinance and to award the bid to Rabco, Inc. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

AN ORDINANCE AND ORDER FOR THE DEMOLITION OF
PROPERTY AT 753 FRIENDLY ROAD, EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

THIS ORDINANCE is issued pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes §160A-443 and Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code.

WHEREAS, on the 19th day of June, 2019, the Director of the Planning and Inspections Department examined the dwelling owned by Linda K. Millner Heirs, Jason Tyrone Millner, Colette M. Millner, James Maurice Millner and Tracie Millner at 753 Friendly Road, Eden, North Carolina and found it to be unfit for human habitation, that said property is more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe set in the west line of Cascade Road, said iron pipe also marking the S. E. corner of Lot 4, thence and with the west line of Cascade Road, South 51° 00' West 100.00 feet to an iron pipe, said iron pipe marking the south east corner of Lot No. 5; thence continuing with the west line of Cascade Road South 57° 30' West 100.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 33° 00' West 195.00 feet to an iron pipe, the corner with Lot 7; thence North 69° 30' East 100.00 feet to an iron pipe, said iron pipe marking the south west corner of Lot No. 5; thence North 36° 00' East 77.50 feet to an iron pipe a corner with Lot 4; thence and with the south line of Lot No. 4, South 37° 45' East 196.0 feet to an iron pipe, the POINT OF BEGINNING, same being Lots 5 and 6, as per map showing portion of D. F. King Estate, Map "A", by E. B. Fitzgerald, Jr., also as per plat showing property of R. H. Hardy, made by Deputy County Surveyor, Henry J. Reid, by A. N. Mattocks, Rockingham County Surveyor, November 13, 1952. For further reference see Book 393, page 570. SAVE AND EXCEPT Lot 6 which was conveyed to Martin T. Kelley and wife, Lucille H. Kelley by deed recorded in Book 806 at page 1609.

The above described property being more commonly known as 753 Friendly Road, Eden, North Carolina, and being further identified by the Rockingham County Tax Dept. as PIN 7081-18-20-7463-00.

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of June, 2019, the Director caused to be issued a Complaint and Notice of Hearing for the 17th day of July, 2019, which was served on the property owners by posting on the subject property on the 17th day of June, 2019, and by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, as follows: on Tracie Millner on the 25th day of June, 2019, on James Maurice Millner on the 24th day of June, 2019, the certified mail for Colette M. Millner was returned by the U. S. Postal Service marked "Unclaimed" and her first class mail was not returned, the certified mail for Jason Tyrone Millner was returned by the U. S. Postal Service marked "Refused" and his first class mail was not returned; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was held on the 17th day of July, 2019, and the Director subsequently issued an Order to repair, alter, improve or vacate and demolish the dwelling located on the property; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Order was served on the property owners by posting a copy on the subject property on the 26th day of July, 2019; by publishing a copy on August 7, 2019; and by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested as follows: on Jason Tyrone Millner on the 27th day of July, 2019, on James Maurice Millner on the 29th day of July, 2019, the certified mail and first class mail for Collette M. Millner was returned by the U. S. Postal Service marked "Unclaimed," and the certified mail for Tracie Millner was returned by the U. S. Postal Service marked "Unclaimed."

WHEREAS, the Director caused a Notice of Lis Pendens to be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Rockingham County, North Carolina, on the 2nd day of October, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the property owners did not appeal the Order and, pursuant to Chapter 4, Section 4-89(b) of the Eden City Code, a copy of the order has been mailed to any organization involved in providing or restoring dwellings for affordable housing that has filed a written request for such notice; and

WHEREAS, the Owners have had a reasonable opportunity to bring the property into conformity with Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code and they have failed to take any action to comply with the Director's Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Eden that the Director is hereby ordered to proceed to effectuate the purpose of the Human Habitation Standards set out in Article IV of Chapter 4 of the Eden City Code with respect to the property described above by demolishing the structures located thereon.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy of this Ordinance and Order shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina, and indexed in the names of Linda K. Millner, Jason Tyrone Millner, James Maurice Millner, Colette M. Millner and Tracie Millner in the Grantor and Grantee index.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amount of the cost of demolishing the dwelling by the Director shall be a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred, said lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected as the lien for special assessment provided by North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A, Article 10.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 18th day of February, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- f. Consideration of a request to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure at 1220 Front Street under the City's Human Habitation Ordinance.

Sam W. Smith, Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
Kenny Frith	\$ 3,500.00
Brad Fisher Hauling	\$ 3,900.00
Loye Grading	\$ 7,200.00
Rabco Inc of NC	\$ 3,540.00

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said they have dealt with nuisance abatements in the yard over the last couple of years. In the midst of those dealings, the house burned. Pictures provided showed that someone started demolition of the property, but found out there were some funds owed to the City and as a result, backed off. The fire left debris in the yard and the house was unrepairable. She asked Council allow them to take it down.

Mayor Hall asked if Ms. Stultz knew what caused the fire or if it could possibly have been intentionally set as the City has had a lot of trouble with the house.

Ms. Stultz confirmed that they have had a lot of trouble with the house but did not believe that the Fire Department experts thought there was any indication of arson.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure located at 1220 Front Street under the City's Human Habitation Ordinance and to award the bid to Kenny Frith. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

AN ORDINANCE AND ORDER FOR THE DEMOLITION OF
PROPERTY AT 1220 FRONT STREET, EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

THIS ORDINANCE is issued pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes §160A-443 and Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code.

WHEREAS, on the 9th day of December, 2019, the Director of the Planning and Inspections Department examined the dwelling owned by Teresa Hill Liamani at 1220 Front Street, Eden, North Carolina and found it to be unfit for human habitation, that said property is more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot 11, Block 71 as shown on map designated as Sheet 3 of 3 Draper Development and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, N.C. in Map Book 3, page 138, and as described in a Deed recorded in Book 1545, page 2849. The above described property being more commonly known as 1220 Front Street, Eden, North Carolina, and being further identified by the Rockingham County Tax Dept. as PIN 7090-06-37-6678-00 and Parcel ID No. 110696.

WHEREAS, on the 9th day of December, 2019, the Director caused to be issued a Complaint and Notice of Hearing for the 6th day of January, 2020, which was served on the property owner by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested; the certified mail was returned by the U. S. Postal Service marked “Unclaimed,” and by posting a copy on the subject property on the 12th day of December, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was held on the 6th day of January, 2020, and the Director issued an Order to repair, alter, improve or vacate and demolish the dwelling located on the property; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Order was served on the property owner by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, on the 13th day of January, 2020, and by posting a copy on the subject property on the 13th day of January, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the property owner did not appeal the Order and, pursuant to Chapter 4, Section 4-89(b) of the Eden City Code, a copy of the order has been mailed to any organization involved in providing or restoring dwellings for affordable housing that has filed a written request for such notice; and

WHEREAS, the Owner has had a reasonable opportunity to bring the property into conformity with Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code and she has failed to take any action to comply with the Director’s Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Eden that the Director is hereby ordered to proceed to effectuate the purpose of the Human Habitation Standards set out in Article IV of Chapter 4 of the Eden City Code with respect to the property described above by demolishing the structures located thereon.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy of this Ordinance and Order shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina, and indexed in the name of Teresa Hill Liamani in the Grantor and Grantee index.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amount of the cost of demolishing the dwelling by the Director shall be a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred, said lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected as the lien for special assessment provided by North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A, Article 10.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 18th day of February, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- g. Consideration of a request to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a structure at 1503 E. Meadow Road under the City’s Human Habitation Ordinance.

Sam W. Smith, Inc.	\$ 15,000.00
Kenny Frith	\$ 6,500.00
Brad Fisher Hauling	\$ 8,500.00
Loye Grading	\$ 12,975.00

Rabco Inc of NC \$ 10,650.00

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated the property was owned by Sara Morrison Dunovant and they have had some unfortunate interactions over various properties that she owned. Ms. Dunovant called earlier in the day and said that she had surgery was having additional surgery the next day and could not attend the meeting. The pictures displayed at the meeting showed how the property was compromised and full of junk. Ms. Stultz said Ms. Dunovant had reached out to Council and to others and would like to have more time. She stated that although Ms. Dunovant has struggled, she was unaware of what could happen in that time period if she were to be given more time.

Council Member Nooe said he spoke with Ms. Dunovant on Saturday and he motioned that it be tabled for 30 days. Ms. Dunovant understood that property was going to be torn down but he would like to have her meet with Ms. Stultz to go through the process. He knew Ms. Dunovant had some questions and he wanted to make sure she was satisfied. He talked with Ms. Stultz and hoped that Kenny Frith would honor his bid for 30 days, but wished for it to be tabled until then.

Council Member Ellis seconded the motion.

Council Member Carter said Ms. Dunovant asked if she would be allowed to make payments on some of the money incurred as a result of the demolition.

Ms. Stultz replied that they have allowed that. She reminded there was a policy that stated monies spent during the fiscal year were forwarded to the County Tax Department at the end of each fiscal year. When the Tax Department sent out bills, those funds were included on them. Therefore, any payments made after June 30 by Ms. Dunovant would have to be made to the County.

City Attorney Erin Gilley reiterated that the County allowed them to make payments.

Ms. Stultz said Ms. Dunovant was upset over another property where enforcement action had been taken. Ms. Stultz stated that she had previously told Ms. Dunovant she would let her know the cost estimate of the demolition before it was demolished. However, Ms. Stultz acknowledged that she forgot to inform her of the price.

Council Member Carter questioned if that was in reference to the trailers.

Ms. Stultz replied yes. She went on to say that it would not have made any difference to the price due to the fact that when they began to clear out the mobile homes, they found others that were covered up by weeds and vines that needed to be removed, which resulted in the price increasing. She stated the whole thing was unfortunate, but pointed out that the property was an area that they are all working hard to try to revitalize due to the Mega Park. Ms. Stultz stated that she wished she could get something done and not have to pay public funds to take the house down.

Ms. Gilley questioned if the motion to table for 30 days was until the next meeting.

Council Member Nooe replied yes.

All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

AN ORDINANCE AND ORDER FOR THE DEMOLITION OF

PROPERTY AT 1503 E. MEADOW ROAD, EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

THIS ORDINANCE is issued pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes §160A-443 and Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code.

WHEREAS, on the 8th day of May, 2019, the Director of the Planning and Inspections Department examined the dwelling owned by Sara Morrison Dunovant at 1503 E. Meadow Road, Eden, North Carolina and found it to be unfit for human habitation, that said property is more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron marking the northeast corner of the intersection of Meadow Road by Depot Street (Main Street) thence with the north edge of Meadow Road, North 85 deg. 0 min. E. 145.4 feet to an iron; thence continuing with the north edge of Meadow Road as it curves 48.74 feet (a total distance with the north edge of Meadow Road of 194.14 feet) to an iron marking the southwest corner of Lot No. 10, Section No. 2; thence with the west line of Lot No. 10, North 17 deg. 35 min. West and said west line extending said course 350.18 feet to an iron set on the south bank of Dry Creek; thence with the south bank of Dry Creek South 88 deg. 45 min. West 114.2 feet to an iron set at the intersection of the east line of Depot Street (Main Street) and the south bank of Dry Creek; thence with the east line of Depot Street (Main Street) South 4 deg. 21 min. East 352.01 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 54,480 sq. ft. more or less, same being Lots 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Section 2, and acreage lying between said lots and Dry Creek as per map of North Draper and Meadow Road made by Clodfelder and Schisler on November 26, 1929, and supplementary survey by H. S. Pierce made January 16, 1936. SAVE AND EXCEPT the following transfers, book 382, page 62, to Ezra Lewis Furches and wife, Anna Belle Furches, Book 419, Page 199, to Elmo Lemons and wife, Doris F. Lemons and book 480, page 114, to Ezra Lewis Furches and wife, Anno Belle Furches. Deed Reference: Book 706, page 580. The above described property being more commonly known as 1503 E. Meadow Road, Eden, North Carolina, and being further identified by the Rockingham County Tax Dept. as PIN 7090-07-59-4232-00.

WHEREAS, on the 9th day of May, 2019, the Director caused to be issued a Complaint and Notice of Hearing for the 30th day of May, 2019, which was served on the property owner by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, on the 11th day of May, 2019, and by posting on the subject property on the 13th day of May, 2019

WHEREAS, the hearing was held on the 30th day of May, 2019, and the Director subsequently issued an Order to repair, alter, improve or vacate and demolish the dwelling located on the property; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Order was served on the property owner by posting a copy on the subject property on the 20th day of June, 2019, and by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested on the 21st day of June, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Director caused a Notice of Lis Pendens to be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Rockingham County, North Carolina, on the 3rd day of July, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the property owner did not appeal the Order and, pursuant to Chapter 4, Section 4-89(b) of the Eden City Code, a copy of the order has been mailed to any organization involved in providing or restoring dwellings for affordable housing that has filed a written request for such notice; and

WHEREAS, the Owner has had a reasonable opportunity to bring the property into conformity with Chapter 4, Article IV of the Eden City Code and she has failed to take any action to comply with the Director's Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Eden that the Director is hereby ordered to proceed to effectuate the purpose of the Human Habitation Standards set out in Article IV of Chapter 4 of the Eden City Code with respect to the property described above by demolishing the structures located thereon.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy of this Ordinance and Order shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina, and indexed in the names of Edna F. Morrison and Sara Morrison Dunovant in the Grantor and Grantee index.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amount of the cost of demolishing the dwelling by the Director shall be a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred, said lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected as the lien for special assessment provided by North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A, Article 10.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 18th day of February, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

h. Consideration of a request to award the bid for the demolition of 110 Dameron Street.

Sam W. Smith, Inc.	\$ 8,000.00
Kenny Frith	\$ 4,700.00
Brad Fisher Hauling	\$ 5,700.00
Loye Grading	\$ 7,500.00
Rabco Inc of NC	\$10,980.00

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated that at the November 19 Council meeting, Council had adopted an ordinance to take the structure on Dameron Street down. Subsequent to that, her department realized they had attributed the wrong price to the low bidder. Kenny Frith's original bid was \$5,700; however, they previously stated it was \$2,750, acknowledging it was a mistake on their part. In all fairness, they decided to rebid it. As a result, some of the bids came down, but the low bid was Kenny Frith at \$4,700, which was \$1,000 less than what they would have spent if they had chosen him to begin with. She requested that they allow them to take it down for \$4,700.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to award the bid to Kenny Frith in the amount of \$4,700 for the demolition of 110 Dameron Street. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Council Member Moore asked Ms. Stultz how soon the demolitions would start happening.

Ms. Stultz replied that they gave the contractors a timeframe to get them down and she expected them to go ahead and start on them since it was getting close to the end of the fiscal year. They told the contractors they have 90 days to complete the demolition.

i. Consideration of a resolution to rename Washington Street Park.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said Jean Harrington had been a fixture in local historic preservation efforts and others for many years. Ms. Harrington attended the very first meeting of the Commission in 1980 and was still on the Historic Preservation Commission when Ms. Stultz began her career with the City in 1990. Recently, Ms. Harrington resigned. Ms. Stultz stated that Ms. Harrington was the driving force behind the Washington Street Park and desired for certain things to be in the park that the City could not afford even with State grants. Therefore, Ms. Harrington paid for those particular things. Washington Street Park had been Ms. Harrington's passion and in honor of her long service to the City, the Historic Preservation Commission sent a resolution asking that Washington Street Park's name be changed to Jean Harrington Park.

A motion was made by Council Member Carter to rename Washington Street Park as Jean Harrington Park. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager’s Report

Mr. Shelton requested the report be entered in the minutes as if it had been read in its entirety.

City Manager’s Report
February 2020

ADMINISTRATION

New Addition

City Hall’s Administration Department is pleased to welcome a familiar employee to our office – Blair Barker is transferring Feb. 18 from Finance to serve as an administrative assistant alongside the City Manager, Attorney and Clerk. Ms. Barker has nearly 12 years of dedicated experience working for the City. She is filling the position left vacant after Jennifer Woods took a position in December as Clerk to the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners.

BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

INDUSTRY

Gildan Yarns

Gildan is seeking machine electricians, spinning and carding technicians, spinning and carding operators, and can haulers. There are some day shift positions, but the majority of these openings are on the night shift. Most positions are for 12-hour shifts on a 2-2-3 schedule. For more information, visit their 335 Summit Road facility.

Industrial/Commercial Projects

Both the City and County economic development departments are finalizing two projects that should be announced by March. One is an innovative industrial process and the other a fabrication company.

Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill

The water line project is progressing quickly with the expected completion date to be closer to March than the original August date. Travelers can see the fire hydrants along Berry Hill Road to the Virginia state line. Our Virginia neighbors have extended the line from there to the park itself. This is another element in making the park more marketable to potential users.

COMMERCIAL

Family Dental Associates

The City will honor Dr. Michael Burleson and his staff for their more than 40 years in business at the March City Council meeting. Dr. Burleson started this practice with two additional dentists, Jim Eggleston retiring a few years ago.

Gordman’s Department Store

All 45 new Gordman’s stores will open concurrently at 9 a.m. on April 7. The new Eden Gordman’s will be located in the former Peeble’s location in Kingsway Plaza next to Dollar Tree.

Lidl Building

Atlantic Retail of Charlotte has been contracted to market the facility. This company specializes in retail recruitment and is actively working on potential tenants. The City and broker have been working together on a national tenant that would be a good fit for this space.

News & Record/Rockingham Now

Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

In early February, Berkshire Hathaway, owner of the Greensboro News & Record and Rockingham Now, announced it will sell its newspaper holdings to Lee Enterprises for \$140 million. In addition to the Greensboro and Rockingham County newspapers, BH Media owns newspapers in Hickory, Statesville, Morganton and McDowell County. It also owns 10 daily papers in Virginia, including the papers in Danville, Martinsville, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Charlottesville and Richmond.

The Clock Doc

Owner Kevin Webb has spent 25 years as a horologist. He has been both a watch master and clock smith since 1993. They offer new product sales and service of both clocks and watches. They are located at 350 W. King's Highway and can be reached at 336-627-3750.

MAIN STREET

Boulevard Merchants Association

Merchants met to discuss how they can work together to promote retail and service-based business together. As The Boulevard continues to thrive, a need for more formal meetings has grown. A second February meeting is planned on the 17th. The merchants will affix the BLVD logo from the Positively Eden branding study to the street's planters.

Duke Energy Water Resources Grant

Both Klyce Street and Draper landings held fast from the flooding that occurred over the February 7 weekend rains. Draper Landing was completely to the roof of the kiosk. At Klyce Street, the entire parking lot and landing ramp was flooded, but the unique design of the stairwell allowed the tops of the hand rails to stay visible.

Eden Downtown Development Inc.

Rhonda and David Price of David Price Auto Works were formally announced as Eden's 2020 Main Street Champions. They will be honored at a ceremony at the closing of the N.C. Main Street Conference in New Bern this March. A citywide yard sale is planned for May 2 in conjunction with the Eden Boys and Girls Club.

Leaksville Commercial District

The Danceware Boutique at 640 Washington St. was awarded a Building Rehabilitation Grant for renovations. The building has new HVAC, bathrooms, flooring and electrical work. Its facade is currently being painted. A new business is coming to 615 Washington Street. 615 was the former home to Tommy's Barber Shop. It will now house boutique clothing and international home décor. 1405 Highway 770 will be the new location of The Blissful Palette Catering and Events. The new business plans to open in February. The Leaksville Merchant Association met February 11- event planning for 2020 and future leadership was addressed.

Main Street Program

The N.C. Main Street Center is recommending to the National Main Street Center that Eden Downtown Development again be a 2020 nationally accredited Main Street program.

TOURISM & SPECIAL EVENTS

HGTV Submission

Eden is in the running to win the HGTV Home Town Takeover Contest! We submitted our application and video and have our fingers crossed! A huge thank you to everyone who played a part in this heartfelt community effort. A special thank you to Chase Nappier of CTT Productions for producing our video. We could not have done it without you! You can watch the video on our Explore Eden or City of Eden Facebook pages.

Otter Habitat

Work will begin soon on this project to be located near the Island Ford Landing at the Smith River Greenway. A Duke Energy grant will fund almost all of this project costs. Both the City of Eden and Dan River Basin Association are working together on the project to provide shelter for the otters who traverse the Smith River.

Shaggin' on Fieldcrest

We have booked the CAT 5 BAND for our July 25 Shaggin' on Fieldcrest!!! Make sure you mark your calendars!

Showcase Magazine

Showcase Magazine out of Danville, Va., is dedicating its March issue to EDEN! Make sure you pick up a copy.

Trails

Recent rainfall has caused significant damage to Eden riverside trails. For the safety of all residents, the City of Eden asks that citizens do not walk on these trails until repairs can be made. Your cooperation with this request is appreciated. Thank you.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Wuhan Coronavirus scams

The Federal Trade Commission has issued the following alert concerning scams surrounding the Wuhan Coronavirus:

“Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus. They’re setting up websites to sell bogus products, and using fake emails, texts, and social media posts as a ruse to take your money and get your personal information. The emails and posts may be promoting awareness and prevention tips, and fake information about cases in your neighborhood. They also may be asking you to donate to victims, offering advice on unproven treatments, or contain malicious email attachments.

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- Don’t click on links from sources you don’t know. It could download a virus onto your computer or device. Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. If you see ads touting prevention, treatment, or cure claims for the Coronavirus, ask yourself: if there’s been a medical breakthrough, would you be hearing about it for the first time through an ad or sales pitch?
- Do your homework when it comes to donations. Don’t let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don’t do it.
- Be alert to “investment opportunities.” The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is warning people about online promotions, including on social media, claiming that the products or services of publicly-traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure coronavirus and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result.

If you come across any suspicious claims, report them to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).”

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS

CDBG

The grant agreement and other documents have been received for signatures. The consultant has been contacted regarding moving forward with the grant. There are some conditions that have to be released before we can expend funds.

Code Enforcement

35 notices were mailed that affect the following number of properties - 5 for violation of the Minimum Housing Code, 2 for violation of the Non-Residential Building Maintenance Standards, 3 for disabled vehicles, 4 for junk storage and 4 for zoning violations. The violations of the Non-Residential Building Maintenance Standards include the space occupied by Yono’s at 700 S. Van Buren Road and the “Covered Mall Building” at 201 E. Meadow Road. The “Covered Mall Building” is for the common area and small rental spaces. It does not include the anchor stores of the former Belk building, former Peebles building and former K-Mart building. A hearing for the mall property is scheduled for February 20 at 8:30 a.m. The space occupied by Yono’s is currently being repaired by the property owner.

GIS

Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

The City's account representative with ESRI has been contacted about enhancing the City's GIS capabilities including making the data available to the majority of the City staff. An appointment for a demonstration of the applications available has been scheduled for February 21.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Commission met on January 13 and adopted a resolution to present to City Council recommending that the Washington Street Park be renamed Jean Harrington Park in her honor.

Inspections Projects of Note

Zip's Carwash is underway and the site utilities are almost completed. KFC is now in the trim out stage and should be finished by the end of February. The former Kmart building upfit is underway. Osborne Baptist Church has submitted plans for an 8,500 square foot classroom addition.

Pedestrian Planning Grant

Approval of the grant documents will be on the February regular agenda.

Stadium Drive Sidewalk

Surveying on the project should begin in the next two weeks.

Unified Development Ordinance

We held 6 stakeholder meetings. They were extremely successful. Information received will be posted on our website. The Steering Committee (aka the Planning Board) met on February 3. They received training on the process ahead and also served as a stakeholder group by offering their issues with our regulations and suggestions for changes. On February 10, we held a community meeting held in the Eden Room. Notice of the meeting was published, on the City Hall sign and our website.

Urgent Repair Grant

This grant application was submitted last week.

Vacant Commercial Property Registration

Second letters were sent to vacant downtown property owners who did not respond to first letter. Several property owners have responded.

POLICE

Anti-Litter Campaign

The Eden Police Department continues to post a public service announcement on our Facebook page asking citizens to stand against litter as part of the countywide campaign to aggressively enforce littering and illegal dumping violations. We will continue to replay the announcement each month and aggressively enforce littering and illegal dumping statutes.

Facebook:

We encourage citizens to follow our Facebook page for updates and information concerning our community, as well as Crimestoppers, to provide anonymous information concerning illegal activity to keep our community safe. We all have to work together to keep our community safe.

K-9

As a result of K-9 Sadie retiring after nine years of service, the department has selected Saga, from Highland K-9, as the replacement. Officer Eric Gann has been selected to be the next K-9 handler. We should be completing this process over the next several months. The four-week handler school is tentatively set in April.

Sweepstakes Establishments in the City

The department delivered letters to each sweepstakes establishment in the City on Feb. 3. The letter advised establishment owners that on and after March 4, the department, in conjunction with NCALE, would begin to enforce statutes related to sweepstakes/casinos operating in the City. This letter was also delivered by each agency

in Rockingham County in their respective jurisdictions in a joint operation to gain compliance in sweepstakes establishments.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Water Quality Report

The City’s Water Filtration Plant has released their 2019 Water Quality Report, detailing specific information pertaining to the quality of drinking water that it provides to its customers. As part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandate, water utilities across the country produce annual reports that are designed to educate and inform consumers. This report is an opportunity for the public to understand what is involved with making the water safe. You can find it on the City’s homepage under Latest News (edennc.us) or pick up a printed copy in the Billing and Collections Department at City Hall, 308 E. Stadium Drive.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the (1) January 9, 2020 Minutes (2) January 21, 2020 Minutes (3) January 30, 2020 Minutes.
- b. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #6.

Assistant Finance Director Amy Winn wrote in a memo that a delivery truck for one of the contractors for the Wastewater Treatment project caught the edge of the hoist and beam that extends out from the roof of the building. This caused the beam to be bent and ripped the electrical lines off of the end. A specialty company had to come in to temporarily repair the lines and then they replaced the section of the beam that was bent along with the electrical lines. The City received insurance proceeds to cover this repair and this budget amendment allocates those proceeds to the Wastewater Treatment M/R Buildings line item.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
Water & Sewer Fund Revenues				
W/S Insurance Proceeds	30-3850-85000	\$ -	\$ 7,300.00	<u>\$ 7,300.00</u>
Water & Sewer Fund Expenditures				
W/S Waste Treatment M/R Buildings	30-7130-35100	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 10,000.00	<u>\$ 7,300.00</u>

Appropriates insurance proceeds for damage of a hoist caused by contractor.

Adopted and effective this 18th day of February, 2020.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

- c. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #7.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo that when the City purchases vehicles with installment purchases, it is required to show the loan proceeds as revenue and the payment to the vendor as an expenditure in the financial statements. The attached amendment increases the General Fund revenue line item “loan proceeds” and also increases the Street Department Capital Outlay – Vehicles and the Street Department Capital Outlay – Off Road Equipment line items for the following installment purchases: 1. The purchase of an additional service truck for Public Works that was approved by the city manager in July 2019; 2. The purchase of a John Deere tractor to replace the 2006 John Deere tractor that was totaled while being transported for repairs.

Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Loan Proceeds	10-3580-86000	\$ 1,001,800.00	\$ 1,146,500.00	<u>\$ 144,700.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Street C/O Vehicles	10-4510-55000	\$ -	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 30,600.00
Street C/O Off Road Equipment	10-4510-56000	\$ -	\$ 114,100.00	\$ 114,100.00
				<u>\$ 144,700.00</u>

Appropriates loan proceeds for the purchase of service truck and tractor for the Street Department.

Adopted and effective this 18th day of February, 2020.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

d. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #8.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo that in June 2019, the Street Department skid steer was totaled while working on the Bridge Street Force Main Stabilization project. The attached budget amendment allocates the insurance proceeds to the Street Department C/O – Equipment line item in which a replacement skid steer was purchased.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
GF Insurance Proceeds	10-3850-85000	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 53,200.00	<u>\$ 45,200.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Streets C/O Equipment - Depreciable	10-4510-57000	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 115,200.00	<u>\$ 45,200.00</u>

Appropriates insurance proceeds for damaged Skid Steer.

Adopted and effective this 18th day of February, 2020.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

e. Approval to award the FY 2019-2020 Audit Contract to Rouse, Rouse, Rouse and Gardner, LLP.

Director of Finance & Personnel Tammie McMichael wrote in a memo that she was seeking approval for the FY 19-20 Audit Contract. The contract amount is \$53,260. If City Personnel completes the items listed in the contract, the amount will be reduced to \$47,485. City Personnel will complete the items listed. This is a 5.0% increase when compared to what was paid last year \$45,130. The Rouses and their staff have been doing the City’s audit for 39 years. Their love and compassion for the City of Eden shows in their willingness to assist in any way that they can to make sure the city’s Finance Department operates in the most efficient and effective way to provide accurate financial information. They have always been very faithful and dedicated to the Dity. The City calls on them for assistance with day-to-day questions that come up or for special projects. They never bill the City for anything extra. It is very nice to know that the City has someone that can be called anytime, and they always have time. If they do not have the answer immediately, they never refer the City to someone else. They always take the time to make

telephone calls on the City's behalf. They look after the City's best interest in making sure that the City gets the answers needed. They keep the City updated on Governmental Accounting Standards Board and Internal Revenue updates. They also keep the City updated on any classes/seminars that they feel would be beneficial to the finance staff. Based on their experience and dedication along with the City's longtime desire to do business locally, Ms. McMichael cannot make a better recommendation than to award the 19-20 audit contract to Rouse, Rouse, Rouse & Gardner.

f. Approval of financing for 2019-20 budgeted item: garbage truck.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo that in the 2019-2020 Budget, City Council approved the purchase of a garbage truck for the Solid Waste Department and it has been set up in the budget to be financed. On February 5, she requested bids from our local banks for the financing and received the following quotes: BB&T 2.15%; First National Bank 2.06%; United Financial (Home Trust) 2.14%. The total cost of the equipment is \$299,933 which is within the budgeted amounts. She respectfully asked that Council approve First National Bank as the successful bid for financing.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Epps seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall announced the annual Budget Retreat would be held Saturday, February 22, in the Eden Room beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Council Member Carter said that he would become a grandfather again soon as his youngest daughter was due to give birth.

Council Member Hampton thanked everyone who attended the Prayer Walk on The Boulevard.

Council Member Moore noted that Free Week was coming up at the Rockingham County Landfill the week of March 30. He would get the exact dates and the information would be put on the City website. He noted that each family could dispose of up to five tires this year.

CLOSED SESSION:

- a. To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body pursuant to NCGS 143-318-11(a)(4).
- b. To discuss personnel pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to go into closed session. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to return to open session. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to discuss, a motion was made by unanimous consent to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Hunt
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Neville Hall
Mayor