

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, March 17, 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, noting that audience members were restricted in the Chamber because of the COVID-19 crisis (audience members were seated in the partitioned area of the Chambers viewing a livestream feed from Rockingham Update on a monitor). He provided his email address if anyone watching via livestream wanted to contact him regarding anything discussed at the meeting.

Pastor Craig Bowman of First Baptist Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Interim City Manager Terry Shelton.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Recognition of Family Dental Associate's anniversary.

Mayor Hall said because of audience restrictions, the item was pulled from the agenda and would be presented at the next regular meeting.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall noted the addition of two items: 10d - consideration of a resolution authorizing temporary suspension of water and wastewater disconnections and 10e - consideration of a COVID-19 policy. A motion was made by Council Member Epps to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. (1) Consideration of a zoning text amendment to Section 11.24(k)(1) to allow Electronic Gaming Operations as a special use in the BH-1 and BH-2 districts; to amend Section 11.26(c)(3)(c) to allow Electronic Gaming Operations as a special use in the BH-1 and BH-2 districts; and to

amend Section 11.29(a) to add a definition for Electronic Gaming Operations. Request submitted by the City Council. ZONING CASE Z-20-01.

(2) Consideration of a resolution adopting a statement of consistency regarding the proposed text amendments with respect to Electronic Gaming Operations in Business-Highway 1 and Business-Highway 2 districts.

Mayor Hall declared the public hearing open and called on Planning and Inspections Director Kelly Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said everyone was aware of the recent work conducted regarding sweepstakes, or electronic gaming operations, within the County. Prior to the moratorium, the City's ordinance did not address the issue, so it was difficult to differentiate between the businesses and something like a computer center. As the district attorney and law enforcement got involved, it was time to recommend an amendment to the ordinance. As a result, a special use process with stringent guidelines was created. If in the future such an operation were going to open, it would detail how it would function. The Planning Board unanimously recommended in favor of the request.

Council Member Nooe said it made mention of a lighting section and questioned if it covered lighting encroachment on some of the adjoining properties.

Ms. Stultz replied it did.

As there was no further discussion, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve and adopt a zoning text amendment to Section 11.24(k)(1) to allow Electronic Gaming Operations as a special use in the BH-1 and BH-2 districts; to amend Section 11.26(c)(3)(c) to allow Electronic Gaming Operations as a special use in the BH-1 and BH-2 districts; and to amend Section 11.29(a) to add a definition for Electronic Gaming Operations; and to adopt a resolution of a statement of consistency regarding the proposed text amendments with respect to Electronic Gaming Operations in Business-Highway 1 and Business-Highway 2 districts. Council Member Nooe seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDEN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, that, after having fully complied with all legal requirements, including publication of notice of a public hearing and the holding of a public hearing relative thereto, Section 11.29(a) Definitions of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Eden is hereby amended by adding the following Definition:

(a) DEFINITIONS:

Electronic Gaming Operation: Any business activity, whether as a principal use or an accessory use, in which patrons use electronic or mechanical machines, including, but not limited to, computers and gaming terminals to conduct or simulate games of chance, including the use of the machines to reveal the pre-determined value of an entry, and where cash, merchandise or other items of value are redeemed or otherwise distributed, whether the value is determined by the machines or by pre-determined odds. Electronic Gaming Operations do not include any Lottery approved by the State of North Carolina or any non-profit activity otherwise lawful under North Carolina State Law.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 17th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDEN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, that, after having fully complied with all legal requirements, including publication of notice of a public hearing and the holding of a public hearing relative thereto, Section 11.24(k) Business-Highway #1 District of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Eden is hereby amended by adding the following as a Permitted Use:

(1) Permitted Uses

Electronic Gaming Operations as a special use upon approval of a Special Use Permit from the Board of Adjustment. (See Section 11.26(c)(3)(c)(18))

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 17th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDEN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, that, after having fully complied with all legal requirements, including publication of notice of a public hearing and the holding of a public hearing relative thereto, Section 11.26(c)(3)(c) Board of Adjustment of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Eden is hereby amended by adding the following:

- (18) ELECTRONIC GAMING OPERATIONS may be permitted as a special use in the Business Highway 1 and Business Highway 2 districts provided all the following requirements of this section are met:
- (a) An Electronic Gaming Operation shall not be permitted if located within one half-mile of an existing Electronic Gaming Operation.
  - (b) An Electronic Gaming Operation shall not be permitted if located within 2,500 feet of an educational facility to include their outdoor play yards, a licensed child care facility, an assisted living facility, a nursing home, a public park or playground, a hospital, a medical center, an adult establishment or a church or place of worship.
  - (c) The hours of operation of an Electronic Gaming Operation shall be limited to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
  - (d) Forty percent (40%) of the front of the building or any side visible from a street or right of way shall be glass so that clear unobstructed view of the interior can occur from the street.
  - (e) No curtains, screens, blinds, partitions, signs or other obstructions shall be placed between the entrance to the room where gaming machines or computer terminals are stationed and the rear walls of the room so that a clear and unobstructed view of the interior can occur from the street.
  - (f) Electronic Gaming Operations shall be limited to no more than fifteen (15) computers and/or gaming terminals.
  - (g) Any Electronic Gaming Operation shall be conducted completely within an enclosed structure.
  - (h) No alcoholic beverages shall be served on the premises of any Electronic Gaming Operation.
  - (i) No flashing signs or lighting shall be allowed on the premises of any Electronic Gaming Operation. All other signage shall meet the requirements as set forth in Section 11.31 of this ordinance.
  - (j) A site plan drawn to scale shall be submitted at the time of application for a special use permit.
  - (k) A floor plan shall also be submitted at the time of application showing the use of all floor space, detailing the number of machines and their location in the facility.
  - (l) Any changes or additions to the site or floor plan must be submitted for approval by the Board of Adjustment and shall be considered an amendment to the special use permit.
  - (m) No machines or devices that have been deemed to be unlawful by the State of North Carolina shall be a part of any Electronic Gaming Operation.

- (n) All Electronic Gaming Operations shall be subject to an annual review and inspection to ensure compliance with these regulations.

The Board of Adjustment shall, prior to the issuance of a Special Use Permit for an Electronic Gaming use in the Business Highway 1 and Business Highway 2 district, find that the use meets the following standards:

In addition to any other requirements with respect to the Petition authorized by this section, the Petition shall set forth the following:

- (a) The Electronic Gaming Operation is not located within one half-mile of an existing Electronic Gaming Operation.
- (b) The Electronic Gaming Operation is not located within 2,500 feet of an educational facility to include their outdoor play yards, a licensed child care facility, an assisted living facility, a nursing home, a public park or playground, a hospital, a medical center, an adult establishment or a church or place of worship.
- (c) The hours of operation of an Electronic Gaming Operation will be limited to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- (d) Forty (40%) percent of the front of the building or any side visible from a street or right of way is glass so that a clear unobstructed view of the interior can occur from the street.
- (e) No curtains, screens, blinds, partitions, signs or other obstructions will be placed between the entrance to the room where gaming machines or computer terminals are stationed and the rear walls of the room so that a clear and unobstructed view of the interior can occur from the street.
- (f) Electronic Gaming Operations will be limited to no more than fifteen (15) computers and/or gaming terminals.
- (g) Any Electronic Gaming Operation will be conducted completely within an enclosed structure.
- (h) No alcoholic beverages will be served on the premises of any Electronic Gaming Operation.
- (i) No flashing signs or lighting will be allowed on the premises of any Electronic Gaming Operation. All other signage will meet the requirements as set forth in Section 11.31 of this ordinance.
- (j) A site plan drawn to scale has been submitted at the time of application for a special use permit.
- (k) A floor plan has been submitted at the time of application showing the use of all floor space, detailing the number of machines and their location in the facility.
- (l) Any changes or additions to the site or floor plan must be submitted for approval by the Board of Adjustment and shall be considered an amendment to the special use permit.
- (m) No machines or devices that have been deemed to be unlawful by the State of North Carolina shall be a part of any Electronic Gaming Operation.
- (n) All Electronic Gaming Operations shall be subject to an annual review and inspection to ensure compliance with these regulations.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 17th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY REGARDING  
A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF EDEN ZONING ORDINANCE CASE NUMBER Z-20-01  
TEXT AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160A-383, prior to adoption or rejection of any zoning amendment, the Eden City Council is required to adopt a statement as to whether the amendment is consistent with the Land Development Plan and why the City Council considers the action taken to be reasonable and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2007, the Eden City Council adopted the Land Development Plan. Plans such as the City of Eden Land Development Plan are not designed to be static but are meant to reflect the City of Eden's needs, plans for future development and to remain in compliance with North Carolina State Law and the City of Eden's ordinances;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden initiated a case to provide regulations for Electronic Gaming Operations in the City of Eden;

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the City of Eden Planning Board voted to recommend to the City Council that the text amendment be approved.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Electronic Gaming Operations (also called “skill games”, “sweepstakes”, “game rooms” and other names) have become a hot topic in the State of North Carolina in recent years. The State has outlawed these establishments several times, only for a “loophole” to be found which allows the businesses to continue with slight modifications. If left unregulated, these uses can create certain nuisances to the general public and potential injury to adjoining and nearby businesses and residences, which can impact the quality of life and safety of citizens and property owners. Currently our Zoning Ordinance does not adequately address these uses.

STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY:

The goals of the 2007 City of Eden Land Development Plan, as amended, are to make smart growth decisions by carefully managing growth to:

- A. Strategically locate new land development in the most appropriate places.
- B. Maintain and enhance Eden’s community character and heritage.
- C. Use infrastructure investments as effectively as possible.
- D. Attract new jobs and a more diverse tax base.
- E. Protect natural, cultural and historic resources and open space as we grow.

WHEREAS, The Eden City Council has considered the written recommendation of the City of Eden Planning Board and has held a public hearing on the proposed amendment, and the Council desires to adopt a statement describing why the adoption of the proposed amendment is consistent with the City of Eden Land Development Plan, and why the City Council considers the proposed amendment to be reasonable and in the public interest;

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

- 1. The Eden City Council finds that the proposed amendment to the City of Eden Zoning Ordinance is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the 2007 City of Eden Land Development Plan, as amended.
- 2. At no time are land use regulations or plans of the City of Eden or any jurisdiction in the State of North Carolina permitted to be in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- 3. Therefore, based upon the foregoing information, the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance is reasonable and in the public’s best interest.

Approved and adopted and effective this 17th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- b. Consideration of an incentive package for American Cultivation and Extraction Services, LLC, from the General Fund in an amount not to exceed \$119,851 which will be distributed to the company in three annual installments following the project parameters.

Mayor Hall declared the public hearing open and called on Economic Development Director Mike Dougherty.

Mr. Dougherty stated that American Cultivation and Extraction Services, LLC, was a company that had been in operation for a few months but had not yet made their formal announcement as they were awaiting approval from the FDA. The agreement was for \$119,000 over three years. The company had 62 employees with an average salary of \$57,000. It would be a \$10 million investment.

Mayor Hall asked Mr. Dougherty to talk about the job creation that was associated with the company.

Mr. Dougherty said there would be 62 jobs but he expected more to be added with increased productivity.

Council Member Moore stated he had seen activity at the company's location and assumed the company was getting things ready.

Mr. Dougherty replied they were and that the company applied for a Building Reuse Grant, but stipulations restricted them from doing any work on that part of the plant until after someone from Commerce was able to look at the building. Unfortunately, Commerce was not able to travel at the present time due to COVID-19 restrictions. In April, Commerce would vote and the company would find out if they were awarded the \$250,000 grant in addition to local incentives.

City Attorney Erin Gilley questioned if the incentive payment from the City would be used as a local match to the Building Reuse Grant, assuming the company was awarded the grant.

Mr. Dougherty answered yes.

As there was no further discussion, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Carter to approve an incentive package for American Cultivation and Extraction Services, LLC, from the General Fund in an amount not to exceed \$119,851 which will be distributed to the company in three annual installments following the project parameters. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

*A copy of the agreement is on file in the Clerk's Office.*

#### REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of Boards and Commissions appointments.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated Marianne Aiken resigned from the Historical Preservation Commission, leaving the position vacant.

Mayor Hall asked Council Member Carter if he had any recommendations.

Council Member Carter replied that he did not at the present time.

Mayor Hall said they would table it until the next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of a resolution for ASADRA funding for the flood prone EPA Remediation Project.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Shelton.

Mr. Shelton reminded Council that the issue was discussed at the budget retreat. ASADRA funding was considered resiliency funding and was only allotted for places that were considered flood prone. The City had at least two projects that fit into the category. Mr. Shelton's last response from the EPA was that they wanted to see the City apply for the ASADRA funding. They were also withholding any decisions about the future of the City's Administrative Order to see if the City received any ASADRA funding. The resolution would authorize Mr. Shelton to submit the application. The amount of the funding continued to increase, so the longer the process took, the more beneficial it could be to the City. Mr. Shelton was unable to say exactly how much ASADRA funding might be offered to the City.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked how much was needed to fund the project.

Mr. Shelton replied the City was seeking about \$4.5 million to address the two projects that would fit into the category. He did not know if they would fund one or both of the projects, it depended on how the projects scored and how many other applications were received from across the state.

A motion was made by Council Member Hampton to adopt a resolution for ASADRA funding for the flood prone EPA Remediation Project. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDEN

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina the Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction and planning of improvements of wastewater and drinking water systems, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden has need for and intends to complete various wastewater system improvement projects in order to comply with US EPA Administrative Order CWA-04- 2012-4578 and provide wastewater system resiliency/asset hardening, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden intends to request state grant/loan assistance for the projects,

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

That City of Eden, the Applicant, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the projects including required matching funds, if approved for a State grant award.

That the Applicant will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the projects a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the Applicant will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the projects on completion of construction thereof.

That Terry A. Shelton, Interim City Manager, the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant with the State of North Carolina for a grant/loan to aid in the completion of the construction projects described above.

That the Neville Hall, Mayor, 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 projects; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the Applicant has substantially complied or will substantially comply 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 the 17 day of March, 2020 at Eden, North Carolina.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of March, 2020.

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- b. Consideration to commit Strategic Planning Commission funds for a façade grant for Nantucket Mill.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Dougherty.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the Nantucket Mill was located in the Spray Historic District and was one of two iconic mills in that area. He pointed out that the exterior of the building had taken a beating over the years. There were two developers, Tonya Haddock with Cadence Development, LLC who had developed over 1,000 units in four states, and James Maynard from Red Clay, PLLC, who was the architect and owner of the mill. The plan was a 50/50 market rate and affordable, with 107 total apartment units. There were between 3,000 and 4,000 square feet of community space that could be used for events, which would be a huge benefit to the Spray area. The owner of Spray Cotton Mills was currently conducting a market study on housing as he was moving forward with his project. He cited several other cities who had similar successful projects.

He said the project was \$23 million and historic tax credits did not apply to site work; however, the projects were what brought credits for rehabilitation. There was a \$750,000 gap in project feasibility and contact had been made with Senator Berger, Governor Cooper's Home Town Strong Committee, the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources, WithersRavenel, the Piedmont Regional Council, the Golden Leaf Foundation, and he had upcoming meetings with Representative Jerry Carter and some of the County Commissioners on a search far and wide to assist closing the funding gap. He gave an example of a mill in Mayodan that never got renovated. That Town was now facing a cost of \$250,000 to remove one pile of debris from the mill site. They already had \$152,000 in it. If the Nantucket were left as is and continued to deteriorate and collapse, it could end up costing the City between \$500,000 to \$1 million to clear.

Mr. Dougherty said the City could waive permit fees for the project, which was estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$80,000. Mr. Dougherty stated there could also be in-kind services such as sidewalks or other site work conducted by the City. In November 2019, a \$2,500 to \$20,000 Historic and At-Risk Structure Grant was approved. This project was of a much larger scale than something of a typical downtown building; therefore, Mr. Dougherty presented to the Strategic Planning Commission at their March meeting support for a \$100,000 grant, which would give the City a property easement and some control over façade development and maintenance. The grant would not have to be issued immediately, but could be held towards midway or the end of completion. Taxes paid by the mill last year were \$717.76. After talking to the Rockingham County Tax Department, Mr. Dougherty learned that the mill was not valued like other properties because it had low and moderate income and tax credits. Once completed, the mill would be considered a historic landmark and the annual property taxes would be around \$24,000. The payback from occupancy for the expense would take roughly five years. The



General Fund had a balance of \$10,100,000. The City was mandated to have \$7.5 million through the three-month expenditure and the LGC recommendations, which left \$2.6 million in available funds. The developers planned to apply for housing money and permission to proceed with the project in May and could possibly start construction in September. The developers would also have to comply with the Secretary of Interior's standards in order to receive historic tax credits in addition to the stringent procedures they would be following in an effort to earn federal and state tax credits. The developers were only requesting a commitment from the City at this time that in the next three to four years, Council would fund a \$100,000 grant to help support the project with the City getting an easement.

Ms. Stultz added that because the mill was a local landmark, any changes the developers wanted to make to the exterior of the building would have to go through the Historic Preservation Commission, which could then be appealed to the Council. Therefore, there were several measures in place to make sure the developers maintained the historic character of the exterior of the building.

Council Member Hunnicutt questioned the \$4 million assessment on the \$23 million project.

Mayor Hall replied that the assessment was after the tax credits.

Mr. Dougherty said the assessment was based on the County giving the developers the pro forma. The tax credits reduced the value and because it was a historic landmark, it went down. Without having more information, that was as accurate as the County could be.

Council Member Hunnicutt explained that he was expecting a 50 percent discount, but not quite that much.

Mr. Dougherty said it must be viewed as what the City was getting now and what the City would get afterwards in addition to saving the structure from demolition.

Ms. Gilley questioned if the Strategic Planning Commission recommended issuing half of the grant in one year.

Mr. Dougherty confirmed that it could be split up over two fiscal years.

Mayor Hall stated that the City did not want to have to go in the direction of tearing down the mill at the taxpayer's expense and it was probably the City's last opportunity at having someone who was willing to take a chance on that large of a piece of property. However, if the Strategic Planning funding of the grant were to be approved, Mayor Hall recommended that Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Stultz come back to the Council prior to issuing the grant so they can make the determination of whether enough work had been completed to warrant receiving the grant. While Mayor Hall acknowledged the City would not issue the grant for the project up front, he expressed concern of not knowing if 50 percent completion of the project would be justified either or if the City should wait until the \$1 million had been spent.

Council Member Nooe said a new roof needed to be put on, the exterior needed to be stabilized, and the mill needed to be structurally sound before the City obligated itself to issue funding.

Mayor Hall reiterated letting the Council decide when the grant should be issued. He asked the Council if they would be willing to commit to the grant if the developers follow through with what they proposed.

Mr. Dougherty said that just like all North Carolina incentives, the grant would be post-performance, so the Council should see improvements at the mill at the time a grant would be issued.

Ms. Stultz added that any funds the Strategic Planning Commission obligated or spent must come back to Council before they are actually expended.

Council Member Nooe stated that if the developers needed the City's obligation to proceed, then Council was obligating the City to issue the grant at some time.

Council Member Hunnicutt agreed and added that the Strategic Planning Commission was funded on an annual basis. Therefore, the obligation would be stating that the City was willing to set aside future budget funds for the grant - \$50,000 in 2021 and \$50,000 in 2022. The Strategic Planning Commission's budget would be reduced for those given years.

Ms. Gilley added that it was legally difficult for one Council to bind another Council to anything. The issue at hand was that the developer needed a good faith commitment in the minutes from Council that the City was willing to approve a grant at the present time.

Council Member Hunnicutt said at the Strategic Planning Commission meeting, he thought Ms. Gilley recommended the façade policy be amended to include façade easements.

Ms. Gilley replied that the façade policy's At-Risk and Historic Structure Grant was \$2,500 to \$20,000 and she was not comfortable with anything over \$20,000 without a façade easement attached to it. The proposed grant said \$200,000 must be spent on the façade with a reimbursement of \$100,000. She offered to redo the policy if Council wanted to make it any lower.

Council Member Hunnicutt stated the policy could be reviewed later, but added that the grant could be subject to a façade easement for Nantucket Mill.

Council Member Nooe asked what a façade easement was.

Ms. Gilley replied that a façade easement was what the City was going to be purchasing. The purchase was the money the City was giving, so it was not actually a grant; it was a consideration for an easement in the façade. It would give the City the ability to go in and inspect the work being done to the façade and after construction was complete, the City would have the right to inspect the condition of the façade to make sure it was maintained. There could be restrictions put in the document that stated what the City's requirements were of work to be done on the façade.

Council Member Nooe asked if the façade easement gave the City the ability to require the developers to make improvements and maintain the façade.

Ms. Gilley replied yes.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to commit Strategic Planning Commission funds for a façade grant for Nantucket Mill in the amount of \$100,000 subject to a façade easement. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

- c. Consideration to approve Strategic Planning Commission funds for the GIS Web Tech program.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Dougherty.

Mr. Dougherty said he had presented information about GIS Web Tech at the budget retreat. At a conference the previous year, there had been discussion about the need for good data on websites so that people could visit remotely. Planning and Inspections was in the midst of updating the Unified Development Ordinance and that information could be implemented, as well as things like identifying properties in a Federal Opportunity Zone. The City would be able to add information about sites and buildings as needed. It would make the City consistent with the County and would put the City in a more advantageous position. There was a \$1,500 initial cost and \$5,000 annual cost, so the request was to approve \$6,500. The City would begin working with GIS Web Tech on April 1, and the contract would go from April to April with \$5,000 budgeted annually. He had included prorated funding in his budget to finish the second quarter.

Mayor Hall noted this would put the City in line somewhat with what neighboring communities and the rest of the country had technology-wise.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve Strategic Planning Commission funds for the GIS Web Tech program. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

- d. Consideration of a resolution authorizing temporary suspension of water and wastewater disconnections.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Shelton.

Mr. Shelton stated the policy kept changing every 48 hours with a new set of commitments from the Federal or State leadership, leaving it difficult to keep up. Most recently, the State Treasurer's Office asked municipalities and counties with water delivery systems to suspend processing cutoffs during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. Cutoffs would be disastrous for people who were shut-in and quarantined at home due to the virus. The resolution was asking to suspend cutoffs for 36 days, which would be one day past the next regular meeting. At that point, Mr. Shelton would evaluate the status of COVID-19 and determine if the request needed to be extended for another month or if it could be suspended at that point. Mr. Shelton also asked if Council would waive the cutoff and late payment fees during this time for the same reasons as a benefit to the citizens.

Council Member Epps asked if the suspension of disconnections would apply to garbage services too.

Mr. Shelton answered it would be included in the request as well.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked how much revenue was generated from late fees per month.

Mr. Shelton replied there were typically around 300 customers charged a \$40 late fee each month.

Council Member Epps asked if the fees would be added back to the customers' accounts once the City resumed charging fees.

Mr. Shelton said the temporary suspension would not forgive paying the bill, but would only forgive the late fees and penalties.

Council Member Hampton stated the citizens would still be responsible for paying the bill but would not be cut off.

Mr. Shelton added that the City would encourage the citizens to still pay their bills during this time to avoid a massive bill once the crisis passed. Many other cities were doing the same thing to provide service to their citizens. Duke Energy had also suspended cutoffs until the COVID-19 crisis passed.

Mayor Hall stated that many municipalities adopted the same type of temporary suspension immediately after the COVID-19 outbreak. The City's was not a policy, but an ordinance, which required the Council to have a meeting to vote whether or not to allow the temporary suspension.

Mr. Shelton advised that the next scheduled cutoff was on March 18.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to approve a resolution to temporarily suspend water and wastewater service disconnections. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF WATER AND  
WASTEWATER DISCONNECTIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Eden has declared a local State of Emergency on March 16, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, access to clean drinking water and wastewater services is integral to practicing good hygiene and handwashing which is an important step to preventing the spread of COVID-19 according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS City of Eden facilities, utilities and functions are staffed, ensuring dependable service to customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden desires to follow and support the recommendations of the CDC and to protect customers and employees in our operations and services during COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden believes that suspension of water and sewer disconnections for nonpayment will assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19;

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDEN RESOLVES THAT:

1. The City of Eden will temporarily suspend water and wastewater disconnections and enforcement of Eden City Code § 16-237 for non-payment during the next 36 days, or until further action of City Council whichever shall occur first, in order to give customers experiencing financial hardship extra time to make payments.
2. The City of Eden will continue to read meters and send bills to customers and the bill balances will continue to accumulate despite the suspension in disconnections. The City encourages payment of the current balances to avoid high bills later.
3. The City of Eden shall not remit or forgive any bill or balance during this time.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 17th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

e. Consideration of a COVID-19 policy.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Shelton.

Mr. Shelton said the municipalities in the County were working closely together throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The County distributed a policy that morning and sent it to all of the municipalities. Mr. Shelton revised it to meet the City's operational standards. The policy change deals with mandatory leaves, what to do when employees looked sick, and how they would use their sick leave. One particular item addressed in the policy was advancing sick leave, which allowed the City to advance to anyone who was under the home shut-in for monitoring of the coronavirus 10 days of sick leave if they should run out of sick leave and other leave. Once the employee returned to work and began accumulating time, that would be used to repay what was advanced to them until it was paid in full. If the employee left the City's place of employment, any remaining balance from the 10 days sick leave advanced to them would be taken out of their last paycheck. Based on the documentation and recommendations Mr. Shelton received from various authorities, the City needed to have a policy in place for dealing with this type of pandemic.

Mayor Hall stated these policies were being adopted in companies across America as he recently witnessed something very similar at his place of employment. They needed to be prepared because no one knew what was going to happen.

Council Member Hampton expressed appreciation for having the policy put together on such a short notice, especially considering the current pandemic was not something anyone expected.

Mr. Shelton stated the staff had been very supportive in getting such things done. Because the policies were changing almost daily, Mr. Shelton stated there might be a different set of policies brought forth the next month depending on how COVID-19 continued to evolve.

Council Member Nooe asked if there was a different way for employees to pay back their advanced sick leave, such as comp time. He questioned if an employee took the advanced 10 days of sick leave and then worked 45 hours in one week upon returning to work, if the five hours could be put towards paying back the advanced leave.

Ms. Gilley stated that the policy read "will have future earned sick time deducted to pay this advance." Since it only said sick time, it could be amended to read sick or comp or vacation time.

Council Member Nooe added that he wanted to give the employees as many options as possible.

Mr. Shelton agreed that the policy could be amended to reflect those changes.

Ms. Gilley stated the City also had a policy for donation of time from other employees.

Mayor Hall asked Ms. Gilley if the proposal to allow advanced leave to be repaid with future earned sick time, comp time, or vacation time was legal.

Ms. Gilley replied yes.

A motion was made by Council Member Nooe to approve the COVID-19 Policy as amended. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

#### City of Eden COVID-19 Policy

\*\*This policy represents the best information the City has as of the time of its publishing. Due to the fast-moving nature of this pandemic, this policy may be updated quickly once new information becomes available.

City of Eden's top priority is the health and safety of its employees and the public we serve. Therefore, the following policy will govern City personnel during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The goal of this policy is to limit the spread of the virus to other employees and the public, while also maintaining critical services.

Nothing in this policy is intended to, nor will it have the effect, of putting City Government out of compliance with all governing personnel related laws, regulations, and policies.

#### Mandatory Leave

Employees who exhibit the symptoms of the COVID-19 (as established by the Centers for Disease Control – see [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)) and/or any other criteria established by local public health officials will be prohibited from reporting to work in accordance with local health department guidelines. In addition to those who decide to stay home, department heads may also send employees with these symptoms home until cleared according to procedures established by the local health department. During this time, employees have several options:

- Utilize Leave – Employees may utilize leave in the following order: Compensatory Time, Sick Time, Vacation Time, Unpaid Leave. At the request of the employee, vacation or unpaid leave may be used before sick time - however compensatory time will be taken before any other method.
- Teleworking – Employees who can effectively perform their duties from home may request to telework. Every effort will be made to accommodate these requests; however, several factors will be considered such as the nature of the job and availability of IT resources (including both hardware/software and infrastructure capacity). Each of these requests will be decided on a case by case basis by the Interim City Manager, and any employees in this arrangement must keep detailed time sheets for time spent working. As a note, these arrangements are temporary, and can be changed at any point based on the needs of the organization.

#### Leave for Family Necessity

Employees who must be out of work due to COVID-19 related impacts on children or family (including the closure of schools, daycares, related facilities, or the illness itself) may be allowed to use leave in the same order and manner as described above under Mandatory Leave. These requests should be directed to the employee's supervisor, and will be granted on a case by case basis after considering the nature of the job, ability to telework, and minimum staffing necessary to provide critical functions.

#### Advancing Sick Leave

The City of Eden recognizes that all employees may not have adequate leave balances to cover the time they may be required to be away from work due to the coronavirus. The City will therefore up-front employees up to 10 business days of sick leave if needed once all other leave balances are exhausted. Any employees who utilize this option will have future earned sick time, vacation leave and comp time deducted to repay this advance. Any employees who leave service prior to repaying any advance will have to repay the value of this time and/or have it deducted from their final paycheck

#### Privacy Requirements

As with any other illness, all healthcare related employee information is strictly confidential. Employees who feel they may have been exposed to, or have contracted, COVID-19 should discuss this with either their supervisor or Human Resources as they feel comfortable.

Supervisors who learn that one of their employees has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should inform other applicable employees of their possible exposure. They may not, however, identify the person with the virus to anyone. While you may not be able to stop employees from speculating on who may have been infected, no manager, department head, human resources employee, or anyone else in any supervisory capacity should confirm or deny who has become ill and with what infection or disease.

#### Temporary Authority for Manager to Alter Personnel Policy

Due to the rapidly changing nature of this pandemic, the City Council grants the Interim City Manager the ability to temporarily amend the Personnel Policy as needed. Any changes will be reported to the Mayor, and the length of this authority is subject to City Council's approval.

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  
March 2020

ADMINISTRATION

Eden Youth Council

The City is currently accepting applications for the 2020-21 City of Eden Youth Council. Membership is open to individuals who live in the Morehead High School Attendance Zone (MHS, college, homeschool, or private school students) and are between the ages of 14 and 20.

This experience provides our youth with:

- Service opportunities
- Development of leadership and professional skills
- Networking amongst civic leaders
- Coordinating opportunities for Eden youth
- Great experience to list on resumes and college applications

Applications are available at Eden City Hall - Administration, Morehead High School Student Affairs Office, and online on the City's website.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Industry*

Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill

The water line project is moving very quickly and will be completed much earlier than the August 2020 initial completion date projection. It could be completed as early as April of this year. There has been significant activity by parties interested in locating at the park.

Envision Career Expo

This event will take place on Thursday, April 2 at Rockingham Community College. Seventh-graders from across the county will see area companies exhibit what they do in their individual businesses. The goal of this event is to show students the careers they can seek at Rockingham County industries and small businesses. This will be an annual event facilitated by the Rockingham County Economic Development Department and its partners, including the City of Eden Economic Development Department.

RCC Enrollment

At a February 17 meeting, RCC President Mark Kinlaw gave a presentation on the current state of the college and the workforce development center. Enrollment is up considerably as seen in the following:

- Fall enrollment has increased 7.68% since 2015
- Spring enrollment has increased 16.5% in 2020 vs. 2019
- 35.4% of Rockingham County School students attend RCC (21.6% in 2015)
- Distance education has grown from 9.8% in 2013 to 31.05% in 2019
- GED students have grown from 72 in 2013 to 101 in 2019
- Continuing education is up 18.2% (246 in 2015 and 291 in 2019)

The new workforce building is in the process of being designed. It is not scheduled to open until March 2023. Because of the NC Connect Bond funding, almost all of the community colleges obtained funding for capital

improvements. These projects have to go through the state construction office, which has delayed plan approval significantly.

#### Morehead High School

Eden officials participated in a mock interview session at the high school on March 3. In one area, students seeking scholarship funding were asked to make the case why they were deserving of this funding. Facilitators saw very focused, dedicated, and admirable students during the 2.5 hours spent interviewing them. Some examples:

- One student acts as a mentor to his peers by tutoring them during his lunch period. He often “counsels” those having problems as well.
- A Rock-A-Top Apprenticeship student is currently working half days while completing his high school degree. He offered to speak on behalf of the Rock-A-Top apprenticeship program to help other students who may have an interest in participating because of the great experience he has had with the program.
- One young man won the MHS and Rockingham County science fair award and went on to compete at the state level.
- Several National Honor Society students, who are also leaders on the Student Council, participated. One student also partakes in Meals on Wheels. Many are concerned with our environment and want to work toward improving their community.

There are many good things taking place at MHS, thanks to Principal Ryan Moody and the dedicated staff that work diligently for their students to succeed.

#### *Commercial*

##### Lidl Building

The building is now on Atlantic Retail’s website with demographic and spec information. A “For Sale” sign is up on the site, but no price. The company is leaving the price open to negotiation. The new broker has had several inquiries about the site.

##### KFC

This restaurant reopened the second week in March. There was much excitement concerning this reopening after the store was demolished in the summer of 2019 as a result of a gas explosion. Everyone wishes them the very best as they continue serving the Eden community.

##### Ample Storage/Zip’s Car Wash

Considerable work is being done in the former Walmart building to accommodate this new business. The car wash is being plagued by the wet weather, but continues to progress.

##### Gordman’s Department Store-Grand Opening next month!

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

#### *Main Street*

##### Eden Downtown Development Inc.

The inaugural date for the Entrepreneurship Eden program is April 30 in Pace-Stone’s upstairs gallery. The program is a joint effort of the Eden Downtown Development Corporation, Rockingham Community College Small Business Center, Rockingham County Economic Development Department, and the Eden Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from NC Idea and the NC Rural Center will assist as the ‘Who Owns the Ice House’ curriculum is explored. The event will showcase Eden’s entrepreneur support network and introduce new and exciting mindset techniques for entrepreneurs to recognize opportunity. Seating is limited and registration will be coordinated through RCC’s Small Business Center. A citywide yard sale is planned for May 2 in conjunction with the Eden Boys and Girls Club. The event will kick off with a scavenger hunt at the club. We hope that Eden residents will coordinate their own yard sale that day. If you would like to rent a space at the Boys and Girls Club at 1026 Harris Street, call them at 336-627-7960.



#### Leaksville Commercial District

Upper floor apartments are now available downtown at 620 Washington Street. The building will also house a coffee shop and has a pedestrian alley to connect with the Bridge Street parking lot. Coming soon to 624 Washington Street is more upper floor residential living space above an Italian restaurant. With the addition of Dollar General moving into the former Family Video store, Eden will have a more vibrant walkable downtown.

#### Boulevard Merchants Association

The merchants have begun using a logo from the Positively Eden branding study on the street's planters as they prepare for upcoming events. An Adult Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 11 and a Food Truck Rodeo on April 18. The Three Rivers chapter of the AACA will host a car show at Tractor Supply featuring the Boulevard Merchant's signature Low Country Crab Boil.

#### *Tourism and Special Events*

##### Pottery Festival

Calling all potters! Our 17th Annual Piedmont Pottery Festival is set for Saturday, June 6 at First Presbyterian Church. Potter applications are ready and can be obtained by calling 336-612-8049 or email [cadams@edennc.us](mailto:cadams@edennc.us). See you there!

##### Grown & Gathered

Our Spring Grown & Gathered event will be held along the Canal at the Spray Mercantile on Thursday, May 21. Please mark your calendars. We will begin taking reservations very soon. Seating is limited to 100!

##### Butterfly Trail Unveiling

We are so excited to announce the unveiling of the Smith River Butterfly Trail! It will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8. We will gather at the shelter at the Meadow Road entrance of the Smith River Greenway. Join us and please bring the kids!

##### Canadian Golfers

Over 40 of our Canadian golfer friends will arrive in Eden on April 11 for a week long of golf and fellowship. If you meet any of them during their stay, give them a big Eden welcome! They have been choosing Eden as a destination for nearly 20 years!

##### Showcase Magazine

Eden is the featured city in the March issue of Showcase Magazine out of Danville, Va. It is a beautiful issue highlighting some of the great things about our city! Pick up a copy and see for yourself!

##### Fine Arts Festival

The Fine Arts Festival will once again be held in Eden here at City Hall this year! Music and Literature entries will be taken March 31 from 2 to 6 p.m., all other 2D and 3D entries will be taken on April 14 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.. The opening of the show and awards ceremony will be held in Council Chambers on Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m.. Make sure you visit the exhibit and see all the great talent we have in Rockingham County!

##### ExploreEdenNC.com Website

Our new and exciting tourism website will launch the first week of April! It is full of beautiful photos, videos and information! We can't wait to share it with you.

## ENGINEERING

#### Waterline Replacement Projects Update

A bid opening was held March 11 for the Primitive, Spring and George Streets 2" WL Replacement projects. Sam W. Smith, Inc., is the apparent low bidder for the Primitive and Spring Street section of proposed 2" PVC water main installation at a base bid of \$64,300. Sam W. Smith, Inc., is also the apparent low bidder for the proposed installation of about 560 LF of 2" PVC water main along George Street, at a base bid of \$57,644. Construction should start in the near future after the bids are verified, bonds obtained, and agreements executed by all parties.

#### Pressure Boosting System

Revised plans prepared by Stoltzfus Engineering, Inc., for a proposed pressure boosting system to serve a portion of Jackson Street are being reviewed, and information needed for a report required by the Public Water Supply Section of NC DEQ is being obtained. An application for electrical service needed by the small packaged pump station will be made in the near future.

### MUNICIPAL SERVICES

#### Free Mulch and Compost Sale

Starting the first Saturday in April and continuing each Saturday while supplies last (weather permitting). 7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the end of West Avenue (off Washington Street) at the City's fenced lot. Compost is: pick-up truck load - \$5; tandem axle trailer - \$15; large dump truck - \$25. For more information, call 336- 627-7783, ext. 106.

#### Free Cleanup Week: March 30 – April 3

Household residents only, no contractors or commercial waste. All items must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day and not obstructed in any way. We will be picking up bulk waste items, demolition debris, brush and yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, twigs smaller than 6 inches), which should be separated by type (brush, yard waste, leaves and grass clippings, bulk waste, white goods/scrap metal). No household garbage should be at the curb – it needs to be bagged and in your city trash container. No tires, wood pallets, TVs or computer equipment will be picked up; however, all city residents can take 5 tires per household, TVs and computer equipment to the county landfill at no charge. No toxic or liquid hazardous waste such as containers of oil, paint, gasoline, batteries or pesticides will be picked up. For more information, please call 336-627-7783, ext. 106.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

#### Freedom Park Events

Freedom Park will be very busy again in 2020 with local leagues playing weekdays as well as weekend tournaments scheduled until the middle of December. Concerts in the Park/Cruise-Ins are scheduled the last Saturday of each month at 5 p.m. beginning in April and going through October. There are also special events scheduled on a regular basis, such as the Citywide Easter Egg Hunt, Funfest and the Fall Festival. There are already 50 events scheduled for 2020, not including the reservations for use of the two shelters at the park, which are rented out almost every Saturday and Sunday through November.

#### Sports Programs

Registration for the Youth Baseball and Youth Softball programs is now available at either the Bridge Street or Mill Avenue recreation centers or Parks & Recreation at City Hall.

#### Senior Games

Registration for the Rockingham County Senior Games is taking place now and you can register at the Garden of Eden Senior Center to participate. The Senior Games will begin on April 14 and run through May 16. Local winners will advance to the N.C. Senior Games later this summer.

#### Matrimony Creek Nature Trail

The Matrimony Creek Nature Trail is still being repaired due to the flooding that occurred in February. Staff hopes to have the repairs completed and this site available to the public in the next few weeks.

### POLICE

#### Sweepstakes Update

On Feb. 3, the Department delivered letters to each sweepstakes establishment in the City advising the establishment owners that on and after March 4, we would begin to enforce statutes related to sweepstakes/casinos. As of March 6, all sweepstakes establishments inside the city limits have closed.

New K-9 Officer

As a result of K-9 Sadie retiring after nine years of service, we selected K-9 Saga, from Highland K-9. Officer Eric Gann has been selected to be the next K-9 handler. The four-week handler school begins March 16.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of (1) February 18, 2020 and (2) March 5, 2020 Minutes.
- b. Approval to call a public hearing at the April 21, 2020 meeting for project financing for the fire training facility.
- c. Approval and adoption of a resolution to declare surplus equipment.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY  
BY PUBLIC AUCTION

WHEREAS, the City of Eden owns certain surplus equipment and property listed below in Exhibit A and hereinafter referred to as “the property”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden desires to dispose of the property by public auction as authorized by North Carolina General Statute §160A-270; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-270 (c), the City Council must authorize the use of the public electronic auction service and the means of publication; and

WHEREAS, the property will be sold at a public electronic auction to the highest bidder excepting any reserve placed on the property. The property will be listed at [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) starting on March 30, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and will be posted continuously until it is sold; and

WHEREAS, The City desires to publish this notice solely by electronic means via the City of Eden website; and

WHEREAS, Paul Dishmon, Public Works Directors, is an appropriate city official to dispose of the property by public auction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council for the City of Eden that the property listed above be disposed of by public auction, that the publication of this sale be solely by electronic means, and that Paul Dishmon be authorized to dispose of the property by public auction.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 17th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Exhibit A

20S- Sign Trailer (NO TAG)

25S-Protect-O-Flash Trailer ID# 089274W (NO-TAG) 26S- Muller Concrete Mixer ID# 81226 (NO-TAG)

35FM- 1991 Chevy pick-up VIN# 1GCEC14H4ME153962 (Tag# 69072)

53G- 2008 International 4400 VIN# 1HTMKAAR68H646285 (Tag# 95649T)

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 stated Council would be going into closed session in the front conference room following the open session. Afterwards, Council would adjourn from that room, so anyone wanting to wait could do so in the lobby. He added that while the City was in unchartered waters and unsure what to expect, they were doing everything they could to keep citizens safe while still providing the much-needed services citizens need and expect. Various departments must continue to work regardless of how bad the pandemic became. He asked citizens to keep that in mind and be patient with the staff. Meeting conditions were changed as well to comply with regulations regarding COVID-19, but they were still able to provide live streaming. Anyone with questions or concerns could email him or call City Hall.

Council Member Carter thanked Deputy Police Chief Clint Simpson for attending a meeting earlier in reference to the coronavirus and what the County's first responders needed to do. He also announced the birth of his grandson, Carter Tate Underwood, weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces.

CLOSED SESSION:

- a. To discuss personnel pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

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

A motion was made by Council Member Hampton to return to open session. Council Member Ellis 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,

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Deanna Hunt  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Neville Hall  
Mayor