

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, July 21, 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 (attended remotely)
News Media:	Roy and Robin 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 Cynthia Nanney of First United and Spray United Methodist Churches gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Director of Planning & Inspections Kelly Stultz.

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

a. Presentation of commendations.

Mayor Hall called on Police Chief Clint Simpson and Officers Brian Ferris, Brian Roland and Joshua Ferguson, at which point the officers were presented with commendations. Mayor Hall read the details of the incident from Chief Simpson's memo: On Monday July 6, at about 5:30 p.m., officers from A shift responded to 518 Gresham St. in reference to a house fire. As officers were in route, C-Com gave updates which included someone yelling from inside the burning house, which was a 13-year-old male who was in a wheelchair and could not get out. Officer Ferris arrived on scene, went into the burning house from the backside and found the 13-year-old in the kitchen who was not able to exit the burning house from the front due to the fire and smoke had his wheelchair ramp blocked. Officer Ferris picked up the child out of his wheelchair and carried him out the back door to safety. While Officer Ferris was helping the child, Officer Roland had pulled up on scene and started pulling the fire hose off the truck and spraying the front porch area with water to help contain and extinguish the fire. Officer Ferguson arrived on scene and assisted Officer Ferris with the child, then assisted Officer Roland by pulling fire hose off the truck. Due to the quick response of Officer Ferris, Officer Roland, Officer Ferguson and the Eden Fire Department, all the residents of 518 Gresham St. were rescued from the fire unharmed. The actions of these three officers exemplify their dedication to protect and serve the citizens in our community.

Mayor Hall also shared his appreciation for what the officers did each day and acknowledged how lucky the City was to have trained, qualified public safety officers to protect its citizens.

Chief Simpson stated the pictures displayed during the presentation from Officer Roland's body camera helped put into perspective what the officers did that day. He was proud of them.

Luke Lily, the 13-year-old rescued from the fire, presented the officers with a gift.

Mayor Hall also noted that these and other officers had used their personal time to help clean up the house in efforts to get it back to a livable condition.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall noted three revisions to the agenda: 9a was removed until determination of the level of internal audit needed could be established; 12g was removed to allow discussion be held first with the new city manager regarding changes in positions and classifications; and 12e was moved to New Business as 10c to allow clarification of the item.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to set the meeting agenda as amended. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were none at this time.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

Malcolm Allen, N.C. 700, Eden, president of the local NAACP, thanked the City of Eden, Mayor Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, the Eden Police Department, the Eden Parks and Recreation Department and Council Member Hampton for their support of his Justice for All Rally. The successful rally was designed to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. After receiving needed commitments from the Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Highway Patrol, and the District Attorney, he felt confident that what was happening around the country had a minimum chance of happening in Rockingham County. Mr. Allen believed that working together and listening to one another would make the City safer and a reflection of the kind, loving people who lived here.

Mayor Hall stated that Mr. Allen did a wonderful job organizing the event and expressed his appreciation for the efforts he was making.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of a one-year contract with Carolina Business & Tax Services for internal audit services.

This item was removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Request for the City Council to ask the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of an annexation petition for properties at 197 and 199 E. Aiken Road.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated that when the City discovered property located partly inside and partly outside the city limits, the City would offer the property owners the option to be voluntarily annexed. The property owner

of 197 and 199 E. Aiken Road had been receiving solid waste and other services for both houses even though one house was located outside the city limits. The property owner filed a petition to be annexed.

Council Member Hunnicutt questioned if there were any issues of concern with the annexation petition.

Ms. Stultz replied no and stated that the property owner assumed both properties were located inside the city limits.

Council Member Ellis asked if the property owner had been paying the entire time.

Ms. Stultz replied the property owner had not been paying City taxes on the property located outside the city limits, but had been paying taxes on the property located inside the City limits. She stated that Council made a decision a few years ago that when the City discovered such circumstances and the property owner filed the annexation application, the City would not discontinue providing previously established services and would not charge the owner double rates.

Council Member Moore made a motion to ask the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of an annexation petition for properties at 197 and 199 E. Aiken Road. Council Member Nooe seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER N.C.G.S. 160A-58.1

WHEREAS, a Petition requesting annexation of an area described in said Petition was received on June 26, 2020, by the City Council of the City of Eden; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 160A-58.2 provides that the sufficiency of the Petition shall be investigated by the City Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden deems it advisable to proceed in response to these requests for annexation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eden that:

The City Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above described Petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

This the 21st day of July, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

b. Consideration of a budget amendment to increase the residential solid waste rate.

Mayor Hall stated the residential solid waste rate was an item discussed at the previous Council meeting when the budget was approved. The increase was proposed at the end of the budget in an effort to recover the \$316,000 shortfall related to solid waste collection, as it was an enterprise fund that needed to break even. The easy way to fix the shortfall would have been to increase the residential solid waste rate by \$4.35 as recommended; however, Council was not able to approve the rate increase because it was not

part of the agenda. Currently, the City provided trash and curbside pickup every week for its citizens. He was interested to see if there were more efficient ways to make up the shortfall besides a rate increase. He asked Mr. Shelton to discuss the situation with the new City Manager Jon Mendenhall to determine possible options. Mayor Hall recalled years ago when Council attempted to decrease services and citizens became upset. A rate increase could add up and while some citizens may wish to pay it in order to keep services the same, other citizens forced to pay the increase may never place anything at the curb to be picked up, not utilizing the services the increase would be paying for. If it were to be determined that a rate increase needed to be adopted, Council could do that at a future meeting.

Council Member Hunnicutt added that it was a difficult time to be imposing additional fees given the current economic environment. He had never needed the services of the knuckleboom that picked up household items, such as refrigerators. He suggested looking at call ins when such a pick up was needed.

Council Member Ellis requested Solid Waste Superintendent Dusty Curry be involved in the discussion between Mr. Shelton and Mr. Mendenhall in regards to other efficient ways of making up the department's shortfall. He added that Mr. Curry and his department did a great job and that the City was one of the only municipalities that picked up more types of waste, which was a benefit to the citizens. Council Member Ellis made a motion to leave the residential solid waste fee as is until February of 2021.

Mayor Hall said that Mr. Curry would be involved in the meeting as it pertained to his department. While he did not think cutting services back would instantly recoup the \$300,000 shortfall, he did feel that the deficit would get to a more manageable number over time.

Mr. Curry said the majority of bulk waste that was picked up on each route came from the same rental property owners or same customers every week. There were some customers who did not put anything out except for their garbage, no leaves, grass, brush or bulk waste; however, there were several customers who put out a knuckleboom load each week. The department averaged four routes each week with roughly six loads of bulk waste and brush each day, not including the pay loads retrieved on Wednesdays. Last year, 52,000 cubic yards of brush was picked up, which was significant when compared to other cities, such as Asheboro, whose residents did not put out nearly the same amount of waste. He stated that he was willing to do whatever he could to make it work.

Council Member Carter stated he was glad Mayor Hall suggested other options because he would have voted no due to the hard times people were facing, especially the elderly. A lot of people were struggling. Mr. Curry and the department did a tremendous job trying to keep the City looking as nice as possible and he agreed with trying to find other ways to recoup the shortfall.

Mr. Curry suggested a higher fee for those putting out the majority of the bulk material to be collected. The current knuckleboom rate per truckload was \$75, which did not cover the landfill tipping fee.

Mayor Hall said that was likely a contributing factor to why the department's fund was at a shortfall each year and suggested taking a look at that program.

Council Member Hunnicutt questioned if the cost of the wood grinding contract, listed under the Consent Agenda section, was included in the \$300,000 yearly shortfall.

Mr. Shelton said yes because it was part of the solid waste operations.

Council Member Hunnicutt had visited the site that day. The wood grinding contract was for \$67,000 for one year. An acre of cutover land in Rockingham County could be purchased for roughly \$2,000, which would equate to 30 acres of land for the same price as the contract. Based on the three acres of wood debris they currently had, he estimated the City could do 10 years of stockpiling for the same price as the one-year contract. He requested looking into that item to see if there were other creative options available.

Mayor Hall asked Mr. Curry to share his insight in regards to the equipment used for the grinding.

Mr. Curry stated the grinder costs almost \$1 million. One of the biggest issues was the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would not allow the City to hold wood debris past one year as the City was under a requirement to not exceed a certain cubic yardage of debris at any location.

Council Member Hunnicutt questioned the difference between logging companies leaving the tops of trees on site versus the City leaving debris on site to naturally decompose. That particular service costs the City over \$100,000 between the expense of the contract and the cost associated with collecting the debris.

Mr. Curry stated the yard debris was part of the recycled products the City gave back to its residents in the spring of each year.

Council Member Hunnicutt said that made it an expensive mulch for the City and felt that the City owed it to its taxpayers to be creative and research what options were available.

Council Member Epps made a motion to amend Council Member Ellis's motion to table the residential solid waste fee increase from February of 2021 until further notice.

City Attorney Erin Gilley suggested either tabling the item until a certain date or having Mr. Mendenhall be responsible for bringing the issue back before Council.

Council Member Ellis amended his motion to table the consideration of a residential solid waste fee increase until the City Manager brought it back with more information. Council Member Epps seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

- c. Approval to amend the 2020-21 Grade and Positions to include a full-time Information Technician.

This item was moved from Consent Agenda (12e) to New Business to allow for clarification of the item.

Mayor Hall stated it was previously approved in the current fiscal year's budget to move from two full-time positions and one part-time position to three full-time positions in the Information Technology Department. However, there were only two levels of IT description listed in the Grade and Positions scale: one for the Department Head and one for the IT Specialist. In order to make the scale reflective of the third full-time position within the department, the job title needed to be changed to Information Technician.

Council Member Epps made a motion to amend the 2020-21 Grade and Positions to include a full-time Information Technician. 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
July 2020

ADMINISTRATION

Citizens Academy

The City of Eden's annual Citizens Academy will not be held this fall. The unpredictability of social distancing and capacity restrictions for the rest of the year have affected scheduling for the City along with the rest of the country.

Interim City Manager Terry Shelton said it was a difficult decision to make. "The Citizens Academy is one of the most effective tools we have to help increase citizen knowledge about the workings of local government," he said. "Graduates of the academy have become members of City Council, as well as other boards and commissions. It has been a tremendously effective educational and outreach resource for employees and citizens and we regret having to pause it, even temporarily."

The City encourages anyone interested to stay tuned. Plans to restart the academy will be in place as soon as it is safe to do so.

City Manager

The City of Eden has hired Jon Mendenhall, most recently Town Administrator of Carolina Shores, N.C., as its new City Manager effective August 17. The City Council had conducted an exhaustive nationwide search since December of 2019 to find the right individual to lead the City. "We are very pleased to have Mr. Mendenhall as our new City Manager," stated Eden Mayor Neville Hall. "He brings a wealth of experience in planning, engineering, finance and economic development that will serve Eden residents well."

"I am truly honored to be selected as the next City Manager for Eden," said Mendenhall. "I look forward to serving the residents, supporting the staff, and working to achieve the vision of the Mayor and Council. I have told many that Eden has a hometown feel and everyone is gracious and friendly. I look forward to working with the strong team of residents, elected officials, and a solid group of employees." A High Point native, Mendenhall has served as Town Administrator of Carolina Shores, N.C. since 2014 and previously served as County Manager of Gates County, N.C. He has 16 years of local government experience, having started his career in Stanly County, N.C. as a Planner. Mendenhall earned his Masters of Science degree in Technology Systems with a concentration in quality control from East Carolina University, a certificate in Project Management from N.C. State University, and a Bachelor's Degree in History from UNC Chapel Hill. He is a current board member of the North Carolina Resource Conservation and Development Association and Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development, non-profits engaged in economic development and resource conservation in predominantly rural North Carolina. As an ICMA Credentialed Manager, Mendenhall is committed to professional and quality principles in local government.

Mendenhall will succeed Interim City Manager Terry Shelton. "Both the City Council and I wish to extend a great deal of thanks to Mr. Shelton who guided the City through the transition period to a new City Manager," stated Hall.

"At the end of the day, each resident, employee, and economic development prospect are all customers and we must emphasize an approach to customer service that adds value to our relationship with that customer," Mendenhall remarked. "We must consistently communicate that value in order to be the very best version of ourselves."

Mendenhall will reside in Eden. His starting salary is \$130,000 plus benefits.

Matrimony Creek Nature Trail

The Matrimony Creek Nature Trail will remain closed at least another month. Currently, staff is working on a repair plan for the flood-damaged areas to address exposure of sewer lines that have been uncovered, as well as wash out of some of the trail surfaces. We have been in contact with inspectors from DENR & Land Quality Management and DEQ to find out exactly what the City can do to reinforce protecting the sewer lines on the upper end of the trail. We hope to have answers and a plan to bring before Council at the August 18 City Council meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industry

Weil-McLain

This Eden company is hiring 10-15 full-time employees including machine operators, assemblers, material handlers, and paint operators. Visit www.weil-mclain.com/careers to apply and learn more information about these jobs.

Night Owl National Contractors

This company is a granite and quartz fabrication center located in the former K-Mart building on Meadow Road. They are hiring electricians, electricians' helpers, granite polishers, CNC machine operators, forklift operators, finish carpenters, sheetrock workers, and framers.

Visit www.noncstoneworks.com/careers or call 888-283-6303 for more information.

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.

Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP)

The MVP project remains on go and is not to be confused with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) that Duke Energy cancelled this week because of lawsuits from environmental groups and the escalating costs it incurred with the project. MVP will hire a significant number of construction workers who will bolster the local economy while they are completing the Eden and Rockingham County portion of the project.

Business NC reported that the ACP was a major economic blow for eastern NC. The 600-mile pipeline was to generate about \$680 million in revenue during the 18-24 months construction phase, creating 4,000 construction jobs.

Commercial

Former Eden Mall

In the near future, you will see improvements to this former mall facility. The new owner will repaint the exterior, improve the parking lot, and clean up the shrubbery. Look for new signage on leasing opportunities in the near future. The goal is to lease to professional businesses, not retail.

Builders Mart-New Ownership

This business is now under new ownership with plans to expand product offerings.

Eden is Budget Friendly for Renters

Eden has been nationally recognized by LendEDU as one of the most budget-friendly cities in the country for renters. The company licensed real estate data deriving from the U.S. Census Bureau on over 25,000 American cities. Each city was ranked according to its rent-to-income ratio, or the proportion of a city's median household income that goes to annual rent costs (including utilities). A lower percentage was more favorable.

Specifically, Eden had an average annual rent cost of \$8,004 and a median household income of \$37,384 for a rent-to-income ratio of 21.41%. It is generally recommended that a renter's rent should cost no more than 30% of their annual income, so these numbers speak to Eden's proximity to high-paying jobs relative to the affordable housing in the area. Eden's low rent-to-income ratio ranked #1,146 in the country and #42 in the state of North Carolina.

Rockingham County Sales Tax

Rockingham County reported that April 2020 sales were 4.5% below sales of April 2019. The state had predicted sales tax losses of up to 20% for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Thus, sales tax revenue, while below last year, was not as bad as initially expected.

Tourism and Special Events

Gordon Allen Photos

Gordon Allen took a series of gorgeous photos of the Smith River Greenway Butterfly Trail. Check them out on our Explore Eden Facebook page! Thanks Gordon!

Make sure you visit the trail and see the beautiful butterfly art for yourself! While you're there make sure you see the Otter Sculpture located down the steps and to the left near the Island Ford river access. Enjoy!

Traveling Vietnam Wall

We will not be bringing in the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Freedom Park in October. Because of COVID-19 and wanting to keep everyone safe, we have rescheduled for 2021.

Klyce Street Landing

You might notice a new directional sign located on Washington Street directing you to the Klyce Street Landing. In the next couple of weeks you will also see a new entrance sign at the end of Klyce Street, along with picnic tables and a directional kiosk at the landing.



Otter Holt

A huge thanks to the Street Department for the installation of the Otter Holt along the Smith River. This has been an exciting joint project between the City of Eden and the Dan River Basin Association. We will be installing a camera that we will call the "Otter Cam." You will be able to see the activity on our website: ExploreEdenNC.com. We hope to welcome otter pups to Eden next spring!

Grogan Park

Come enjoy Grogan Park and walk in the shade under the beautiful trees! You can enjoy public art, lots of seating, a swing, wind chimes, a walking path, and picnic tables. Bring your lunch, your family, or a good book and enjoy this beautiful setting located on the City Hall campus at 308 E. Stadium Drive!

Great River Race – September 19

Get those creative homemade vessels ready! More detailed information coming soon.

ENGINEERING

2020-21 Street Resurfacing Contract

The bid opening for the FY 2020-21 Street Resurfacing Contract was held on February 20. A total of four responsive bids were received for the project. The successful low bidder was Waugh Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$486,376.61. Sectors of the following streets are included in the contract: Kemp Street, Oakwood Drive, Westwood Drive, Fagg Drive, Spruce Street, Greenwood Street, Morehead Street, James Street, John Street, Pine Lane, Panther Lane, Carpenter Road, Hairston Street, Ridge Avenue, Delaware Avenue, Maryland Avenue, and South Avenue. Construction is scheduled to start in August.

Waterline Replacement Projects Update

A crew from Citty's Plumbing & Pools, Inc. started pipe installation on the eastern leg of the Ample Storage WL reroute on June 9, with three bends and roughly forty feet of 8-inch diameter ductile iron pipe placed, along with thrust blocks poured at the bends. Pipe installation continued to the south, with the crew spotting the existing 8" PVC water main off of the north side of Oleander Drive on June 12. Hydrostatic pressure testing on roughly 262 feet of new water main for the eastern leg was passed on June 17. Good bacteriological test results were received on June 24 for this section of new water main. The applicant certification form was sent to Borum, Wade and Associates on July 1.

A small shipment of water pipe, valves, and fittings ordered for use with the Jackson Street Pressure Zone project was delivered by Fortiline on June 26. Delivery of the duplex skid booster pump system manufactured by Carolina Pumpworks took place a few days later. Stakeout and clearing of the proposed pump station site should take place by early August.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Facilities

All Parks and Recreation facilities, except for the indoor Parks & Recreation facilities, are open in a limited capacity due to COVID-19. Additional amenities hope to be opened when Phase III of the Governor's Executive Order goes into effect.

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS

Collections

All code enforcement fees assessed since July 1, 2019, have been transferred to the Rockingham County Tax Department to be collected with the 2020 property tax bills. These totaled \$71,984.00 and the City received \$1,980.00 in payments during the month of June.

Draper CDBG

Applications will continue to be received until July 30.

General

The Annual Boundary and Annexation Survey, Group Quarters Population Survey, and New Residential Construction and Mobile Home Survey were completed and submitted to the N.C. Office of State Budget and Management.

GIS

We continue to evaluate the sewer data and fill in field attribute information needed for manholes.

Unified Development Ordinance

We have received all of the proposed text of the UDO, except for the definitions. Staff has a conference call planned to discuss Module 3 and will schedule a remote meeting with the Steering Committee (Planning Board). We plan to present the text to the Council at the regular August Council meeting.

Boards and Commissions

Meetings remain suspended for all of our boards and commissions, except those that receive requests that cannot be delayed, such as Planning Board and the Strategic Planning Commission. The Board of Adjustment has not had any applications since the beginning of COVID-19. There will possibly be one in August.

POLICE

Training

We were able to send two officers to the NCJA in Salemburg for General Instructor training. Detective Brandon Buckner and Detective Anthony Lovings are in line to be our future firearms instructors to replace the two firearms instructors who recently left our agency. This is a lengthy process and may take 18 to 24 months to complete. They began their two week General Instructor training on July 15. It should be noted that due to COVID-19, this is the only class being held in person on the NCJA campus and thus, we were lucky to get them in this training. While COVID-19 has greatly reduced the availability of training being offered to law enforcement, we have been fortunate to be able to send our officers to some great training. Reidsville Police Department brought in some instructors for Field Force Training (riot-type training), Norse Tactical Training (SWAT training), and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and invited our agency to send some of our officers to attend this valuable training, which we did, and are greatly appreciative of them offering these opportunities to us. We have re-scheduled our spring in-service mandatory training for August 10, 17, 24 and 31. This training consists of daytime firearms qualification requirements, Bloodborne Pathogens training, and HAZMAT training.

Mr. Shelton stated that Matrimony Creek Nature Trail was intertwined with the repairs needed on the sewer line at the north end of the trail. Discussion had been made with DEQ and Land Quality Management personnel in regards to what the City could do to reinforce the sewer line. While a possible solution would be to pour cement around the lines to eliminate lime and calcium contents, it would change the pH levels of the creek, which DEQ would not allow as the creek constituted as navigable waters. There had also been mention of moving the trail further away from the north end, where the flow of water was going, or possibly channeling the water in the other direction. In the past, there was a sluice on the west side that took the water in a straight pattern rather than turning it and deflecting it over into the sewer line area as it does today. Solutions might first involve improvements to the trail to allow access for hauling materials to the site to make the needed repairs. He hoped to have a state-approved proposal for the sewer line repairs, in addition to a plan for restoration and improvements to the trail, to present at the August City Council meeting.

Council Member Epps asked if permits had to be obtained to redirect water.

Mr. Shelton said yes if the City were to channel something that was not already there. He was told that when a mill was in operation at that location, there was a channel that diverted the water in a direction that turned a wheel to run the grinding operation.

Mayor Hall stated he had been questioned in the past about the occasional washout of the greenways and why the City had them at those locations. The main reason for such was because there were sewer outfalls located at those spots that the City was required to maintain. Another reason was because of the nature that was along the creeks and rivers. Matrimony Creek Nature Trail was built largely with a grant and had been a great asset and he hoped to see it restored and reopened.

Mr. Shelton said the north end of the trail was one of the prettiest scenes in Eden and it would be a shame if they could not keep it.

Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Shelton for his City Manager's report that he provided to Council throughout his position as Interim City Manager and said it served as a great asset for the Council, as well as citizens, as

it provided them with a good source of information. He advised that the public could obtain a copy of the report if they desired or read it in Eden's Own Journal.

Mr. Shelton stated that although the expense of capital outlay items approved in the budget had been placed on hold, the request for the purchase of new police cars would likely be presented at the August City Council meeting. The process for ordering police cars was extremely long as they took orders early in the year and do a mass manufacturing of them at the same time. Because the process took roughly 10 months, he wanted to make Council aware that the vehicle purchases would need to be made soon if Council approved.

Council Member Epps questioned how many police cars they would be requesting to purchase.

Chief Simpson replied eight cars.

Council Member Ellis asked Chief Simpson if the police department had enough body armor for each of the officers considering the circumstances that had taken place in the country during the past 60 days.

Chief Simpson answered yes.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked if there was an update on the Smith River sewer line repair being conducted by Yates Construction.

Municipal Services Director Paul Dishmon said the company was installing the last pipe that same day.

Mr. Shelton said that once started, the repairs moved quickly.

Council Member Hunnicutt had been at the site and it was impressive to see the pilot maneuver and get the repairs done.

Mr. Shelton was overwhelmed that the City was able to have the type of technology available to complete the repair within two days. The other alternative considered was putting a road into the river, which would have been at least a 20-day process, heavily dependent upon weather.

Council Member Carter requested Mr. Shelton bring any time-sensitive equipment or vehicle purchase requests from all departments before Council at the August City Council meeting.

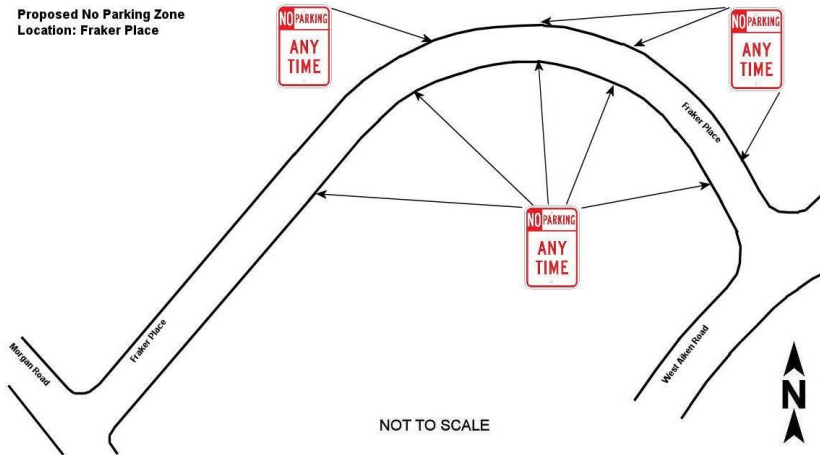
Mayor Hall stated that the Smith River sewer line repair was a major expense that was anticipated to financially impact the City. However, the N.C. General Assembly was able to find money in a bill that saved the City from possibly having to raise rates to fund the repair expense. He encouraged anyone that happened to see a local representative or the senator to thank them for their help with funding the project.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the June 16, 2020 Minutes.
- b. Approval and adoption of an ordinance declaring a no parking zone on Fraker Place.

Sgt. Jim Robertson wrote in a memo that on June 17, the Police Department received a request for a traffic study in reference to placing 'No Parking' signs on Fraker Place from Council Member Jerry Epps. Fraker Place is a residential street with a prominent curve on the eastern end that creates a geographical "blind" spot for

vehicles traversing through the area. Vehicles parked along the south side of the street are not visible until motorists traveling east round the curve. Additionally, vehicles parked on the north side of Fraker Place create an obstacle that requires motorists to cross over into the opposite lane to avoid, which could cause a situation where motorists would not see one another in time to avoid a head-on collision. It was the recommendation of the Police Department to create a ‘No Parking’ zone in the curve of Fraker Place for both the north and south side of the street.



AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A NO PARKING ZONE
IN THE CURVE ON FRAKER PLACE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, pursuant to authority granted by N.C.G.S. § 160A-301 that:

Section 1 – The City Council of the City of Eden has determined that in order to ensure pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic safety, parking along the north side of Fraker Place westward from West Aiken Road for five hundred fifty (550) feet toward the intersection of Morgan Road and parking along the south side of Fraker Place seventy-five (75) feet eastward from Morgan Road to the intersection of West Aiken Road should be prohibited.

Section 2 – It shall be an infraction to park a motor vehicle on the north side of Fraker Place westward from West Aiken Road for five hundred fifty (550) feet toward the intersection of Morgan Road.

Section 3 – It shall be an infraction to park a motor vehicle on the south side of Fraker Place seventy-five (75) feet eastward from Morgan Road to the intersection of West Aiken Road should be prohibited.

Section 4 – Signs shall be placed, erected or installed on the north side of Fraker Place westward from West Aiken Road for five hundred fifty (550) feet toward the intersection of Morgan Road and on the south side of Fraker Place seventy-five (75) feet eastward from Morgan Road to the intersection of West Aiken Road.

Section 5 – The OFFICIAL TRAFFIC MAP of the City of Eden is hereby amended to conform with this Ordinance.

Section 6 – All ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Approved, Adopted, and Effective, this 21st day of July, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

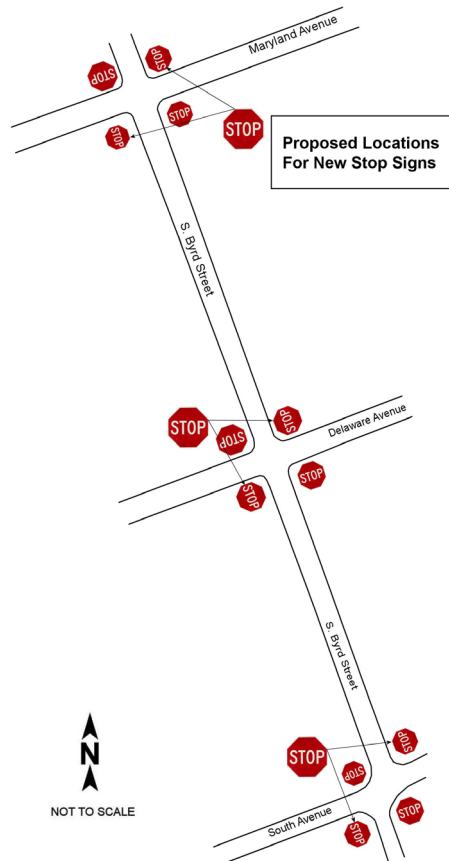
- c. Approval and adoption of an ordinance creating four-way stops on South Byrd Street at its intersections with Maryland, Delaware and South Avenues.

Sgt. Robertson wrote in a memo that on June 8, the Police Department received a request for a traffic study in reference to traffic calming on Maryland Avenue at the intersection of South Byrd Street from Chief Simpson. While conducting the traffic study on June 29, Sgt. Robertson received a request from Council Member Jerry Ellis to extend the study further along South Byrd Street to the adjoining intersections. South Byrd Street runs north to south and is part of a residential neighborhood where two fatal motor vehicle accidents had recently occurred at the intersection of South Byrd Street and Maryland Avenue. The geography in the neighborhood has an elevation gradient in that eastbound traffic flows “downhill.” Unintentional acceleration by motorists, when traveling eastbound, was a factor to consider. The addition of two more stop signs to govern eastbound and westbound traffic at each intersection of South Byrd Street at Maryland Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and South Avenue, which would create a four-way stop, may help alleviate the risk that these intersections present to motorists/cyclists/pedestrians. North Carolina General Statute 20-158(b) (1) reads as follows:

(b) Control of Vehicles at Intersections. –

(1) When a stop sign has been erected or installed at an intersection, it shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to fail to stop in obedience thereto and yield the right-of-way to vehicles operating on the designated main-traveled or through highway. When stop signs have been erected at three or more entrances to an intersection, **the driver, after stopping in obedience thereto, may proceed with caution.**

It was the recommendation of the Police Department to place two new stop signs at each of the intersections of South Byrd Street (Maryland Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and South Avenue) for eastbound and westbound traffic, making the intersections each a four-way stop.



AN ORDINANCE REGULATING TRAFFIC ON SOUTH BYRD STREET
AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF MARYLAND AVENUE, DELAWARE AVENUE, AND SOUTH AVENUE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, pursuant to authority granted by N.C.G.S. § 160A-301 that:

Section 1 – The City Council of the City of Eden has determined that in order to ensure pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic safety, four (4) way stops shall be created at the intersections of South Byrd Street at Maryland Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and South Avenue.

Section 2 – Two new stop signs shall be placed, erected or installed along Maryland Avenue at its intersection with South Byrd Street directing traffic travelling east and west to stop before proceeding through the intersection.

Section 3 – Two new stop signs shall be placed, erected or installed along Delaware Avenue at its intersection with South Byrd Street directing traffic travelling east and west to stop before proceeding through the intersection.

Section 4 – Two new stop signs shall be placed, erected or installed along South Avenue at its intersection with South Byrd Street directing traffic travelling east and west to stop before proceeding through the intersection.

Section 5 – The OFFICIAL TRAFFIC MAP of the City of Eden is hereby amended to conform with this Ordinance.

Section 6 – All ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Approved, Adopted, and Effective, this 21st day of July, 2020.

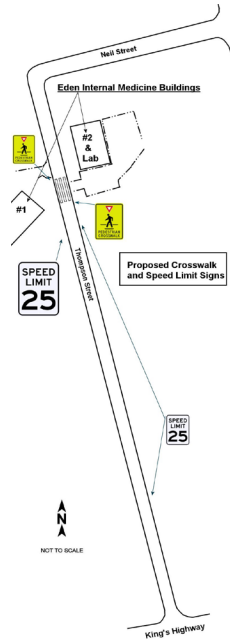
CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- d. Approval and adoption of ordinances to reduce the speed limit and to create a crosswalk on Thompson Street.

Sgt. Robertson wrote in a memo that in March, the Police Department received a request for a traffic study in reference to reducing the speed limit and establishing a crosswalk on Thompson Street by former Police Chief Greg Light. At the time of the request, Planet Fitness had just opened and an increased flow of traffic began to pervade the area as Thompson Street became a “shortcut” for motorists traveling from Van Buren Road to King’s Highway/Kingsway Plaza. Also of concern, Eden Internal Medicine had two buildings on opposite sides of Thompson Street and patients/employees would tend to walk from one side of the street to the other on a frequent basis. Although traffic flow had diminished due to COVID-19 restrictions, it could be anticipated that the traffic flow would return once restrictions were lifted. It was the recommendation of the Police Department to reduce the speed limit on Thompson Street from thirty-five (35) MPH to twenty-five (25) MPH and to establish a pedestrian crosswalk across Thompson Street in the vicinity of Eden Internal Medicine.



AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CROSSWALK ON THOMPSON STREET

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, pursuant to authority granted by N.C.G.S. § 160A-300 that:

Section 1 – The City Council of the City of Eden has determined that in order to ensure pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic safety a crosswalk shall be established on Thompson Street extending in an eastwardly and westwardly direction across Thompson Street. The crosswalk shall be seventy-five (75) feet wide from north to south and shall be centered on the driveway to the Eden Internal Medicine #2 Building and Lab located on the east shoulder of Thompson Street.

Section 2 – The location and boundaries of the crosswalk shall be marked on the pavement of Thompson Street.

Section 3 – Signs shall be placed, erected or installed north and south of the crosswalk on the east and west sides of Thompson Street giving notice to vehicles traveling north and south on Thompson Street that they are required to yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing the roadway within the marked crosswalk.

Section 4 – It shall be an infraction for the operator of a motor vehicle traveling north or south on Thompson Street to fail to yield the right of way to any pedestrian within the marked crosswalk.

Section 5 – The OFFICIAL TRAFFIC MAP of the City of Eden is hereby amended to conform with this Ordinance.

Section 6 – All ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Approved, Adopted, and Effective, this 21st day of July, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

AN ORDINANCE REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON THOMPSON STREET FROM
W. KING'S HIGHWAY NORTHWARD TO NEIL STREET

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, pursuant to authority granted by N.C.G.S. § 20-141(e) that:

Section 1 – The City Council of the City of Eden has determined that operation of a motor vehicle Thirty-Five (35) miles per hour on Thompson Street from W. King’s Highway northward to Neil Street is greater than is reasonable and safe under the conditions existing upon Thompson Street from W. King’s Highway northward to Neil Street.

Section 2 – Operating a motor vehicle on Thompson Street from W. King’s Highway northward to Neil Street in excess of Twenty-Five (25) miles per hour shall be enforceable in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 20-141.

Section 3 – Signs shall be placed, erected or installed on each side of Thompson Street from W. King’s Highway northward to Neil Street giving notice of the speed limit to traffic traveling in each direction on said road.

Section 4 – The OFFICIAL TRAFFIC MAP of the City of Eden is hereby amended to conform with this Ordinance.

Section 5 – All ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Approved, Adopted, and Effective, this 21st day of July, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- e. Approval to amend the 2020-21 Grade and Positions to include a full-time Information Technician.

This item was moved to New Business (10c) to allow for clarification of the item.

- f. Approval to award the annual wood grinding contract to Williams Logging & Chipping.

Mr. Curry wrote in a memo that the Solid Waste Division typically solicited for the annual Wood Grinding Contract to grind and haul away all of the wood debris into mulch that was collected from around the City throughout the year. Bids were received for this project in June from the following vendors: Williams Logging & Chipping - \$67,000.00; A-1 Sandrock Inc. - \$67,500.00; and Timberland Mulch & Farms - \$116,000.00. It was the recommendation of the Solid Waste Division that the contract be awarded to Williams Logging & Chipping.

- g. Approval of a position classification change in Planning & Inspections.

This item was removed from the agenda to allow discussion be held first with the new City Manager in regards to changes in positions and classifications.

- h. Approval of a Storm Staging Area Agreement at Freedom Park with Duke Energy.

Parks and Recreation Director Johnny Farmer wrote in a memo that the City of Eden was approached by Duke Energy to use the overflow parking lot at Freedom Park as a ‘storm staging area’ to restore electrical power resulting from storm damage. City staff, as well as the City Attorney, reviewed the agreement and did not foresee any problem entering into the agreement. Duke Energy has always been a very valuable corporate citizen and had partnered with the City in activities in the past. This would be another working relationship between the City of Eden and Duke Energy, striving to provide the best possible services to the citizens of Eden and surrounding areas. It was the recommendation of City staff to enter into the Storm Staging Area Agreement with Duke Energy for use of the overflow parking lot at Freedom Park.

- i. Approval of a proposed booster pump station replacement by Dan River Water, Inc., off Mt. Carmel Church Road.

Director of Engineering Bev O'Dell wrote in a memo that Mike Lemons, Utility Supervisor for Dan River Water, Inc., requested City Council grant approval for the proposed replacement of the booster pump station located on the east side of Mount Carmel Church Road, near the intersection with Hampton Road. Preliminary plans for the project were prepared by William E. Mitchell Associates. Approval of the proposed improvement was requested in accordance with the water purchase agreement between the City of Eden and Dan River Water, Inc. The improvements were intended to replace aging equipment and improve the reliability of delivering water to existing Dan River Water, Inc. customers. The new pump station building would be located north of the existing booster pump station, and northeast of their existing 250,000 gallon standpipe. It was recommended by Mr. O'Dell that the proposed replacement of the Dan River Water, Inc. facility off of Mt. Carmel Church Road be allowed to take place.

- j. Approval and adoption of a resolution in support of applying to the N.C. Department of Commerce Rural Division for approval of a Building Reuse Grant to benefit Hutchens Holdings.

Director of Economic Development Mike Dougherty wrote in a memo that Ron Hutchens, CEO of Night Owl National Contractors, had purchased the Eden Mall property. Initially, he planned to rehabilitate the roof, paint the exterior, and clean up the exterior foliage. His latter plans included a new fabrication facility and space for professional companies with no retail being planned for the facility. The property was purchased under the entity, Hutchens Holdings. The City of Eden will seek a NC Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant to help defray the upfit costs of the fabrication facility that will include considerable investment, as well as jobs. The resolution is in support of the grant application that will be submitted in October for consideration by the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority in December.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPLYING TO THE
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RURAL DIVISION
FOR APPROVAL OF A BUILDING REUSE GRANT TO BENEFIT HUTCHENS HOLDINGS

WHEREAS, the Eden City Council has previously indicated its desire to assist in economic development efforts within the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Eden City Council wishes the City to pursue a formal application with the N.C. Department of Commerce Rural Division Building Reuse funding to benefit Hutchens Holdings and will invest monies in the amount of 5 percent of the grant amount (up to \$25,000) toward proposed renovations as committed to the application; and,

WHEREAS, the Eden City Council certifies it will meet all statutory requirements of the Program,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Eden City Council that:

Upon receipt of the Grant Agreement for the 2020 Building Reuse Project by the N.C. Department of Commerce Rural Division, the Eden Mayor and/or City Manager are hereby authorized to proceed with the execution of documents and return them to the funding agencies in the interest of proceeding with the grant execution.

The Eden Mayor and/or City Manager are hereby authorized to execute daily grant related documentation which includes documentation such as the grant agreement, general correspondence between the City and the proposed business and/or the funding agency (as necessary). Any documentation which reflects a change in the original scope of work and/or amendment related activities must be brought before the Eden City Council for approval.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Eden City Council that the City of Eden is authorized to submit a formal application to the N.C. Department of Commerce Rural Division for approval of a Building Reuse Grant to benefit Hutchens Holdings.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2020 in Eden, N.C.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- k. Approval and adoption of a resolution and agreement for NC 401(k) and NC 457 plans.

Assistant Director of Finance Amy Winn wrote in a memo that as a part of the new City Manager's contract, Council agreed to make available to the employees of the City of Eden, the NC 457 Plan administered by Prudential. The plan does not require the City to make any contributions to the plan, but would be available for employees to make contributions to.

RESOLUTION FOR NC PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DEFERRED
COMPENSATION PLAN – NC 457 TO BE AVAILABLE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the City of Eden wishes to provide a qualified defined contribution plan to the employees of the City of Eden.

AND WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has established the North Carolina Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan, a qualified governmental Deferred Compensation Plan under Internal Revenue Code § 457(b) for public employees of North Carolina.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Eden has adopted the North Carolina Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan also known as NC Deferred Comp. under the terms of the Plan Document and the Third-Party Administrator Agreement. All employees shall become eligible to defer compensation immediately.

Signed this 21st day of July, 2020.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

A copy of the NC 401(k) plan agreement is on file in the Clerk's office.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall thanked those watching the Council meeting via livestream and for staying involved by reaching out with questions or concerns.

Council Member Ellis stated his appreciation to Chief Simpson for his police officers who were commended for their involvement in the fire rescue of Luke Lily and stated he was glad for the family as well.

CLOSED SESSION:

- a. To discuss economic development pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).

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

Minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

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