

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:	Wayne Tuggle, Sr.
Council Members:	Donna Turner
	Jim Burnette
	Angela Hampton
	Jerry Epps
	Darryl Carter
	Neville Hall
	Jerry Ellis
City Manager:	Brad Corcoran
City Clerk:	Sheralene Thompson
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley

Representatives from Departments:	
News Media:	Katie Mann, Eden News, Jody Lawrence, Eden News and Roy Sawyers, RCENO

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Tuggle called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He explained that the Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and works from a prepared agenda; however, time would be set aside for business not on the printed agenda.

INVOCATION:

Mr. Wayne Parleir, Pastor, Meadowview Methodist Church, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS & PROCLAMATIONS:

- a. Proclamation: MS Awareness Week.

Mayor Tuggle read the following proclamation in recognition of MS Awareness Week.

**A PROCLAMATION
2014 MS AWARENESS WEEK**

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease of the central nervous system, affecting 2.3 Million people worldwide, and each hour someone is newly diagnosed; and

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WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Greater Carolinas Chapter reports that in our state more than 10,000 people are diagnosed with MS, and that the disease generally strikes people in the prime of life, between ages 20 through 50, and causes unpredictable effects in which the progression, severity and specific symptoms cannot be foreseen, and the cause and cure for this often debilitating disease remain unknown; and

WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Greater Carolinas Chapter has been committed for years to a world free of MS, heightening public knowledge about and insight into the disease; and

WHEREAS, Since 1946 the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been a driving force of MS research, relentlessly pursuing prevention, treatment and a cure and has invested more than 771 million dollars in groundbreaking research; and

WHEREAS, Funds raised through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society fuel the efforts of nearly 325 research projects globally totaling 40 million dollars annually at the best medical centers, universities and other institutions throughout the United States and abroad. Because of this MS research has never been more hopeful than it is today; and

WHEREAS, discovering the cause, finding a cure, and preventing future generations from being diagnosed with MS is an important task that all Americans and North Carolinians should support; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden recognizes the importance of finding the cause and cure of MS, a chronic and often devastating disease, and expresses its appreciation and admiration for the dedication that the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Greater Carolinas Chapter has shown toward a future free of MS;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the great State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 3-9, 2014 as MS Awareness Week, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens. I encourage all citizens of Eden to learn more about multiple sclerosis and what they can do to support individuals with MS and their families.

By: Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor
City of Eden

b. Proclamation: Black History Month

Mayor Tuggle read the following proclamation in recognition of Black History Month.

**A PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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

WHEREAS, established by American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the original celebration of Black History Week was observed on February 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded to a month; and

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WHEREAS, each February we pause to reflect on the contributions of the African-American community to our national and local identity, and Black History Month gives us an opportunity to learn more about this important part of our nation's story; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate Black History Month, we recognize the many contributions of African Americans to our country and recommit to being a nation of opportunity and hope for every citizen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor of the City of Eden, hereby designate the month of February be set aside as

Black History Month

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of February, 2014.

By: Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

c. Proclamation: Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Tuggle read the following proclamation in recognition of Cancer Awareness Month.

A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL AS CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, cancer, the term used for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and are able to invade other tissues. Cancer is not just one disease but many diseases. There are more than 100 different types of cancer; and

WHEREAS, cancer care consists of treatment for cancer symptoms or side effects that affect quality of life. Care given to help patients cope with these symptoms or side effects is called supportive care; and

WHEREAS, private homes, traditional hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living and physicians' offices provide care for cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, cancer patients rely on the skills, knowledge and expertise of skilled professionals, who uphold a long tradition of improving the comfort and care of cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, awareness is the first step toward advancing research and improving funding to identify causes and facilitate prevention, early detection, effective treatment and a cure for this disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor of the City of Eden, hereby designate the month of April be set aside as

Cancer Awareness Month

in Eden, North Carolina, and I call upon all citizens of Eden to become more aware of cancer and to support efforts to assist our neighbors that are fighting this horrific disease on a daily basis.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of February, 2014.

By: Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

d. Proclamation: Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

Mayor Tuggle read the following proclamation in recognition of Spay and Neuter Awareness Month.

**A PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING FEBRUARY AS SPAY AND NEUTER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, pets provide companionship to more than 71,000,000 households in the United States; and

WHEREAS, animal shelters have to put down more than four million cats, dogs, and other animals each year, many of whom are healthy and adoptable, due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, this tragic overpopulation of pets costs citizens and taxpayers of this country millions of dollars annually through animal service programs aimed at coping with the millions of homeless animals; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering has been shown to dramatically reduce the overpopulation of pets and feral cats, proving to be a wise investment in saving animal lives and taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Rockingham County Humane Society provides the opportunity for residents to have their cats, dogs, kittens and puppies spayed or neutered at a low-cost clinic held monthly and the organization spays or neuters all pets they take in before allowing them to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Rockingham County Humane Society is funded by donations and volunteers and City of Eden employees and the Youth Council are holding a pet supply drive for the unwanted cats, dogs, kittens, puppies, birds and small mammals currently in the care of the Rockingham County Humane Society,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor of the City of Eden, hereby designate the month of February be set aside as

Spay and Neuter Awareness Month

in the City of Eden and encourage all residents to have their pet spayed or neutered and to support the Rockingham County Humane Society through donations or volunteering.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of February, 2014.

By: Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

SET MEETING AGENDA:

A motion was made by Council Member Epps seconded by Council Member Hampton to set the agenda. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. Public Hearing on Potential Community Development Block Grant Applications.

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Mayor Tuggle declared the public hearing open and asked Mr. Mike Dougherty, Director of Business & Economic Development, to come forward.

Mr. Dougherty explained that the City of Eden, like other non-entitlement cities in North Carolina, competes for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. This funding can be used for housing rehabilitation, clearance, relocation, infrastructure improvements and recreational improvements, water and sewer projects and economic development projects. All of these various kinds of projects are designed to offer assistance to low and moderate income residents of our community.

As the time for application approaches, they are required to hold a public hearing. This is a requirement of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. By including all of the various types of projects, they hope to position their community to gain the most funding possible where it is needed the most.

He noted that there was no action required, he had requested this time in the February Eden City Council meeting to conduct the initial public hearing.

Mayor Tuggle asked if there were any questions. He then asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or in opposition of this request. As no one came forward to speak he then declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Carter seconded by Council Member Hall to accept this request. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

No one spoke at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Boards and Commissions Appointments.

Nominations:

Ward 1 Planning Board – Eddie Barker
Ward 1 Community Appearance – Ann Fair

Ward 5 Planning Board – Amelia Dallas

Ward 6 Community Appearance – Sylvia Grogan
Ward 6 Tree Board – Mike Ayers

ETJ Board of Adjustment – David Everett

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A motion was made by Council Member Ellis seconded by Council Member Hall to approve the nominations of Eddie Barker (Planning Board), Ann Fair (Community Appearance), Amelia Dallas (Planning Board), Sylvia Grogan (Community Appearance), Mike Ayers (Tree Board) and David Everett (Board of Adjustment). All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of Administrative Policy HR-20.

Last month City Council enacted an amendment to the retiree health insurance. In an effort to administratively proceed with this provision, staff feels that a policy will help guide retirees and staff through the process. I have drafted an administrative policy that will provide retirees a way to be notified before termination of insurance coverage. In addition, this policy places an obligation on retirees to provide verification to City staff from the Social Security Administration that they are choosing to postpone their Social Security Benefits until being eligible to receive 100% of those benefits and remain on City insurance.

Staff recommends approval of this policy at your February 18th meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if you should have any questions or concerns.

Ms. Erin Gilley, City Attorney, explained that this was HR-20 which was basically an administrative policy that will help the city staff be able to enact the changes to the retirement policy (*ordinance*) that was amended last month. This basically allowed HR to give the retiree's notice when they are approaching their 65th birthday and it also obliges the retirees to give notice to the city as well. So, the staff's recommendation was for the City Council to approve this policy.

A motion was made by Council Member Burnette seconded by Council Member Carter to accept and approve the administrative policy HR-20. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. Parks & Recreation Report to the City Council.

Mayor Tuggle asked Mr. Johnny Farmer, Director of Parks & Recreation to come forward for the presentation.

Mr. Farmer presented a PowerPoint presentation to the City Council. He began by introducing each member of his staff and explained their responsibilities.

He then mentioned that they have 17 facilities. He noted that Bridge Street, Mill Avenue, Freedom Park and the Garden of Eden Center were really the four major facilities where a lot of the activities take place.

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Mayor Tuggle pointed out that by laying out the 17 facilities people really did not realize how many places they have in Eden for people to go.

Mr. Farmer agreed and noted that at any given day, if you go to one of those facilities, someone was going to be there. He stated that Freedom Park was actually the hub and in 2013 they had 51 events scheduled at Freedom Park. They had 41 baseball and softball tournaments scheduled, 8 concerts in the park, 2 city-wide festivals and they also hosted the North Carolina Dixie Youth Baseball tournament. He noted that the Dixie Youth tournament alone probably had an economic impact of about \$350,000 to \$500,000. Teams are there for about 7 days, staying in the hotels and visiting the restaurants and other business establishments. He added that he was happy to say that they would be hosting another Dixie Youth tournament in 2014.

Mayor Tuggle pointed out that for 51 weekend events; they were there almost every weekend.

Mr. Farmer explained that when he said 51 weekend events there may be more than one event on the weekend. He explained that normally there was about 40 weeks that they actually have tournaments down there and then there may be a concert in the park scheduled (at the same time).

Mayor Tuggle clarified that his point was that whether it was 40 or 51 they still had a lot of staff putting in a lot of hours.

Mr. Farmer agreed and stated that speaking of that, Freedom Park from the middle part of April through November, the staff was there normally on Monday through Sunday. He added that was what it was there for, it was not only there for citizens but it was also used by people not from the city to spend those extra dollars.

He then presented a listing of their programs and activities that included: 27 Recreation Programs, 22 Senior Citizen activities. He explained that another thing that was important, they try to track visits and the staff gives him a weekly report of estimates for the number of visits that take place at a number of the facilities. He noted that data for yearly participation visits included: Bridge Street 137,400, Mill Avenue 116,100, Freedom Park 329,100, Garden of Eden Center 26,800, Mill Avenue Pool 4,465 and facility rentals 14,185. That was a total of 628,050 visits (a year) and 52,337 on a monthly average, with 12,077 for a weekly average.

Mr. Farmer pointed out that they could imagine that was a lot of visits and when they realize there was only 8 full-time staff members in the Parks & Recreation Department, the reason they were able to really accommodate this number of visits was because of the volunteers. He noted that just with the Haunted Trail, they have hundreds of people who normally volunteer for that event and that event generates between \$8,000 to \$9,000 a year which comes right back to the city to help them provide programs for their children at no cost. He also pointed out that they were the only city in the state that did not charge its youth to participate and that not only says something great about their Mayor and Council

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and what the city does, that also helps to decrease the criminal element in their community because they are keeping their children busy by giving them that opportunity to be out there among positive role models.

Mr. Farmer closed by stating that Parks & Recreation played a major role in helping enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Eden, and played a role in helping the local economy through the programs and services offered at Freedom Park and other recreational facilities located throughout the City. He stated that staff was very proud of the programs, services and facilities that the City makes available to its citizens. He added that the staff was very happy and excited about working with the Mayor and City Council in providing quality programs, services and facilities that help enhance the quality of life of our citizens.

Council Member Burnette questioned how he tracked those participation numbers.

Mr. Farmer explained that he turned in a weekly report to the City Manager each week and on that report was a number of folks that they guestimate visits Bridge Street or Freedom Park. He then calculated the 52 weeks from January 1 to December 31 to come up with those numbers. This was something they do each week.

Council Member Burnette stated that when you look at the Freedom Park number there and just imagine where it was before Freedom Park and now that shows there was a lot going on. He stated that if you tracked it over a period of 8 to 10 years, it would be interesting to find what that participation actually does as he would bet it has probably increased over those years.

Mr. Farmer replied that Freedom Park was up about 100,000 from 2008 and that was due to really pushing the tournaments. He added however that now, everybody in the state was building these types of complexes because they were seeing the great things that they do by bringing people into the community and having that positive economic impact.

Mayor Tuggle asked if he would say that was all the more reason that they need to stay abreast of having new facilities and bringing more people to town and economic development. He stated that it was obvious what Freedom Park has done. They do have some old antiquated facilities that maybe they need to update or do some things or consolidate, especially for their seniors and young people, for them to really stay viable and competitive with other communities. Really, to stay ahead was what he wanted to do.

Mr. Farmer explained that what was happening in most communities, they were building larger indoor complexes to try to centralize everything so they have everything in one large area so that they can make sure that they have staffing. He explained that you did not have to really hire additional staff if you have a large facility, but one of the things that businesses look at when they come to town and Mr. Dougherty (Business & Economic Development Director) would probably agree, they look at the type of investment that the town was making in its community for citizens and visitors and the newer facilities provide programs for seniors, health and wellness, basketball and other sports related programs, it

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was really a community hub, a central gathering place where everyone can come together and do everything there. Those were the type of facilities you see being developed, not just in North Carolina but all across the country. They were building 30,000 to 50,000 square feet indoor facilities so they can house everything in one area. He explained that it helped cut down on the cost and they could still keep their satellite facilities to meet the needs in the neighborhoods but when they did that they did not have to provide 8 or 10 hours a day at those satellite facilities.

Mayor Tuggle asked that if they ever did discuss building a facility did he think it would certainly be an economic incentive for businesses to come here if they knew that they tried to make those facilities to deal with every part of the community as well as the business or industrial community because they have days that they need to host workshops and they would use those facilities. He asked if they did that in a lot of places.

Mr. Farmer replied that they did and they have Gildan and MillerCoors using their facilities now for those type things. He added that however that a lot of times it may be already booked by someone else when they want to use it so if they had additional space in a facility it would be good for their corporate folks to be able to provide a location where they could come in and do that. He also added that they could also do mini conferences and things like that to bring in different types of venues for their community.

Mayor Tuggle stated that they certainly appreciated the presentation and had learned even more.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and Adoption of Minutes: January 21, 2014.
- b. Consideration and Approval of Request to Approve a 2014 Lawncare Services Contractor.

The Environmental Services Department solicited bids for the Lawncare Services for the facilities in the Water Plant, Wastewater Treatment, and the Collection & Distribution Divisions. The bid was advertised in the newspaper and we directly contacted as many local contractors as we could find contact information for them. Bid documents and bid specification were made available to all interested parties. A tour of the sites to be mowed was provided for potential bidder upon request.

Sealed Bids were received on January 23rd in the City Clerk's Office. The table below shows the results of the bids.

	Contractor	Bid
1	Tredway Lawn Care	\$13,809.00
2	Johnston Nursery and Landscape	\$17,780.00
3	Dickson Lawn Care	\$18,090.00

Each of the three bidders were responsive to our bid requirements and specifications in the bid.

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The staff recommends to the Council that Tredway Lawn Care, the low bidder be awarded with our contract Lawncare Service for the 2014 season. Tredway Lawn Care was praised by each of his references for the quality of service delivered. They have clients in the residential, commercial, and governmental categories.

c. Approval and Adoption of Renewal of the Resolution of Consideration.

**RESOLUTION OF CONSIDERATION
A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING THE AREA DESCRIBED HEREIN AS
BEING UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR ANNEXATION AND NOTIFICATION
TO CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS OF THEIR RIGHTS TO DELAYED ANNEXATION OF
QUALIFIED PROPERTIES**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eden that:

Section 1. Pursuant to G.S. 160A-49(i), the following described area is hereby identified as being under consideration for future annexation by the City of Eden, under the provisions of Chapter 160A, Article 4A, Part 3 of the General Statutes of North Carolina:

All those parcels of land identified on the map entitled "Resolution of Consideration Areas" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Owners of agricultural land, horticultural land and forestland within the area under consideration of annexation as described in Section 1 above are hereby notified that they may have rights to a delayed effective date of annexation. G.S. 160A-49(f1) and (f2) provide that land being taxed at present-use value qualifies for delayed annexation, and land that is eligible for present-use value taxation but which has not been in actual production for the time period required by G.S. 105-277.3 may qualify for delayed annexation by making application to the Rockingham County Tax Assessor for certification. For qualified tracts, the annexation will not become effective for most purposes until the last day of the month in which the tract or part thereof becomes ineligible for present-use value classification under G.S. 105-227.4 or no longer meets the requirements of G.S. 160A-49(f1)(2). Until annexation of a tract becomes effective, the tract will not be taxed by the City of Eden and will not be entitled to services from the City of Eden.

Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the City of Eden Clerk.

Section 4. This Resolution shall remain effective as provided by G.S. 160A-49(i).

Adopted this 18th day of February, 2014.

CITY OF EDEN
BY:
Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

d. Approval and Adoption of Amendment to 16-232 Services Inside Corporate Limits.

We have prepared an amendment to § 16-232 of the City Code. Attached you will find a copy of the proposed ordinance. We have included the proposed language in red font.

Currently the City charges an extra water and sewer flat rate charge when there is more than one residence or a business on a residential property. In addition, we charge any commercial property that contains more than one business on the property an additional flat fee per business. This is applied to those properties that have one meter that measures the usage for all occupants.

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Staff believes that in order clarify any ambiguity in the City's authority, the following amendment needs to be enacted. We have amended the ordinance to include Section D as shown on your attachment. No change in billing will take place due to this amendment.

Please consider this amendment at your February 18th meeting and please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if you should have any questions or concerns

e. Approval and Adoption of Amendments to the Personnel Ordinance.

Attached are the amendments to the personnel ordinance that have previously been shared with the Mayor and members of City Council. The feedback concerning these changes has been very positive.

Once these amendments are approved Ms. Sheralene Thompson, CMC, City Clerk will update the applicable code sections.

A motion was made by unanimous consent to approve the Consent Agenda items. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Turner thanked the city crews for the clean-up during the winter storm.

Council Member Ellis wished the Morehead High School Wrestling Team good luck as they go to the state championship match.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by unanimous consent to adjourn. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted

Sheralene S. Thompson,
CMC, MMC, NCCMC
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Wayne Tuggle, Sr., Mayor