CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor: (absent) Wayne Tuggle, Sr.

Council Members: Bernie Moore

Jim Burnette Angela Hampton

Jerry Epps
Darryl Carter
Neville Hall
Jerry Ellis

City Manager: Brad Corcoran

City Clerk: Sheralene Thompson

City Attorney: Erin Gilley
Deputy City Clerk: Deanna Hunt

Representatives from Departments:

News Media: Gerri Hunt, Eden News

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette 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 6:00 p.m. and works from a prepared agenda; however, time would be set aside for business not on the printed agenda.

INVOCATION:

Mr. Jerry Ellis, Eden City Council, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette read the following proclamation recognizing National Manufacturing Day.

a. National Manufacturing Day Proclamation.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 6, 2017 "NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY" IN THE CITY OF EDEN

WHEREAS, National Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, National Manufacturing Day will be recognized with several events commemorating area manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, approximately 130 manufacturing companies located throughout Eden and Rockingham County provide well-paying manufacturing jobs for employees and contribute to broad-based prosperity; and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden and Rockingham Community College work with local industries to maximize success through quality workforce training; and

WHEREAS, one of the keys to America's greatness is its ability to make things, to devise and develop new products from the ingenuity and skill of manufacturers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eden City Council does hereby proclaim October 6, 2017 as "National Manufacturing Day" in the City of Eden in recognition and appreciation to the many manufacturing companies of our community.

This the 19th day of September, 2017.

Jim Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem

b. Constitution Week Proclamation.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette read the following proclamation in recognition of Constitution Week. Ms. Ginny Jones was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the DAR.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, the guardian of our liberties, is a product of reflection and choice, embodying the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law, not by men; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2017 marks the two hundred thirtieth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic exercises that will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,

NOW, THEREFORE I, James Burnette as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Eden do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as

CONSTITUTION WEEK

And urge all citizens to study the Constitution, and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Eden to be affixed this 19th day of September of the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen.

Signed,

James Burnette

Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

Sheralene Thompson, City Clerk

SET MEETING AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. (1) Consideration of a zoning map amendment request and adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the rear portion of 1126 Trogdon Drive and 2 adjoining parcels from Residential 20 to Office & Institutional. Request submitted by William Lee Turner, Property Owner. The request was amended by the Planning Board to include 1150 Klyce Street and adjoining properties owned by the City of Eden. ZONING CASE Z-17-04.
 - (2) Consideration of a Resolution adopting a statement of consistency regarding the rezoning of the rear portion of 1126 Trogdon Drive and 2 adjoining parcels from Residential 20 to Office & Institutional. Request submitted by William Lee Turner, Property Owner. The request was amended by the Planning Board to include 1150 Klyce Street and adjoining properties owned by the City of Eden.

The City has received a zoning map amendment request filed by William Lee Turner, Property Owner, to rezone the rear portion of 1126 Trogdon Drive and 2 adjoining parcels from Residential – 20 to Office and Institutional.

The Planning and Inspections Department recommends approval of the map amendment request as amended to include the City of Eden Public Works property at 1050 Klyce Street, a portion of the City of Eden property known as 1039 West Avenue and eight (8) vacant lots off of Klyce Street to be rezoned from Residential-20 and Residential-12 to Office and Institutional.

At their August 22, 2017, regular meeting, the Planning Board voted to recommend that the City Council approve this request as amended to include the additional parcels and adopt a Resolution Adopting A Statement of Consistency Regarding the Proposed Amendment. The additional parcels are to be rezoned from Residential-20 and Residential-12 to Office and Institutional.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette called for a public hearing and asked Ms. Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning & Inspections to come forward.

Ms. Stultz explained that the request is to rezone approximately 1.3 acres from Residential-20 to Office and Institutional. The R-20 residential district is established as a district in which the principal use of the land is for single-family residences. The regulations of this district are intended to protect existing residential areas with minimum lot sizes of 20,000 square feet and to encourage, in selected portions of the incorporated area, the subdivision of undeveloped property into lots with a minimum of 20,000 square feet. The O & I district is established primarily for office and institutional uses which have only limited contact with the general public and which have no offensive noises, odors, smoke, fumes, and other objectionable conditions. As residences are

permitted in this district and as the district is usually adjacent to residential districts, provisions are made for yards, off-street parking and off-street loading areas.

The subject parcel is located in an established residential neighborhood. The first parcel (1126 Trogdon Dr.) is proposed to be subdivided from the larger lot containing a single-family residence. This proposed parcel contains a private woodworking and gardening shed. The two vacant parcels are located behind and adjacent to this parcel and the City of Eden Public Works facility. They are also adjacent to other single-family residential lots. These three parcels are proposed to be combined into one new parcel (see Parcel B, attached survey).

Staff is of the opinion that O & I zoning would be appropriate for these parcels, since the O & I district also allows for and is compatible with single-family residential development. However, staff also recommends that the adjoining City property and a small cemetery within the City property, currently zoned R-20 and R-12, also be rezoned to O & I, so as not to create a "spot zoning" situation. Also this would eliminate the current split-zoning condition on the City property. Another adjoining portion of the City property is currently zoned R-12, therefore staff believes it would be appropriate to rezone all of the City property at this location to O & I.

Therefore, staff recommends in favor of amending the rezoning request to include rezoning of the following City property from R-20 and R-12 to O & I:

1050 Klyce St. (Public Works property) PIN #7979-1313-6749, Parcel #136531

The R-12 portion of PIN #7979-1324-1653, Parcel #136540

Cemetery PIN #7979-1313-2511, Parcel #136529

Eight lots off of Klyce St: PIN #7979-1303-9925, Parcel #138511

PIN #7979-1303-0926, Parcel #138513

PIN #7979-1313-1928, Parcel #138550

PIN #7979-1314-2012, Parcel #138552

PIN #7979-1303-9775, Parcel #138510

PIN #7979-1313-0776, Parcel #138512

PIN #7979-1313-1767, Parcel #138549

PIN #7979-1313-2769, Parcel #138551

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or in opposition of this request. As no one came forward to speak, he declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the zoning map amendment request and adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the rear portion of 1126 Trogdon Drive and 2 adjoining parcels from Residential – 20 to Office & Institutional and a resolution adopting a statement of consistency regarding the rezoning of the rear portion of 1126 Trogdon Drive and 2 adjoining parcels from Residential-20 to Office & Institutional. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY REGARDING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE

CITY OF EDEN ZONING ORDINANCE CASE NUMBER Z-17-04 MAP 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 of Eden Planning Board received a request to rezone the rear portion of the property known as 1126 Trogdon Drive and adjoining vacant lots identified as Parcel No. 138559 and 138558;

WHEREAS, On August 22, 2017, the City of Eden Planning Board voted to recommend changes to the Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend the zoning map request to rezone the rear portion of the property known as 1126 Trogdon Drive and adjoining vacant lots identified as Parcel No. 138559 and 138558 by adding adjoining City property and a small cemetery within the City property, currently zoned R-20 and R-12, also be rezoned to O & I.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Staff is of the opinion that O & I zoning would be appropriate for these parcels, since the O & I district also allows for and is compatible with single-family residential development. However, staff also recommends that the adjoining City property and a small cemetery within the City property, currently zoned R-20 and R-12, also be rezoned to O & I, so as not to create a "spot zoning" situation. Also this would eliminate the current split-zoning condition on the City property. Another adjoining portion of the City property is currently zoned R-12, therefore staff believes it would be appropriate to rezone all of the City property at this location to O & I. Therefore, staff recommends in favor of amending the rezoning request to include rezoning of the City property from R-20 and R-12 to O & I.

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 zoning map amendment, as amended to include the adjoining City property and a small cemetery within the City property, 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 amendments to the Zoning Ordinance are reasonable and in the public interest.

Approved and adopted and effective this 19th day of September, 2017.

CITY OF EDEN

BY:

Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST: Sheralene Thompson, CMC City Clerk

b. Consideration and Approval of General Fund Street Resurfacing Projects Financing and Adoption of Resolution.

The City needs to proceed with private placement financing for the Street Resurfacing Projects.

On July 20, 2017, a Request for Proposals was sent out to several banks. BB&T Governmental Finance was the only bank to submit a proposal.

The installment purchase financing is preferable due to the reasonable upfront cost, and the shorter time frame to complete. BB&T Governmental Finance has met all contract specifications. The sums to fall due under the contract are adequate and not excessive for the proposed purpose because the payments are amortized over 15 years at an interest rate not to exceed 2.63%, yielding annual payment of \$90,075.07. It is anticipated that the payments will be paid through general fund revenues.

The Local Government Commission requires the Governing Body to approve and adopt a Findings Resolution relating to the proposed contract. The resolution authorizes the Finance Officer to act on behalf of the City of Eden in filing an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission for approval of the project and the proposed financing contract and other actions not inconsistent with this resolution.

Given all the different criteria, it is staff's recommendation that Council approve and adopt the BB&T Governmental Finance Agreement along with the Findings Resolution.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette called for a public hearing and asked Ms. Tammie McMichael, Director of Finance and Human Resources to come forward.

Ms. McMichael explained that in the 2017-2018 budget the City Council approved a new line item \$1,100,000 for street resurfacing projects and they needed to proceed with the financing. On July 20th 2017, staff sent out a request for proposal electronically to eight (8) banks. She pointed out that Local Government Commission requires that they request proposals from three (3). She explained

that this has been the city's practice in the past and they have just recently learned that one of the banks did not receive the RFP due to the fact that the contact person on record had retired. They did not receive any undeliverable responses when it was sent out and they only received one proposal from BB&T Governmental Finance. The purpose of the public hearing tonight was for consideration of the offer from BB&T Governmental Financing's response to the city's request for proposals for installment financing agreement pursuant to the North Carolina General Statute Section 160-A 120 and the principal amount of \$1,100,000 for the purpose of financing the cost of street resurfacing projects and a finance resolution related to the proposed contract. BB&T Governmental Financing has met all of the specifications and staff believed that they have presented a fair interest rate and it was staff's recommendation that the City Council approve and adopt the BB&T Governmental Financing agreement along with the resolution.

Council Member Carter asked her to reiterate that she had sent it out to eight (8) banks, max to which Ms. McMichael replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of this request. He then asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition.

Mr. Michael Hutchinson, 612 John Street, asked if by getting one response back from one bank, BB&T, was not that a conflict of interest. With a member setting on the board.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette asked if that was his only question.

Mr. Hutchinson replied that was his only question. He felt like when there eight banks there should have been more than one to come back.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette explained that first, just as Ms. McMichael had said, they were required to solicit three (3) bids, they solicited eight (8) and they only got one (1) back. He added that they did get one other one who had said they chose not to bid on this because they did not want to use the streets as collateral. That may have been part of the problem, with the others not wanting to bid on it but it was not totally unusual to get one or two bids back. He then stated that he would turn it over to the City Attorney to let her address the conflict of interest that he was concerned about.

City Attorney, Erin Gilley, explained that according to the city's conflict of interest policy and according to the North Carolina General Statutes conflict of interest policy, there was no conflict of interest.

Mr. Hutchinson asked if he could see a copy of that policy.

Ms. Gilley explained that it was in the city's code book and she could get....to which Mr. Hutchinson stated that he would like to get a copy of that policy. Ms. Gilley explained that she could get that to him.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette pointed out that it was probably online to which Ms. Gilley agreed that it was online and she believed that it was Chapter 1, Administration under Ethics, she believed Section 4.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that he just wondered, was that how they would usually handle their own personal finances or would you try again.

Council Member Ellis commented that a lot of times they receive bids and that they have done this in the past here and a lot of times these banks do not respond back to them for the simple fact of the amount of the money involved (and) in the situations as this and the collateral also as Mayor Pro Tem Burnette had mentioned. He explained that the fact of it was, it was where they do their budget each and every year and Ms. McMichael has done an outstanding job for many years of sending out these bids and things of that sort to many banks. They borrow a lot of money, to where they were successfully paying it all back. Also, this one where he was saying that because of BB&T and a Council Member, that had nothing to do with it to which Mr. Hutchinson stated that he disagreed with that.

Council Member Ellis replied that was his right to do so to which Mr. Hutchinson said he respectfully disagreed. Council Member Ellis continued that he did not know why he was there tonight but he did not say that because he worked at Morehead High School that they were going to turn around and let them have all the water to water the football and all the fields around, but the thing of it was, they work with all the banks in the city and that was the thing that they always do, they share it out.

Mr. Hutchinson pointed out that for the \$1.1 million they spent he did not know how much, on a sidewalk on the Cook Block and now they were getting ready to repave that he just did not think they had their priorities right and he did not think that...to which Mayor Pro Tem Burnette explained that was pretty fair for him to have that disagreement but this was a priority, actually a number one priority of the City Council this year. He suggested that he go and get that conflict of interest policy and read it. If he had a concern after that he should set up a meeting with their City Attorney and City Manager.

Ms. Gilley added that she would also say that Councilman Hall did call her and ask that question when he got on City Council.

Council Member Hall clarified that he had asked about that any time there would be and the conflict of interest policy clearly stated that as long as he did not have a personal, financial gain, he could vote on an issue.

Ms. Gilley stated that was correct and added that it was also in her opinion that Councilmen should vote unless there was a conflict of interest.

Mr. Hutchinson asked so if the company does good, he did not do good.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette thanked Mr. Hutchinson for speaking. He then asked if anyone else would like to speak in opposition of this request. As no one else came forward, he declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis seconded by Council Member Hall for approval of the General Fund Street Resurfacing Projects Financing and Adoption of Resolution. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A FINANCING AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 160A-20

WHEREAS, the City of Eden desires to enter into a fifteen year installment financing agreement in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for the purpose of financing the cost of Street Resurfacing Projects (the "Project") to better serve the citizens of Eden; and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden desires to finance the Project by the use of an installment contract authorized under North Carolina General Statute 160A, Article 3, Section 20; and

WHEREAS, findings of fact by this governing body must be presented to enable the North Carolina Local Government Commission to make its findings of fact set forth in North Carolina General Statute 159, Article 8, Section 151 prior to approval of the proposed contract;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council Members of Eden, North Carolina, meeting in regular session on the 19th day of September 2017, make the following findings of fact:

- The proposed contract is necessary or expedient because it allows the City to (i) resurface city streets that are
 in poor or very poor condition. and (ii) obtain reimbursement of General Fund expenditures related to street
 resurfacing projects. Each of the improvements financed by the proposed contract serves a public purpose for
 the citizens of the City of Eden.
- 2. The proposed contract is preferable to a bond issue for the same purpose because (i) the up-front costs are lower than a bond issue, (ii) the time frame to complete the financing is shorter than a bond issue, and (iii) it allows for prepayment of the debt if future financing through revenue or general obligation bonds is needed. The \$1,100,000 exceeds the amount that can be prudently raised from current appropriations, unappropriated fund balance, and non-voted bonds that could be issued by the City in the current fiscal year pursuant to Article V, Section 4, of the North Carolina Constitution (the "two-thirds limitation").
- 3. The sums to fall due under the contract are adequate and not excessive for the proposed purpose because the payments are amortized over 15 years at an interest rate not to exceed 2.63%, yielding annual payments of \$90,075.07. Additionally, prepayment premium shall be calculated as a percentage of the principal amount prepaid, as follows: prepayment of the principal balance in whole on any date with a 1% prepayment premium. It is anticipated that the payments will be paid through general fund revenues.
- 4. The City of Eden's debt management procedures and policies are good because of good financial practices. The City of Eden's outstanding debt as of June 30, 2016 was \$19,170,176. The legal debt margin for the City of Eden as of June 30, 2016 was \$66,250,808. The City of Eden's debt management policies have been carried out in strict compliance with the law, and will henceforth be so carried out.

- 5. The proposed agreement should not create an increase in taxes to meet the sums to fall due.
- 6. The City of Eden is not in default in any of its debt service obligations.
- 7. The attorney for the City of Eden has rendered an opinion that the proposed Project is authorized by law and is a purpose for which public funds may be expended pursuant to the Constitution and laws of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Officer is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the City of Eden in filing an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission for approval of the Project and the proposed financing contract and other actions not inconsistent with this resolution.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 19 day of September 2017.

The motion to adopt this resolution was made by Council Member Ellis, Seconded by Council Member Hall and passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Jim Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Sheralene Thompson, CMC, MMC, NCCMC City Clerk

This is to certify that this is a true and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the City of Eden Council Members on the 19 day of September 2017.

SheraleneThompson,CMC,MMC,NCCMC

9/19/2017

City Clerk

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

No one came forward to speak at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of a Request for the City Council to ask the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of annexation petitions for properties located at 889 Morgan Road and 893 Morgan Road.

Last month, City Staff discovered that the properties at 889 Morgan Road and 893 Morgan Road, which are outside the city limits, were receiving water at the inside city rates. Letters were mailed to the property owners to inform them of this and they were given the opportunity to Petition for voluntary annexation. Both property owners have filed the appropriate Petitions requesting annexation.

September 19, 2017

City of Eden, N.C.

Minutes of the regular September 19, 2017 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

A motion to adopt a "Resolution Directing the Clerk to Investigate Petitions Received under G.S. 160A-58.1" is in order.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette asked Ms. Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning & Inspections to come forward.

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

WHEREAS, a Petition requesting annexation of property described in said Petition was received on August 23, 2017, 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 this request 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.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST: Sheralene Thompson, CMC City Clerk

A motion was made by Council Member Carter seconded by Council Member Hampton to ask the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of annexation petitions for properties located at 889 Morgan Road and 893 Morgan Road. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

City Manager's Report – September 2017

Overview of Local Code Enforcement

During the course of the past month there has been some discussion about code enforcement, the role of government, the role of private property owners, the processes involved etc... We have assembled some information in this month's report that we hope will be both beneficial and informative.

The City of Eden is responsible for insuring that the community's physical environment complies with applicable State and Local code requirements. We review applications for development, make

inspections pursuant to a permit and pursue compliance with the State and Local code provisions. Applicable State and Local codes include those concerning new construction, unsafe buildings, dwellings unfit for human habitation, non-residential maintenance standards, land use and development, public nuisances, and junk vehicles.

We make inspections on the various codes based on city staff observations and complaints received either by phone, through the mail, in person or on the City's online complaint submission system. This can be found on our website at www.edennc.us. All of the ordinances for local code enforcement contain provisions for **appeal** and due process must be given. In addition, applications for standard permits for new construction or remodeling can be obtained on our website or in the Planning and Inspections Department.

Finally, the availability of funding is very important. The amount of funding that can be allocated to these programs has to balance the needs in other departments such as police, fire, street maintenance and recreation to name a few.

Local code enforcement is limited by the NC General Statutes. State law gives Eden and all other local governments the authority to adopt and enforce various codes, limits how far those actions can go and sets up the manner in which the city can recover funds from private property when we have to step in and abate the violations.

A good example to consider is a building on The Boulevard that the City Council decided to rehabilitate versus demolish. It cost \$10,000 more to fix the building than to take it down. Even so, once the building was sold, the citizens of the City of Eden paid \$146,000 to abate the violation and we had no ability to recover the cost. Code enforcement is vital and important but it is often very expensive. If we only have \$146,000 left to spend is it more important to tear down a neglected property owned by a private citizen or corporation or to spend those funds to resurface some additional roads, to pay for additional police officers or some other need? Often times, the cost of doing one thing, is the cost of not doing something else. There are also those citizens in our community that we hear from who truly believe taxpayer dollars should not be used to abate a situation created by the neglect of a private property or business owner.

The City of Eden does allocate funds each year for some code enforcement initiatives. The current FY 2017-18 budget includes \$60,000 for these efforts. However, an important question that is often discussed is how much money the citizens and City Council are comfortable with spending each year knowing in advance that they will not be getting back much of the money spent? When we tear down a building on a certain piece of property we are unable to attach those costs to other properties and/or assets the property owner may possess. Our collection efforts are limited to the property that is abated. Yes, we can place a lien on the property or move forward with foreclosure but we would likely never re-sell properties for what the City has in them. Also, with the funds that are allocated-do we concentrate on a few properties in each electoral ward if we can afford it, or do we concentrate on the very worst which is what the City has been trying to do as money has been made available? If we continue to follow our current prioritization process, then there will be some wards and areas of Eden that may not have anything done depending upon the amount of money available for spending.

While government certainly has a role and should do what it can in reference to minimum housing standards etc... many of these properties and houses would be fine if the owner of the premises did what was needed in terms of routine maintenance. Just think how much better everything would look if we could all work together to get more people caring about the appearance and condition of property they own?

Here is a listing and explanation about the pertinent codes, standards, regulations and ordinances that are administered by the Planning and Inspections Department. For more information about any of this material please contact Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning and Inspections.

Violation of the Human Habitation Standards Ordinance (Minimum Housing Code)

This ordinance applies to all existing housing including manufactured homes. The ordinance addresses the safety and welfare of inhabitants or potential inhabitants. **Unsightly conditions do not always create violations.**

When complaints are received, an inspection is made. If the inspector cannot identify enough qualifying conditions without going inside the structure, then a petition is required from 5 citizens with actual knowledge of the conditions or by a public official.

When a housing code action is started, a notice is sent to the property owner(s) and lienholders giving them notice of the hearing date and time. If, after the hearing, violations are confirmed then an order is sent.

The order may require that the dwelling be either:

- 1. Repaired or vacated and closed; or
- 2. Repaired or vacated and demolished.

The owner has a minimum of **45** days to comply. If, after this time, the owner has not complied with the Order, then the City Council is requested to adopt an ordinance to abate the violation subject to the availability of funding. The property owner can appear before the City Council to appeal the violation.

Violation of the Non-Residential Building Maintenance Standards

This ordinance applies to all existing structures not used for housing. The ordinance addresses the safety and welfare of occupants or potential occupants. **Unsightly conditions do not always create violations.**

When complaints are received, an inspection is made. If violations are found, then a complaint and notice of hearing is sent to the property owner and lienholder and a hearing is set. If, after the hearing, violations are confirmed then an order is sent.

The order may require that the structure be either:

- 1. Repaired or vacated and closed if the cost of repairs is less than 50% of the value of the structure.
- 2. Repaired or vacated and demolished if the costs exceed 50% of the value.

The owner has a minimum of **90** days to comply. If, after this time, the owner has not complied with the Order then the City Council is requested to adopt an ordinance to abate the violation subject to the availability of funding. The property owner can appear before the City Council to appeal the violation.

Special Note: The NC General Statutes provide extended time and other protections to buildings that are considered Historic or are vacant Industrial facilities.

Violations of Land Use and Development Regulations

Violations of our Zoning, Subdivision, Water Supply Watershed and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances are handled as follows:

When complaints are received for these types of violations, we do a site inspection. If a violation is found, then a letter is sent to the owner giving them 10 days to respond to the Planning and Inspections Department. If no response is received after 10 days, a letter is sent stating a formal violation notice and the owner has 30 days to abate the violation. If compliance is not achieved, then the final 30-day letter is sent. If there is no response, then the case is taken to the City Council to authorize legal action through the Rockingham County Courts.

Violation of the Nuisance Ordinance

The following conditions constitute a public nuisance:

- 1. The uncontrolled growth of noxious weeds and grass in a height in excess of 12 inches.
- 2. The accumulation of animal or vegetable matter that is offensive by virtue of odors or the inhabitance of rats, mice, snakes or vermin of any kind.
- 3. The collection of garbage, food waste, animal waste or other such matter in an open space.
- 4. Accumulation of rubbish or combustible items causing stagnant water or the inhabitance of mosquitos of other vermin.
- 5. The open storage of any refrigerator, appliance or other similar items.
- 6. The obstruction of a street or highway.
- 7. The accumulation of yard waste.
- 8. Conditions which hinder the natural flow of water.

If you believe you have observed any of these conditions, please call or email us with the information. We will usually check the violation within 24 hours. If a violation is found, a notice is sent to the property owner. Once the notice is sent, the property owner has 15 days to abate the violation before the City can order the abatement.

Violation of the Junk or Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance

If a complaint is received, we then go to the site on which the vehicle or vehicles are located and do an inspection. This requires that the VIN number for the vehicle be identified.

A junked motor vehicle is:

- 1. Partially dismantled or wrecked; or
- 2. Cannot be self-propelled or moved in the manner in which it was originally intended; or

- 3. Is more than five years old and worth less than \$500; or
- 4. Does not display a current license plate.

An abandoned motor vehicle is one that:

- 1. Has been left upon a public street or highway in violation of a law or ordinance prohibiting parking: or
- 2. Is left on property owned or operated by the City for longer than 24 hours; or
- 3. Is left on private property without the consent of the owner, occupant or lease holder for longer than 2 hours; or
- 4. Is left on any public street or highway for longer than 7 days.

If a violation is found city staff must identify the owner of the vehicle and send a notice. In the case of a vehicle abandoned on public streets, the vehicle can be removed immediately and the owner notified after the fact.

If you have any questions about this information please feel free to contact Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning and Inspections at kstultz@edennc.us.

Building Renovation Grant – Now Available To Property & Business Owners In Traditional Downtown Areas

Over the course of the past month there has also been some discussion about the desire for improvements to some of the properties in Eden's traditional downtown areas. The City is ready to do what it can to assist private property and business owners with improving their property and business. The *Positively Eden!* Strategic Plan includes a strategy to "Broaden The Impact of Downtown Eden" and associated with this strategy is the goal to "expand private investment incentives to improve Downtown's public space". On August 15th the City Council voted to formally approve the new Building Rehabilitation Grant (BRG) program. This program is designed to encourage rehabilitation of existing buildings or assist in building up fits for new businesses. The grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 and can cover up to 33.3% of rehabilitation costs, provided specific eligibility requirements are met. The grant program is available to property and business owners in Eden's traditional downtown areas of Historic Leaksville, Downtown Draper, The Boulevard and The Cook Block. There is also a Façade grant program that is available for interested property and business owners in these areas. For more information please contact Randy Hunt, Eden Main Street Manager at rhunt@edennc.us.

Development Improvement Grant - Now Available

In May of 2017, the City Council approved a Development Improvement Grant (DIG) program aimed at promoting rehabilitation and redevelopment of property within the traditional downtown areas of Eden (Historic Leaksville, Downtown Draper, The Boulevard and The Cook Block) **AND** the business district along Highway #14 and King's Highway including the Eden Mall. This grant will provide assistance for renovations or improvements to property owners that spend a minimum of \$15.00 per square foot on the project and the project must result in increased tax revenue for the City. As a part of our partnership with Rockingham County, they have adopted a similar grant so that property owners can receive funding from both local governments based upon the same criteria. If a

property owner is interested in obtaining additional information concerning a Development Incentive Grant please contact Mike Dougherty, Director of Economic Development at mdougherty@edennc.us or Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning and Inspections at kstultz@edennc.us.

Administrative & Legal Services Department

Development Finance Initiative (DFI) – 622 Washington Street

Based upon the desire to rehabilitate the City's property at 622 Washington Street, and then to subsequently market it for resale, City staff reached out to the NC School of Government for some additional assistance. The Development Finance Initiative (DFI) at the UNC School of Government assists local governments with attracting private investment for transformative projects by providing specialized finance and development expertise. DFI partners with communities on projects including building reuse, community development, downtown revitalization, economic development, neighborhood redevelopment, and small business finance. Although they do charge a fee for these services, we learned about a program where graduate students select one project to complete at no cost to the community. Ms. Erin Gilley, City Attorney completed and submitted the application on our behalf which included a description of the property and its history, GIS maps showing the parcel and surrounding areas, and a picture of the building and its description from the book "A Tale of Three Cities." I am pleased to report that our project was selected by the graduate students. This project is certainly in line with some of the recommendations outlined in our Positively Eden strategic plan. On September 8th three graduate students traveled to Eden and met with City staff and Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Burnette to review the property and surrounding area so they could begin their study. In the interim, we have cleaned out the building and have completed the required asbestos testing.

Eden Youth Council

The new members of the Eden Youth Council were sworn in at the August City Council Meeting. Meetings with members of the Executive Council, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Burnette and City staff revealed a desire to have more interactions with City staff members as well as be a part of more City Council initiatives. One initiative that has come out of these discussions is to allow Youth Council Members to accompany Eden Police Officers while they deliver "Meals on Wheels" to city residents. This idea was brought before the Youth Council at their last meeting and they were very enthusiastic about the idea. The Eden Youth Council also agreed to assist City staff during RiverFest. This will be the first Eden Youth Council project for school year 2017-2018.

50th Anniversary Celebration - RiverFest

The 14th Annual RiverFest celebration will be held on September 15th & September 16th. A special celebration is scheduled to take place on Stage 1 at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 16th. The City will have 2 spaces directly in front of the museum and the museum will be open so that visitors can enjoy the tremendous display commemorating our 50th anniversary. We will be selling t-shirts and the 50th Anniversary Timeline book put together by Ms. Sheralene Thompson, City Clerk, will be available for sale at a price of \$15.00 per book. In addition, 50th Anniversary cups will be given out. We will also be serving anniversary celebration birthday cake at the city's

anniversary tent immediately following the conclusion of the special celebration. We hope everyone will come out and join us for a very special weekend.

Economic & Tourism Development Department Over \$1.0 Million In Public & Private Investment

We are pleased to report that Eden had more investment in its Main Street program during the past year than ever before – more than \$1 million in public and private investment. Three property owners accounted for 60% of that investment. In addition, three properties that had been dormant for 10 years have been transformed into a beautiful photography studio. Also, the City completed streetscape improvements on The Cook Block in North Spray that included new curb and gutter and decorative lighting at a cost of approximately \$130,000. The City has implemented a Building Rehabilitation Grant program, Façade Grant program and a Development Improvement Grant program to encourage properties to be renovated. Although Downtown Draper continues to struggle there is reason to be hopeful due to its proximity to the Berry Hill Regional Mega Park. Downtown Draper will be the closest commercial area to this industrial park. We encourage everyone to drive down Berry Hill Road and see the progress that is being made on that park.

MillerCoors Site Update

Two prospects are considering this site at this time. The City of Eden, Rockingham County and NC Department of Commerce have been working with all pertinent parties that are conducting due diligence work on this site.

New Street Sewer Upgrade

The City is working with engineers to develop plans for a sewer upgrade for New Street. Gildan Activewear is now leasing the former 530,000 square foot MGM building and this has necessitated this upgrade. The City is currently pursuing a NC Rural Infrastructure grant to pay for this project.

Berry Hill Regional Mega Park Update

We are excited to announce that Eden has been awarded a \$2.0 million dollar grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help fund the water line extension that will run from Eden to the Berry Hill Regional Mega Park. Travelers on Berry Hill Road can see the significant grading work being done on three park sites and its potential for industrial development. The Commonwealth of Virginia and local Danville and Pittsylvania County developers are aggressively marketing the park, as economic development in "south side" Virginia is a top priority within the Commonwealth of Virginia. City staff here in Eden is continuing to work with Dewberry Engineering in reference to the water extension plans. In fact, we just received the approved Engineering Report on the proposed waterline extension project from the NC Department of Water Infrastructure. Finally, we continue to eagerly await the due diligence decisions by The Southern Company and Enviva, as well as progress with other prospective clients.

Sheetz.

This company has been a good community partner since their arrival in Eden. As a result of its coming to Eden in 2009, a local business has been able to supply glass to many of the new Sheetz stores that have located in surrounding states. We are proud of the fact that we were able to help in bringing these

two companies together for their mutual benefit. Sheetz recently informed us that they will continue to financially support local events and festivals here in Eden.

Gildan Activewear

This company is conducting a special sale of its products at the event space in Kingsway Plaza from September 14th -17th. They are selling GOLDTOE socks for \$1 per pair, LOGO socks for \$2 per pair and other products. They have conducted similar sales in other parts of the state in the past.

Lidl Supermarket

The City continues to work with the Lidl real estate department on the Eden site. Permits remain open and new construction permits have been acquired in recent weeks. The City has been advised that it will be informed of an opening date when the Lidl representatives determine that date. We have also been advised that there are other Lidl stores that are also, or previously, have experienced construction delays.

Manufacturing Day in Rockingham County

Several county partners are supporting the October 5th Manufacturing Day to be held at Rockingham Community College. The week will start with the Rockingham County Commissioners recognizing the top five county manufacturers. The Manufacturing Day will involve approximately 35 students from the four area high schools visiting manufacturers who will be displaying their products. They are hopeful of parents joining their children. The purpose of this effort is to show people that manufacturing is different than in the past and has great promise for long-term, productive careers.

Workforce Development Committee

The General Assembly has allocated \$3.2 million for workforce training. The purpose of this committee is to determine how these funds can best be utilized in Guilford, Alamance, Randolph and Rockingham Counties. The City of Eden is part of this effort.

Dan RiverST8 Crossings Marketing Campaign

Silver Lining Design, the marketing firm that will continue the Dan River ST8 Crossings digital marketing campaign, has presented its plan of work for the upcoming year. The Dan River Implementation Team, comprised of representatives from several NC and VA border counties and cities, continues to work on gaining more partners for the effort. Duke Energy made a final \$40,000 contribution to the effort. Duke Energy also donated \$100,000 to border VA and NC Agricultural Extension Agencies to help them promote area agriculture.

Positively Eden – Branding Study

One of the goals outlined in the *Positively Eden* strategic plan is "Develop a Downtown Eden Branding and Marketing Strategy, with associated brands for Eden's defined small areas (Leaksville, Draper, Spray, designated historic areas". A Request for Proposals for this work was issued in late August with responses due on September 29th. It is anticipated that a recommendation concerning the selection of a firm will be submitted to the City Council for their formal consideration at their meeting on October 17th.

Positively Eden – Meeting With NC Main Street Representative

On September 5th the City facilitated a joint meeting for merchants and building owners located in Eden's traditional downtown areas: Historic Leaksville, Downtown Draper, The Boulevard and The

Cook Block with Liz Parham, Director of the NC Main Street program. A variety of different topics were discussed including a brainstorming session, the new Building Rehabilitation Grant program, the branding study and the *Positively Eden* strategic plan to name a few. Invitations were distributed to everyone in all four of these commercial areas and we were happy to have over 40 people in attendance. Unfortunately, according to Randy Hunt, Main Street Manager, there were no merchants or property owners in attendance from Downtown Draper and The Cook Block.

Main Street Bridal Promotion

A Main Street Bridal Promotion has been put together consisting of more than 30 participating businesses and a retail value of more than \$6,500. One lucky bride will win her dream wedding in Eden and we hope this initiative will help to spread the word about our local business options in reference to weddings and wedding destinations.

Expansion of Municipal Parking

City staff recently met with some building/business owners about expanding the municipal parking area behind 622 Washington Street. Specific recommendations will be submitted to the City Council for their formal consideration once they are finalized.

Creation of Pocket Park in Draper

City staff is in the process of preparing plans and recommendations concerning the development of a pocket park at 165 and 167 Fieldcrest Road. Specific recommendations will be submitted to the City Council for their formal consideration once they are finalized.

Eden Downtown Development, Inc. - Update

During the most recent meeting of the Eden Downtown Development, Inc. the following items were discussed:

- 1. Approval of EDDI tax returns (approved).
- 2. Discussion of EDDI By-Law amendments (tabled).
- 3. September 5th joint merchant meeting with Liz Parham, director of NC Main Street (complete).
- 4. Building/business update
- 5. Bike rack grant project progress (installing).
- 6. Branding RFP (issued).
- 7. Wedding event review (ongoing).
- 8. 2017 Main Street champion nominations (accepted).

RiverFest - September 15th and 16th

RiverFest 2017 is going to be FANTASTIC! – September 15th (5:00 – 10:00 p.m.) and September 16th (10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.) along Washington Street. Celebrating Eden's 50th Anniversary! Shuttles will run both Friday night and all day Saturday. Some of the features include:

- 1. Paul Bunyon Lumberjack Show 12:30, 3 & 5 pm
- 2. Knockerball, Giant Dart Board and Archery
- 3. Amusements
- 4. Strolling Magician on Friday Night
- 5. Gem Sluice
- 6. Tennis Expo Saturday Morning 10 to 12
- 7. Rock Painting

- 8. Sand Art
- 9. Artistic Face Painting
- 10. Melanie Paschal's Dance Performance Saturday at 12
- 11. Chainsaw Carving
- 12. Trick Roper
- 13. Get Fit 5K
- 14. City's 50th Anniversary Celebration 1 to 2 on Stage 1
- 15. Three Rivers Outfitters River Trips
- 16. Dan River Basin Association Kids Activities
- 17. Eden Museum Activities
- 18. Virginia Museum of Natural History Solite Display
- 19. Lots of Characters Walking Around
- We have over 130 artisans, crafters and civic groups signed up
- 20 Food, Beverage and Ice Cream Vendors
- 9 Bands on Two Stages. A Journey Tribute Band will headline Friday night and an Eagles Tribute Band will headline Saturday night. Several local bands will be performing on two stages all day Saturday.

Engineering Department

Street Resurfacing Projects - Update

The FY 2017-18 Street Resurfacing Contract, No. 3 is scheduled to start construction sometime in October 2017. Weather permitting, 25 of the 36 street sections on this contract are scheduled to be completed by November 15, 2017. The remaining 11 street sections will be resurfaced in the spring of 2018.

The East Harris Place Improvements/Southwood Drive project was scheduled to start construction on Monday, September 11, 2017. However, the start of construction was delayed due to numerous rain events. The start of construction has been rescheduled for the week of September 18, 2017. The city finally received a response from Walmart Corporate regarding our request for funding assistance with the E. Harris Place Improvements due to the damage their trucks do to the road; however, our request was denied.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will be resurfacing Morgan Road (Cook Block) from Lee Street to Washburn Avenue later this month. Currently, the project is scheduled to start the week of September 18, 2017; however, this date may change as well due to recent rain events.

Waterline Replacement Projects Update

Work on the Caleb Street and Caleb Lane replacement project was completed by Sam W. Smith, Inc. and a subcontractor on August 18th.

Following a review of bids opened on August 24th, the Victor Street 2" Water Main Replacement project was awarded to Shiloh Utilities, Inc. Contract documentation is being finalized and a crew is expected to start installation work early in October between Grove Street and Flynn Street.

A tentative bid opening date of October 3rd has been set for the West Arbor Lane and Wildflower Lane Water Main Replacement project, which will consist of installing about 965 feet of 6" ductile iron pipe, and about 440 feet of 2" PVC pipe that will replace existing thin-walled plastic water mains.

Municipal Services Department

Tornado Clean-Up Efforts & NC Emergency Management Update

The final phase of our cleanup effort related to the May 5th F1 tornado that struck our community is the grinding and hauling of the debris that we have collected that is now in our tornado related debris pile. We recently received three bids to complete this work. The three bids ranged from \$125,000 to \$91,285 to a low of \$75,000. The work will be completed by Timberland Mulch and Tree Farm from Willis, Virginia at a cost of \$75,000. It is anticipated that this work will take up to 60 days (weather-permitting) once the work is initiated. Once we have completed all of our work we will submit the appropriate documentation to NC Emergency Management for the reimbursement of 75% of our eligible costs. The City of Eden will be responsible for the remaining 25% of costs.

Surplus Auction Scheduled for November 4th

A surplus auction will be held at our Municipal Services facility on Klyce Street on November 4th. For more information please contact Paul Dishmon, Director of Municipal Services at pdishmon@edennc.us.

Sidewalk Replacement

City crews removed and poured back a 5' by 135' section of deteriorated sidewalk at the Veterans park in Draper.

Compactor Replacement

The old compactor unit has been taken out from the transfer station and staff is in the process of having a new compactor unit installed.

Parks & Recreation Department

Dog Park

One of the goals in the *Positively Eden* strategic plan is the implementation of recommendations included in the recently completed and adopted Park and Recreation Master Plan. City staff has created a conceptual plan (see below) for a dog park at Freedom Park. There will be two separate areas: one for large dogs and one for small dogs. Construction prices are being assembled and a formal recommendation will be presented to the City Council for their review and consideration during their meeting on October 17th. For additional information concerning this project please contact Johnny Farmer, Director of Parks and Recreation at jfarmer@edennc.us.

WLOE - Parks & Recreation Radio Program & Community Accents Program

Staff conducted the monthly Parks & Recreation Radio Program with WLOE on August 16th, and then participated in the Community Accents Program with WLOE on September 8th. We use these

opportunities to update our residents and others about the Parks and Recreation programs that are happening. Staff will also be conducting the Parks & Recreation Radio Program with WLOE on September 20th, and then participating in the Community Accents Program with WLOE on October 13th.

Freedom Park Nature Trail Improvements - Project Update

Staff is planning to begin work on upgrading the Freedom Park Nature Trail (additional stone and granite dust, and additional picnic tables) and the installation of 10 RV camp site pads at the back of Freedom Park. Work is expected to begin in the fall of this year and will be completed no later than April 20, 2018 per the grant agreement. For additional information concerning this project please contact Johnny Farmer, Director of Parks and Recreation at jfarmer@edennc.us.

Be Healthy Rockingham County

Parks and Recreation staff attended a Be Healthy Rockingham County meeting on September 6th and will be attending the upcoming meeting on October 4th. This group is working on doing a survey of the County to determine what the needs of the County are as it relates to recreation and health related activities offered in the County. They are using the recently completed City of Eden Parks & Recreation Master Plan as a guide.

Matrimony Creek Greenway - Project Update

The Matrimony Creek project is moving forward, Josh Woodall, Landscape Specialist/Code Inspector of the Planning Department has contracted Pilot Environmental to identify wetlands for this project as required by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), and this work should be completed in a couple of weeks. Once this is completed, the area will be surveyed, and this information will be sent to Stoltzfus Engineering Inc. for the Engineering Services that will be necessary for this project. Erin Gilley, City Attorney is working with Hampton Heights Baptist Church on the transfer of property as well as all of the necessary easement property transfers and hopes to have all of this work concluded by the middle of October. Once this stage of the project is completed, then the actual work on building the Matrimony Creek Natural Trail can begin. This Project must be completed by no later than April 20, 2018 per the grant agreement.

Freedom Park Music & Cruz In

The Freedom Park Music & Cruz in takes place at the Kiwanis Amphitheatre in Freedom Park. The Cruz in starts at 5:30 p.m. and live music at 6:30 p.m. These events are open and FREE to the public. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy. Concessions available. 50/50 drawing, corn hole, door prizes and more. Upcoming sessions include Saturday, September 30th @ 6:30 p.m. – The Impacts Saturday, October 28th @ TBA – Fall Festival

Draper Landing River Access Repairs & New River Access Point Off Klyce Street

City staff is in the process of preparing a grant request to the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund that provides grants up to \$100,000. First, we intend to seek funds to repair the Draper Landing River Access that was damaged by the Spring rains and second, we intend to seek funding for the installation of a new river access point on City property at the end of Klyce Street approximately one-mile from the Leaksville Landing. This will allow tubers a longer float along the Dan and create a more manageable race beginning point for the Great River Race.

Planning & Inspections Department

Code Enforcement and Inspections

Since the August City Manager's Report we have collected \$2,564.34 in fees and have sent out 26 new notices.

Zoning Case Z-17-04

City staff prepared the case report, maps and supporting information for the request to rezone property at 1126 Trogdon Drive from R-20 to O&I. The Planning Board recommended in favor of the amendment at their August 22, 2017 meeting and the matter will be considered by the City Council during their meeting on September 19th.

Local Code Enforcement, Community Standards and Funding

The City of Eden, like most other communities, is constantly battling various issues related to local code enforcement. Currently, the Planning and Inspections Department enforces, the following codes:

- Zoning
- Subdivision
- Water Supply Watershed
- Flood Damage Prevention
- Nuisances
- Junk and Abandoned Automobiles
- Defective and Unsafe Buildings
- Human Habitation Standards (Minimum Housing Code)
- Non-Residential Maintenance
- International Building Codes Building, Mechanical Plumbing, Electrical and Fire

The staff within the Planning and Inspections Department and the City work to find common ground between the desire for blight removal and protection of various areas of Eden with the community standard for enforcement. Additionally, the amount of funding that can be allocated to these programs has to balance the needs in other departments such as police, fire, street maintenance and recreation to name a few.

Local code enforcement is limited by the NC General Statutes. State law gives Eden and all other local governments the authority to adopt and enforce the codes mentioned earlier, limits how far those actions can go and sets up the manner in which the city can recover funds from private property when we have to step in and abate the violations.

Again, a good example to consider is a building on The Boulevard that the City Council decided to rehabilitate versus demolish. It cost \$10,000 more to fix the building than to take it down. Even so, once the building was sold, the citizens of the City of Eden paid \$146,000 to abate the violation and we had no ability to recover the cost. Code enforcement is vital and important but it is often very expensive. If we only have \$146,000 left to spend is it more important to tear down a neglected property owned by a private citizen or corporation or to spend those funds to resurface some additional roads, to pay for additional police officers or some other need? Often times, the cost of doing one thing, is the cost of not doing something else. There are also those citizens in our

community that we hear from who truly believe taxpayer dollars should not be used to abate a situation created by neglect of a private property or business owner.

On August 15th the City Council voted to formally approve the new Building Rehabilitation Grant (BRG) program. This program is designed to encourage rehabilitation of existing buildings or assist in building up fits for new businesses. The grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 and can cover up to 33.3% of rehabilitation costs, provided specific eligibility requirements are met. The grant program is currently available to property and business owners in Eden's traditional downtown areas of Historic Leaksville, Downtown Draper, The Boulevard and The Cook Block. There is also a Façade grant program that is available for interested property and business owners in these areas. For more information please contact Randy Hunt, Eden Main Street Manager at rhunt@edennc.us.

In addition, in May of 2017, the City Council approved a Development Improvement Grant (DIG) program aimed at promoting rehabilitation and redevelopment of property within the traditional downtown areas of Eden and the business district along Highway #14 and King's Highway including the Eden Mall. This grant will provide assistance for renovations or improvements to property owners that spend a minimum of \$15.00 per square foot on the project and the project must result in increased tax revenue for the City. As a part of our partnership with Rockingham County, they have adopted a similar grant so that property owners can receive funding from both local governments based upon the same criteria. If a property owner is interested additional information concerning a Development Incentive Grant please contact Mike Dougherty, Director of Economic Development at mdougherty@edennc.us or Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning and Inspections at kstultz@edennc.us.

The City of Eden allocates funds each year for some code enforcement initiatives. The current FY 2017-18 budget includes \$60,000 for these efforts. However, an important question that is often discussed is how much money the citizens and City Council are comfortable with spending each year knowing in advance that they will not be getting back much of the money spent? When we tear down a building on a piece of property, we are unable to attach those costs to other properties and/or assets the property owner may possess. Our collection efforts are limited to the property that is abated. Also, with the funds that are allocated - do we concentrate on a few properties in each electoral ward if we can afford it or do we concentrate on the very worst which is what the City has been trying to do as money has been made available? If we continue to follow our current prioritization process, then there will be some wards and areas of Eden that may not have anything done depending upon the amount of money available for spending.

One of the most frequent complaints we receive is about high grass and weeds. Currently, the Nuisance Ordinance sets the height limit for grass and weeds at 12 inches before we can send a notice. Once a notice is sent we have to wait 15 days before we can send a city crew to mow. If the initial height limit is lowered, it will require more notices and funding for staff and potential contractors to keep up with the increased volume. Do you believe there is a need to lower the existing height limit?

Another frequent complaint we receive is about trash along our roadways. Unfortunately, there are those who believe it's okay to litter when nobody is looking. Although we have fines in place for those who litter and are caught, it's rare to actually catch someone in the act of littering. City staff

often goes out and picks up trash along a roadway only to find it dirty with trash again within a few days. If every property and business owner would help pick up the trash that is in front of their property, on their property and along the road, just think how much cleaner our roads would be? Recently, we had some staff out picking up trash along a certain road and there was a gentleman sitting on his front porch watching the employee as they picked up all sorts of wrappers, cups and plastic bottles at the edge of his property, next to the road, right in front of his house. It's hard to keep a community clean without the help and involvement of everyone. How can we get people to care about the appearance and condition of the property they own?

The many police procedural dramas that are on TV and in the movies have made us all familiar with the term due process. The various codes that we enforce require due process be given to property owners including time for a property owner to appeal the action, to make repairs and abate violations. Those time frames cannot be changed by the Eden City Council and they add time to the length of time the process actually takes.

As a staff, we understand the important role that local code enforcement plays in the quality of life for our citizens and in economic development. As we continue to wrestle with these issues, we need your support and we welcome your input and suggestions for improvement. For more information concerning code enforcement, community standards and funding please contact Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning and Inspections at kstultz@edennc.us.

Ordinance Changes

We are preparing for an update of all of our land use regulations. To do that we are taking some initial amendments to the Planning Board for review. We believe our existing Zoning Ordinance has far too many districts. We plan to request that the Planning Board initiate amendments for the removal of the Industrial Re-Use Overlay district and the Mobile Home district. The Industrial Re-Use Overlay District was designed to allow manufacturing zones that don't allow them otherwise. There was one local company that wanted to do a textile sewing operation in a former grocery store building. That was the only application that we have ever received for this district and that one use did not last. We now have a mixed use district that will allow such as a part of a development plan. The Mobile Home District was a district created for mobile home parks. Since 1967 we have had no new applications for a mobile home park. The Zoning Ordinance provides for the orderly development of subdivisions for manufactured housing. This district is obsolete.

Police Department

Governor's Crime Commission Grant

We have received a notice that we have been awarded a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission in the amount of \$24,244.00. These funds will be utilized to replace our current Glock pistols, holsters and magazine holders. We are planning to purchase Ruger pistols from the local company in Rockingham County.

Public Utilities Department

Chloramine Project - Update

The chloramine project has been up and running now for about four weeks. Dan River Water Company did their regular scheduled sample the third week of August and got very good Trihalomethanes results. Our treatment process had been running only a week to 10 days, but Dan River Water's results are very encouraging to us. Also, City staff is collecting numerous samples per week throughout the distribution system to insure our water quality.

EPA Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to Stop Sewer System Overflows Update

At this time, we are on or ahead of schedule for our projects and our documentation submittals to the EPA and water infrastructure for our grant and loan funding. The Water Infrastructure Section of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has until November 1st to complete their review of our engineering report and give their approval for all projects. Design work on all the projects has been started by our engineering firm. Our first semi-annual progress report to be submitted to the EPA as part of the Administrative Order on Consent will be due November 1st.

Meadow Greens and Covenant Branch Pump Stations Force Main Relief Project Update

This project will tie the Meadow Greens and Covenant Branch Sewer Pump Stations into the underutilized Railroad Pump Station Force Main to provide redundancy to the existing force mains serving these pump stations. When the project is completed in December, we will be able to control flow from these pump stations into the larger Railroad force main to provide greater capacity to these pump stations during high flow periods. This project was funded with grant money totaling \$534,000 with the city making a match contribution of \$35,000 to complete the project. Although this project was not directly part of the EPA – Administrative Order, the project will serve to help control and ensure that we do not have overflows from these pump stations. This project is well underway and construction is moving along on schedule. Sam W Smith is the contractor on this project.

If anyone has any questions about any of this material or would like to meet with me to discuss any suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact me at bcorcoran@edennc.us.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and Adoption of Minutes: August 15, 2017.
- b. Approval of Police Vehicle 5-Year Financing and Adoption of Resolution.

In the 2017-2018 Budget, City Council approved to purchase (8) Police Vehicles for the Police department and it has been set up in the budget to be financed. On August 23, 2017, I requested bids from our local banks for the financing and received the following quotes:

BB&T 2.04% Carter Bank & Trust 2.70%

The lowest quote is from BB&T at 2.04%. The first payment will not be due until next fiscal year (2018-2019) and the annual payments will be \$66,780.06 for five years. I respectfully ask that Council approve BB&T as the successful bid.

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

WHEREAS: The City of Eden, North Carolina (the "City") has previously determined to undertake a project for the financing police vehicles, (the "Project"), and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

- 1. The City hereby determines to finance the Project through Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T"), in accordance with the proposal dated August 31, 2017. The amount financed shall not exceed \$314,400.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 2.04%, and the financing term shall not exceed five (5) years.
- 2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the City are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution. The Financing Documents shall include a Financing Agreement and a Project Fund Agreement as BB&T may request.
- 3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by City officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.
- 4. The City shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. The City hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).
- 5. The City intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the City's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the project that is to be financed from the proceeds of the BB&T financing described above. The City intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the City's general fund, or any other City fund related to the project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.
- 6. All prior actions of City officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved this 19th day of September, 2017.

By: Sheralene Thompson

By: Jim Burnette
Title: City Clerk

Title: Mayor Pro Tem

SEAL

c. Consideration of a Request for City Council to Purchase Land Adjacent to the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Staff recommends that the City Council purchase 7.6 acres commercial property located adjacent to the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant from KEM, LLC. The following are reasons to make this purchase.

- 1) The additional buffer between other properties and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This buffer area would allow for planting a screen of evergreen trees that can help with odor control by breaking up prevailing northeast winds. The area currently has significant deciduous trees growing on it that can also help with maintaining a buffer area. As the industries have left Eden over the last decade, our wastewater plant has become more of a domestic sewage plant, thus the potential for undesirable odors is greater. This additional buffer will provide an opportunity to better manage odors before they leave City property.
- 2) This additional acreage that can or could be used for building additional structures for the residual solids handling area for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, if needed in the future.
- 3) This property may serve as a Canoe Ramp access similar to Leaksville Landing, if Parks and Recreation decided to develop this potential site on the river. This location would make a 30 to 60-minute trip within the City Limits available for canoers, kayakers or floaters who don't want a half or full day trip. It would also provide an exit point out of the river just upstream of the Duke Energy Dam near Highway 14.
- 4) This land purchase would also provide for a potential future Greenway Easement passage under the Hwy 14 Bridge to possibly follow a sewer force main easement route to Edgewood Road and on to Freedom Park, if Parks and Recreation/Planning and the Council elects to develop a Greenway path in this area.

The following constitutes the offer that the City has to purchase this property.

\$31,143 Cash

\$ 7,657 (in kind services) Our cost to provide the requested 3 water taps for the three commercial lots KEM, LLC will have remaining after the City's purchase, if approved. This will include the cost

of the water line extension across the Roll About property to the lot fronting Hwy 14 and the River. KEM already has 4 sewer taps available to serve these 3 lots. The 3 water taps and the extension of the water line to the lower lot are our cost for labor and materials to install them. KEM has requested that water taps and the water line extension be completed prior to December 31, 2017.

\$38,800 purchase price with cash and in kind services

\$42,600 Appraised Value

d. Approval and Adoption of Resolution Supporting a NC Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant to Upgrade the New Street Sewer Line.

The attached resolution is requested to be included on the consent agenda for the September 19, 2017 Eden City Council meeting. This resolution supports a grant we are seeking from the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority to upgrade the New Street sewer line. This is needed for the additional employees located in the former New Street. MGM facility. Gildan Activewear has leased this entire building for a secondary distribution center.

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a grant from the Department of Commerce through the City of Eden will be pursued to assist the New Street infrastructure project; and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden will administer this grant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce; and

September 19, 2017

City of Eden, N.C.

Minutes of the regular September 19, 2017 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

WHEREAS, the City of Eden will administer this grant through the City Finance Office; and

WHEREAS the grant will be monitored quarterly to assure compliance with this proposal and the Department of Commerce regulations; and

WHEREAS the amount of the grant application will be \$1 million; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eden City Council does support this project to improve our infrastructure to improve economic development efforts in the City of Eden.

Adopted this the 19th day of September, 2017.

(SEAL) James Burnette Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Sheralene Thompson, City Clerk

e. Approval and Adoption of Resolution Authorizing State Grant/Loan Assistance Application for Wastewater Collection and Transmission System Rehabilitation.

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDEN

WHERE AS, 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

WHERE AS, 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 on Consent CWA-04-2017-4753 (Wastewater Collection and Transmission System Rehabilitation). These projects are collectively identified by the following groups: RD Inflow/Infiltration Reduction; Pump Station Rehabilitation/Replacement; pipe Replacement/Rehabilitation; and, WWTP Facility Improvements, and,

WHERE AS, The City of Eden intends to request state grant/loan assistance for the project

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN 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 S. Brad Corcoran, 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 Jim Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem, 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.

Adopted this 19th day of September, 2017 at the City of Eden, North Carolina.

Jim Burnette Mayor Pro Tem

CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Eden does hereby certify: That the above/attached resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council of the City of Eden duly held on the 19th day of September 2017 and, further, that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of September, 2017.

Sheralene S. Thompson Town Clerk

f. Approval and Adoption of Resolution Authorizing State Loan Assistance Application for Water Line Extension Out of Town.

Resolution of Governing Body of the City of Eden September 19, 2017

WHEREAS, The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 and the North Carolina 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 of drinking water system improvements, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden has need for and intends to construct a drinking water system project (Water Line Extension Out of Town) described as approximately 2.8 miles of 30" waterline to be installed from near the City limits to the Virginia state line. This expansion of the City of Eden water distribution system will provide access to two industrial customers locating in the Berry Hill Regional Mega Park as well as convey necessary water for future industrial growth both in the Mega Park and Rockingham County. The proposed waterline will provide an interconnection with the City of Danville and enter into a contract service agreement Pittsylvania County Service Authority (PCSA) to insure redundancy and resiliency for the transmission/distribution system of the City, and,

WHEREAS, The City of Eden intends to request state loan assistance for the project.

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

That the City of Eden, the Applicant, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan award.

That the Applicant will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project 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 governing body of the Applicant agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Eden to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Eden any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

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

That S. Brad Corcoran, 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 loan to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the Jim Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make 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 19th day of September, 2017 at the City of Eden, North Carolina.

Jim Burnette Mayor Pro Tem

CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Eden does hereby certify: That the above/attached resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council of the City of Eden duly held on the 19th day of September 2017 and, further, that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of September, 2017.

Sheralene S. Thompson Town Clerk

g. Approval and Adoption of Resolution Authorizing State Loan Assistance Application for Water Extension In Town.

Resolution of Governing Body of the City of Eden September 19, 2017

WHEREAS, The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 and the North Carolina 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 of drinking water system improvements, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden has need for and intends to construct a drinking water system project (Water Extension In Town) described as approximately 4 miles of 24" waterline to be installed from the Freedom Tank to near the City limits. This expanded infrastructure project will then increase to a 30" line for approximately 5,300 LF replacing two existing 12" lines. The installation of this waterline will improve reliability and provide redundancy of water distribution in the western residential areas of the city, as well as convey necessary water for industrial growth. The proposed waterline will be looped back into the city to enhance the operation of the existing system and,

WHEREAS, The City of Eden intends to request state loan assistance for the project.

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

That the City of Eden, the Applicant, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan award.

That the Applicant will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project 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 governing body of the Applicant agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Eden to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Eden any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

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

That S. Brad Corcoran, 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 loan to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the Jim Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make 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 19th day of September, 2017 at the City of Eden, North Carolina.

Jim Burnette Mayor Pro Tem

CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Eden does hereby certify: That the above/attached resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council of the City of Eden duly held on the 19th day of September 2017 and, further, that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of September, 2017.

Sheralene S. Thompson Town Clerk

A motion was made by Council Member Moore seconded by Council Member Hall to approve the Consent Agenda. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Bernie Moore announced that on October 13th, there will be a pink fire truck on display at City Hall in support of Breast Cancer Awareness.

Council Members Hampton and Moore both commended everyone on a successful Riverfest event.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Carter seconded by Council Member Hampton to adjourn. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

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

ATTEST:

Jim Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem