

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:	Neville Hall
Council Members:	Jerry Epps Sylvia Grogan Jim Burnette Angela Hampton Darryl Carter
Council Members Elect:	Bernie Moore Phil Hunnicutt Jerry Ellis Bruce Nooe
Interim City Manager:	Terry Shelton
City Clerk:	Deanna Hunt
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley
News Media:	Roy Sawyers, Rockingham Update Mike Moore, Mike Moore Media Lisa Griffith, Eden's Own Journal

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He explained that the Council met the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and worked from a prepared agenda; however, time would be set aside for business not on the printed agenda.

INVOCATION:

Pastor Lem Hardison of North Spray Christian Church gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Tommy Underwood.

RECOGNITIONS & PROCLAMATIONS:

- a. Recognition of Bayberry Retirement Inn's 30th Anniversary.

Mayor Hall called on Economic Development Director Mike Dougherty.

Mr. Dougherty said the Eden Bayberry was one of six of the facilities, also located in West Virginia and South Carolina. The Bayberry prided on creating a welcoming, home-like environment and believed the enhanced intimacy their facility provided translated to better quality of life.

Mayor Hall presented Bayberry Retirement Inn Director Jenny Jones with a plaque to commemorate the Inn's 30 years of business in Eden.

Ms. Jones said the Bayberry was proud to be in their 30th year of serving seniors.

- b. Recognition of Tri-City Glass & Mirror Co.'s 70th Anniversary.

Mr. Dougherty said owner Dana Hussey was president and his son Dustin was vice president. Some of the company's employees had been there as long as 25 years. When the Eden Sheetz was being built, they had a problem with their Pennsylvania glass supplier, creating an opening for what was now a still-strong partnership with Tri-City Glass & Mirror Co. As of November, Tri-City had provided glass for more than 100 Sheetz stores. Mr. Dougherty thanked the Husseys for their long-term investment and jobs in the community.

Mayor Hall presented the Husseys with a plaque to commemorate their 70 years of business in Eden.

Dana Hussey said being in business that long took hard work and good employees and he was thankful. The Lord had blessed their organization. Agnes Martin, wife of Robert Martin and one of the founders of the business in 1949, was there with him at the meeting and he wanted to share that honor with her.

c. Proclamation honoring Dana Weston.

Mr. Dougherty called Ms. Weston, Cornelius Graves and Council Member Burnette to the front.

Mr. Dougherty said for five years Ms. Weston had been involved in the community, first as a consultant and then as president of the hospital. She had been a dynamic and award-winning leader, fierce proponent of the hospital and a friend to Eden. She helped save the hospital, Eden's largest employer. He recognized Council Member Burnette as being on the UNC Rockingham Health Care Board of Trustees and was in the trenches with Ms. Weston when the hospital went through its difficulties. With the help of many people and under Ms. Weston's leadership, the hospital started a new path in the UNC system. A few years before, he attended a meeting at the hospital that Ms. Weston was presiding over. At that meeting, a cafeteria employee brought Ms. Weston a cup of coffee and hugged her. Only an employee shown respect and appreciation from the hospital president would have done that. Ms. Weston was one of the most talented speakers he had ever had the pleasure of hearing. Her 2016 RCC commencement speech was something to google and enjoy. She mentioned Eden fondly in many of her speeches across the state. He thanked Mr. Graves for his support of Ms. Weston and had enjoyed getting to know him. The couple had recently become engaged. They knew Eden would not keep someone as talented as Ms. Weston for long and they were sad to see her go.

PROCLAMATION HONORING DANA WESTON

WHEREAS, Dana Weston first came to Eden in 2014 as a consultant with Novant Health and in 2015 was named president of Morehead Memorial Hospital, bringing a wealth of energy and talent to the position; and

WHEREAS, Dana managed the difficult task of shepherding the hospital through a bankruptcy and into the UNC Health Care system as UNC Rockingham Health Care, giving new hope and optimism to the Eden community and its largest employer; and

WHEREAS, the employees at UNC Rockingham Health Care admired and respected Dana's work ethic and dedication as she navigated the arduous process of converting the hospital into the UNC system; and

WHEREAS, Dana also found time to serve on the boards of the Eden YMCA, United Way, and Citizens' for Economic Development, providing her valuable expertise; and

WHEREAS, Dana assumed the chairman's position of the Eden Strategic Planning Commission, leading the members in support of projects resulting in the betterment of the Eden community; and

WHEREAS, Dana used her frequent speaking engagements to promote the welcoming nature of Eden and benefits of living in our City; and

WHEREAS, Eden is a far better place for having Dana Weston as one of its residents; an inspirational leader, citizen and advocate who so many people admire,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eden City Council does hereby honor Dana Weston for her leadership and commitment to the hospital and the Eden community at large and someone who will be greatly missed.

This the 17th day of December, 2019
Neville Hall, Mayor
ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Ms. Weston said she moved to Eden with the goal of giving everything she had to the community and she wanted to thank the community for giving her more than she could have ever given them. Eden would always have a special place in her heart.

d. Recognition of outgoing Council Members Jim Burnette and Sylvia Grogan.

Mayor Hall said Council Member Grogan came with experience as a former educator and a leader in local and national organizations. She obtained her bachelor's degree from UNC-G and taught at Newport News High School, Morehead High School and Rockingham Community College. She retired from the public relations and marketing departments at Morehead Memorial Hospital and had served on that hospital's board of trustees. She had a long history with the American Heart Association, having served as president of the Rockingham County Heart Association, first female chair of the North Carolina Heart Association Board, first female chair of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Heart Committee and part of the national center's speaker's bureau. Among her many local leadership titles, she was president of the Eden Junior Woman's Club, president of the Eden Junior Service League, president of the Rockingham County Community Services Council, chair of former state Sen. Bill Goldston's Senate campaign and co-chair of Rockingham County Healthy Carolinians. She also served on the organization founding groups of HELP, Inc., Cooperative Christian Ministries, the Rockingham County Education Foundation and the Literacy Project for preschool children for Rockingham County Schools. She was in the Rockingham County Democratic Party Hall of Honor and held a Governor's Award for Volunteerism. Her late husband John was the former mayor and a long-time member of Council. Their family had contributed an unmeasurable amount of time and effort into Eden. He thanked Council Member Grogan for her service and presented her with a framed painting.

Council Member Grogan said someone had asked that day if she was glad to be leaving Council and she said no, but she was happy to turn the seat over to the Council Member Elect Hunnicutt. It was amazing what she had learned on Council and studying what was best for the City. It had been one of the greatest learning experiences of her life. The people there had been so supportive.

Council Member Burnette was a past board member of the Eden Chamber of Commerce, founding member and past chair of the Rockingham County Education Foundation, past board member of the Rockingham County Red Cross, past chair of the Rockingham County United Way, SCORE member assisting small businesses, member of Strive Literacy Workshop for Childhood Education, past chair of Morehead Memorial Hospital, board member and Council liaison to the Eden Downtown Development Corporation, chair of the Eden Family YMCA Board of Directors, finance chair of UNC Rockingham Health Care Board of Directors, board member of Rockingham County Foundation, founder and advisor of the Eden Youth Council, Council Member since 2007 and Mayor Pro Tem since 2013. Mayor Hall said they were thankful for the amount of time Council Member Burnette had given to the City, City Council and all the organizations he had mentioned. He had been a great mentor to and was a great friend of

Mayor Hall. He thanked Council Member Burnette for his service and presented him with a framed painting.

Council Member Burnette said had enjoyed his time on Council and felt progress had been made. There were some things in place so that progress would continue and he was pleased to have been part of that. He looked forward to helping the Council and City any way he could.

Mayor Hall called the Eden Youth Council forward and member Harrison Smith read a framed plaque the group presented to Council Member Burnette: you led by example, influenced greatness, created opportunities, inspired creativity, went above and beyond, motivated our team, nurtured new ideas, inspired us to achieve, demonstrated conviction, strengthened bonds, expanded potential, uncovered solutions, promoted cooperation, rose to the challenge, believed in our mission, accomplished goals, made things happen, left an impression, touched lives and made a difference.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

- a. Introduction of the Honorable Judge Stan Allen.

Mayor Hall said Judge Allen was elected as Superior Court Judge on November 4, 2014 for an eight-year term. Judge Allen had been involved in the community for a long time.

- b. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Bernie Moore – Ward 1.

Council Member Moore was sworn in by Judge Allen.

- c. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Bruce Nooe – Ward 2.

Council Member Nooe was sworn in by Judge Allen.

- d. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Phil Hunnicutt – Ward 6.

Council Member Hunnicutt was sworn in by Judge Allen.

- e. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Jerry Ellis – Ward 7.

Council Member Ellis was sworn in by Judge Allen.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM:

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to nominate Council Member Carter to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS:

- a. ABC Board

Mayor Hall nominated Tom Barbour for reappointment.

- b. ABC Board Chair

Mayor Hall nominated Tommy Flynt to continue as chair.

c. Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee

Mayor Hall nominated Council Member Moore to continue on the committee.

d. Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Mayor Hall nominated Mayor Pro Tem Carter to continue on the committee.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to approve the Mayor's nominations to ABC Board, ABC Board Chair, Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee and Piedmont Triad Regional Council. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Carter to set the agenda. Council Member Epps seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT: PRESENTATION OF THE 2018-2019 AUDIT BY ROUSE, ROUSE, ROUSE & GARDNER:

Mayor Hall asked Judy Rouse, CPA of Rouse, Rouse, Rouse and Gardner, to come forward.

Ms. Rouse referenced the 2018-2019 audit report, starting on page 1 and noted the firm had audited the governmental and business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information as of and for the year ending June 30, 2019 and the related notes to the financial statement which collectively comprised the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. On page 2, in the firm's opinion, based on their audit, the financial statements referred to above presented fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information for the City as of June 30, 2019 the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where appropriate, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. She explained that meant a clean opinion on the City's financial statements. The audit was prepared on state and federal uniform guides and with the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement 34 and GASB Statement 75. The Eden ABC Board Financial Statement was presented as a component unit of the City on pages 15 and 16.

The audit report included the financial information from the actuarial studies on the City's Law Enforcement Separation Allowance and the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) which was a self-funded health plan. There was also an actuarial study on the Pension Plan which was prepared by the state auditor's office. The information related to those actuarial studies was in the first part of the report on pages 15-28.

The synopsis of the audit report was prepared by the City's financial staff with input from the interim city manager. She had reviewed the report and found it accurate. Financial department employees continued to attend classes in governmental accounting. The number of adjusting entries continued to remain at a very low level.

On page 94, the General Fund fund balance increased from \$9,408,745 to \$10,189,842. In the prior year, fund balance increased from \$8,722,152 to \$9,408,745. The cash decreased from \$8,473,756 to \$8,176,989. The total liabilities decreased from \$1,230,952 to \$762,042. The unassigned fund balance was \$6,783,552 with \$500,000 appropriated to the 2019-20 budget, which was the same thing appropriated in the prior year for the current year. On page 110, the total expenditures in the General Fund were \$16,597,232. One-twelfth of that amount multiplied by three months would be \$4,149,309. The amount unassigned at June 30, 2019 was \$2,634,243 above the three months' operating expenses. The three months' working capital policy was adopted by Council in 1998-99. The fund balance available was comprised of an amount shown as restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned according to the Local Government Commission (LGC). Using that theory, the fund balance for the City was 59.73 percent of expenditures. The 2018 statewide level of total fund balance maintained by municipalities without electrical and with a population in the City's range was 55.47 percent. The City was above the state average by 2.26 percent.

On page 96, Ms. Rouse pointed out the budgeted revenues were \$15,910,100 while the actual revenues were \$16,102,982 for a favorable variance of \$192,882. The revenues in the prior year were \$14,972,326. The synopsis analyzed the difference in the revenues by line items. On page 110, the budgeted operating expenditures were \$17,767,000 while the actual expenditures were \$16,597,232 for a favorable variance of \$1,169,768. The actual expenditures for year ending June 30, 2018 were \$16,596,728. Total expenditures were up very little from the prior year. The synopsis recapped expenditures in each department, listing the budgeted and actual amounts as well as the variance between those. The reimbursement to each department from the Water and Sewer Fund was noted. No department spent over their budgeted amounts.

Mayor Hall said that was a tribute to the department heads and staff.

Ms. Rouse said the Water and Sewer reimbursed \$2,175,460 to the General Fund for utility user fees, compared with \$2,071,393 for the prior year as found on page 129. On page 111, the General Fund had revenues over expenditures of \$781,097 compared to \$686,593 in the prior year.

Page 118 was a comparative balance sheet for the Water and Sewer Fund comparing it to the prior year. The net position in the fund increased from \$47,769,488 to \$51,904,858. The cash and investments decreased from prior year \$5,190,502 to \$4,550,216. Total assets and deferred outflows of resources were \$69,198,139 compared to prior year \$64,514,382. Other receivables from the prior year were \$425,557 and in 2018-19 were \$2,379,140. \$1.9 million of that receivable was due from the N.C. Connect Bond grant and the loan. Since June 30, 2019, the entire receivable had been approved by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure and had been collected by the City. There had not been as much cash, but there was a receivable for reimbursement, half a loan and the other half a grant. The total liabilities increased from \$16,672,037 to \$17,161,571.

On page 119, the Water & Sewer Fund operating revenues were \$12,900,326, up from the prior year of \$10,241,441. Most of the increase was in sewer charges where the City processed leachate from Duke Energy. Capital contributions from grants increased from \$579,412 to \$1,820,247, which mostly came from the N.C. Connect Bond grant and Rockingham County reimbursing the City for half of a land purchase. Operating expenses increased from \$10,257,849 to \$10,515,769. The depreciation expense went down from \$2,572,825 to \$2,306,835 because the City had been a lot of money related to infrastructure related to engineering fees, but they did not start depreciating infrastructure until it had been finished. It was considered construction in progress. The Mega Park Waterline Project Fund and the EPA Administrative Order of Consent had been consolidated into the Water & Sewer Fund so the Water & Sewer Fund was presented on a complete accrual basis. On a positive note, the City had paid off some debt so the interest expense went down from \$269,803 to \$209,751. Change in net position was net income and that was \$4,135,370 compared to \$366,417 the prior year. On page 120, they could see that

the cash went down to \$4,884,735 from \$5,516,512 because they had to pay out engineering fees related to infrastructure projects. The reimbursement came from the state and she had recorded it as other receivables.

Mayor Hall asked if the change in net position reflected some of the expected expenses for the projects the City would be starting on. He knew they had started engineering on them but the money was being built up for the waterline, etc.

Ms. Rouse said that was correct. The cost of engineering added to the capital outlay. Once that project or a portion of the project was completed, it would start depreciating. Currently, it was a capital asset until it was in operation. Infrastructure was usually depreciated over a 50-year life.

In the footnotes on page 43, Ms. Rouse said there were two sub-funds of the Water & Sewer Fund set up for construction commitments, the Mega Park Water Improvements and the Remediation Plan Expenditures. Listed were the estimated dates of completion, total for project ordinance, spent to date and remaining commitment. Revenues were anticipated for the Remediation Plan Expenditures from the Connect N.C. grant and loan and some from Water & Sewer Fund operations.

Mayor Hall noted the information may look different the next year as some of the bids they had received two or three years ago were higher. Some of the projects would have to be rebid. They did not have money to do the projects at one time. When the City was ready to start the work, at times they were told the jobs would have to be bid again.

Ms. Rouse said there was an important footnote on page 85 for Council and the community to understand. On April 22, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Administrative Order of Consent to the City related to sewer overflows based on requirements of the Clean Water Act. That was why the City was having to do new infrastructure, new lines. The EPA mandated that the City had five years to remediate the sewer overflows to satisfy the administrative order, ending February 28, 2022. If the city did not meet the deadline, the City would have daily civil penalties as high as \$37,500 per day for each violation and also could potentially face additional criminal penalties. It was important that the City follow those costs on a very close basis. They should make sure they were bidding those jobs out as they were under a timeframe. The City had tried to get an extended deadline but it was denied. It was a mandate and the City was working on it. It was an important part of the audit report.

On page 82, Ms. Rouse pointed out the total debt of the City with interest added was \$19,784,551, \$5,202,796 was debt related to governmental activities while \$14,481,755 was debt for water and sewer. The legal debt margin was 8 percent of the assessed valuation. On page 141, the property valuation for the City was \$897,023,866. Eight percent of that was \$71,761,909. She hoped the City never had to have that much debt. The City had cash to pay for smaller items between \$25,000 to \$50,000. She recommended paying cash for those items instead of setting up more installment sales. The current year's collection rate for tax levies was 98.54 percent. In the prior year it was 98.21 and 98.64 in 2017. The state average collection rate for 2018 in Eden's population range (up to 25,000 people) was 96.9, excluding vehicles, so Eden was above the state average.

Ms. Rouse read from pages 144 and 145: In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Eden's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Eden's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Eden's internal control. In our consideration of internal control there was a material weakness or significant deficiency. She said they had described it in a schedule of findings and questioned costs. Page 150 noted that per the Internal Control Policy in the City of Eden's Administrative Policies and

Procedure Manual, timesheet submission was required for all employees and each individual's pay record per pay cycle was approved by Department Heads and Superintendents prior to posting. The City Manager was altering and approving timesheets thus overriding the approval of time records by department heads and superintendents. The City Manager was approving hours not worked by employees thus overstating payments to employees. Per investigation, this was a systematic problem. Management was overriding controls set in the City's Internal Control Policy. The City Manager should never be allowed to override controls set in the Internal Control Policy. The governing board should actively review and monitor the actions of the City Manager. The next page was the City's response. Many of those things had been addressed in the November Council meeting. Council had put controls in place to better monitor the situation in a lot of areas.

On a positive note, interest income for the City was \$295,425 compared to \$162,564, which was a nice improvement. Ms. Rouse noted the City had a good staff and they were able to work with the firm to get the report out with very few adjustments. It was important that the finance personnel continue with education because the Governmental Accounting Standards Board changed information often. The City needed to continue with the actuarial studies as they were an integral part of the audit report. Item 3 in the management letter noted the firm was pleased the City had two capital project funds that had been set up as sub-funds of the Water & Sewer Fund. That was easier to follow. Greater care needed to be made to review the engineer and other contractor invoices related to the EPA order. It was going to be a big expenditure and the City would be asking for reimbursements with grant money or loans. The City would want those to be accurate. Regarding the management override of controls, the firm thought a review should be done of all travel reimbursements by the city manager and discretionary spending analysis related to the city manager. The city manager should have a yearly review and contract review by Council where sick pay and vacation pay were addressed. She asked if she was correct that Council had taken care of those issues.

Mayor Hall said she was correct.

Ms. Rouse said for internal control, all department heads and superintendents should be reeducated on their roles in approving timesheets and other internal control policies already in place. She thanked Council for the opportunity to work on the audit and noted it was a challenge. The Finance Department was a big help and she appreciated their efforts.

Council Member Ellis thanked the Rouses and their firm for their work. He appreciated that Ms. Rouse had emphasized the important of the EPA AOC.

Ms. Rouse thanked her CPA partner Trevor Gardner for his tremendous work on the audit.

Council Member Ellis agreed and was thankful Mr. Gardner, a Morehead High School graduate, had returned to Eden for his career.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. (1) Consideration of a zoning map amendment request to rezone 104 Morgan Road and adjoining parcels (PIN 7070-15-63-6765, 7070-15-64-8087, and 7070-15-64-9674) from Industrial-1 to PUD-Mixed Use. Submitted by James Maynard, member of Nantucket Mill, LLC, property owner.
- (2) Consideration of a resolution adopting a statement of consistency regarding the proposed map amendment request to rezone 104 Morgan Road and adjoining parcels (PIN 7070-15-63-6765, 7070-15-64-8087, and 7070-15-64-9674) from Industrial-1 to PUD-Mixed Use.

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

Ms. Stultz said the property was known as Nantucket Mill and was a local historic landmark. The owners planned to apply for the eligible tax credits which meant the exterior of the building would be preserved. The rezoning, approved unanimously by the Planning Board, would allow for housing and other uses over time. It was a great benefit to the community's morale and economy to adaptively reuse older buildings. It was anticipated that \$23 million would be spent to rehabilitate the building and bring it up to code. She recommended that the request be approved and include conditions that needed to be added at the time when a final development plan was presented.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked Ms. Stultz if there was any anticipated use in the PUD overlay that would cause issues.

Ms. Stultz said there was not. In other communities, those types of developments had apartments, condos, live/work space and even small cottage industries. They would have the opportunity to weigh in on the final development plan when it was ready.

Council Member Hunnicutt noted it was not a large site relative to available parking. He assumed as the plan was submitted, staff would review the parking.

Ms. Stultz said they would and that was why this included the smaller parking lots. Parking would be available on those and other parcels.

An audience member questioned if the housing would be for elderly and low-income residents.

Ms. Stultz answered at that time, the housing was not anticipated to be for the elderly, but there were several housing facilities in Eden that were and were based on income. She offered that they could visit her office for assistance.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to approve the zoning map amendment request to rezone 104 Morgan Road and adjoining parcels (PIN 7070-15-63-6765, 7070-15-64-8087, and 7070-15-64-9674) from Industrial-1 to PUD-Mixed Use and to adopt a resolution for a statement of consistency regarding the proposed map amendment request to rezone 104 Morgan Road and adjoining parcels (PIN 7070-15-63-6765, 7070-15-64-8087, and 7070-15-64-9674) from Industrial-1 to PUD-Mixed Use. Mayor Pro Tem Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Hall asked City Attorney Erin Gilley to read the City's policy for speakers.

Arthur White, 2603 Price Road, thanked Council for the new improvements in Eden, like the mural on Washington Street and painted hydrants. He had a suggestion for the greenways. He thought the concrete sewer structures along the greenway should also be painted, preferably with nature themes. Having local

artists paint them as they painted the hydrants would be an asset to the greenways. Some other communities had installed rail to trail systems and he would like to see Eden do that as well on the unused railways, particularly the line that had went by Barnett Canal and into Fieldcrest in downtown Leaksville. That could provide a trail for biking or walking efficiently between Leaksville and Spray. He also thought motorized scooters would be a benefit to citizens, as were used in other communities. Regarding the future otter sculpture in the Spray Traffic Circle, he noted there needed to be a pedestrian walkway to access it and there was not one. His wife loved otters and he knew that when it was installed, she would want a picture. There should be safe access to it.

Mayor Hall said he appreciated the comments and suggestions. He called on Coordinator of Tourism and Special Events Cindy Adams to address the art project.

Ms. Adams said the Smith River Greenway would be converted into a butterfly trail and part of that would be a local artist painting the concrete sewer structures to fit into the natural landscape. They were no current projects for it on the Matrimony Creek Nature Trail. A location in the Smith River Greenway area was being examined for the otter sculpture which would allow pedestrians to walk up to it and it would not require permission from the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Mayor Hall said connectivity was something the City was trying to accomplish with the greenways and trail systems. It was a matter of funding and they were limited on how much they could do each year. He liked the idea of the rails to trails. He loved going to the Virginia Creeper Trail. Problems with developing it in Eden was that some or all of the property may be owned by railroad companies who may not be willing to give the land and with dangerous crossings across roadways.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter thought Ms. Stultz had investigated the rail to trail system.

Ms. Stultz said she and Parks & Recreation Director Johnny Farmer had both looked into the possibility. The Greenway Master Plan did include some former railway beds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of 2020 Boards and Commissions appointments.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz reminded the Council that the appointees served on staggered three-year terms.

Ward 1 – Council Member Moore nominated Everall Peele to continue on the Historic Preservation Commission and Eddie Barker to continue on the Planning Board.

Ward 2 – Tabled until the next meeting.

Minutes of the regular December 17, 2019 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

Ward 3 – Council Member Hampton nominated Karla McDonald for the Community Appearance Commission, Barbara Garland to continue on Planning Board and Brian Ferris to serve on the Tree Board.

Ward 4 – Tabled until the next meeting.

Ward 5 – Mayor Pro Tem Carter nominated Cathy Carter to continue on the Community Appearance Commission and the Planning Board appointment was tabled until the next meeting.

Ward 6 – Tabled until the next meeting.

Ward 7 – Tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Hall nominated Dale Warren to serve on the Tree Board.

David Everett was nominated to continue on the Board of Adjustment from the ETJ.

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

b. Consideration to select a consultant for the Unified Development Ordinance.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz noted there had been a lot of discussion about the need for a Unified Development Ordinance and the deadline with all the statute changes as of January 1, 2021. A request for proposals went out the day after Council approved spending up to \$60,000 at their November meeting. One bid was received and was sufficient because it was a professional service. Stewart was a firm with a long history and big presence in the state. She was extremely satisfied with the information she had about them. She asked that Council approve Stewart as the consultant and authorize Mayor Hall to sign the contract.

Council Member Moore asked if Ms. Stultz had worked with Stewart before.

Ms. Stultz said she had not but she knew them. There had been some discussion about having a special meeting in January for Council to meet consultants from the firm and to have a discussion on how they would start and finish the project.

Council Member Moore said he had read of some of the cities Stewart had worked with and it looked like they were across the state from the coast to the mountains and in between.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to select Stewart as consultant for the Unified Development Ordinance. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Dan River Game Land

Council Member Hunnicutt said he had attended a public input meeting that week by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission for a management plan for the 1,800 acres they had acquired, formerly known as the Galloway Farm. Trails had been one of the requests by attendees. There were nearly four miles of continuous river frontage on the property. The Commission was open to including a trail and said if they public wanted it, they needed to email Raleigh with the request. The number of responses the

Commission received would determine to a large degree whether a trail happened or not. That did not mean the trail would happen, but it most likely would not happen if it was not pushed. Ms. Adams was at the meeting as well and he asked her what support could be given from the City.

Ms. Adams said the simplest way would be to send in an email. The information could be found on ExploreEdenNC.com or she could be contacted to provide it. Respondents could fill out an entire questionnaire from the Commission or they could just comment. The Commission did indicate that more responses would make them consider a trail. Public comments were very important.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked if it could be posted on the City's website so people could easily find it.

Ms. Adams would make sure it was. It would be a very easy process for anyone to complete.

Council Member said it was the potential for a four-mile trail that hopefully would be free. It could be a big plus in terms of tourism.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager's Report.

Interim City Manager Terry Shelton said each Council Member had received a copy of the report. It was available online and in Eden's Own Journal. It was full of information that pertained to the City and he encouraged everyone to pick up a copy.

Mayor Hall noted that the report discussed WinterFest, which had gotten bigger and better and had a great turnout.

BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Gildan Yarns

More than 150 people have applied for the 85 positions available at the 335 Summit Road facility. They are still taking applications at the plant so do not hesitate to complete an application if you are interested.

Morgan Olson Manufacturing

The former IKEA employees are being given first consideration for the 700 available jobs at this Danville, Va., facility. In February or March of 2020, the company will be advertising in Eden for potential applicants. More will be reported as the company progresses in their new location.

Loparex

This is the first Eden industry to participate in the Rock-A-Top Apprenticeship program offered through the Rockingham County Schools system. High school participants are paid during their apprenticeship period, then often are offered permanent positions within the companies for whom they apprentice. The program has been very successful in other county industry.

Lidl

The company has dedicated an individual to dispose of the Eden property and other locations they have closed or abandoned. We are hopeful that they will have a broker list the property by the first of the year. The City tried for nine weeks to obtain entry into the building to show a viable prospect before the company announced it would assign the property to a real estate broker to facilitate the sale of the property.

KFC

Construction is well on its way at this Highway 14 facility.

Bayberry Retirement Village – 30th Anniversary

Bayberry has six N.C. locations, the Eden location celebrating its 30th year in operation this year. The company will be honored at the December 17 Eden City Council meeting. We wish them another 30 successful years in Eden.

Tri-City Glass & Mirror – 70th Anniversary

This Eden company is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. Earlier in December, the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners honored them. On December 17th, the Eden City Council will also honor owners Dana and Dustin Hussey. One great story about Tri-City Glass & Mirror is how they established a relationship with Sheetz, their Stadium Drive neighbor. When Sheetz was building the Eden store, they had issues with another supplier and gave Tri-City an opportunity to supply their glass. Almost 10 years later, Tri-City continues to supply glass for Sheetz stores, recently completing their 100th store. This is an example of a large business helping an Eden small business. If you see Dana or Justin, please congratulate them for reaching such a significant milestone.

Women’s League in Preppy Pirate Outfitters

The Eden Women’s League has opened a Dewey’s Bakery retail shop inside Preppy Pirate Outfitters, located at 347 Washington Street in Historic Downtown Eden. The Women’s League raises funds annually through different projects they undertake with all of the funds going to community causes. “We know there are needs in the Eden community, so we wanted to do a bigger fundraiser to help more,” stated President Tammy Shelton. “We have added members who will join us in serving the Eden community.” Past projects include giving annual scholarships to Morehead High School seniors, supporting Help Inc., the Eden Public Library and various classes in Rockingham County Schools such as the Morehead High School robotics team, as well as the Salvation Army. The store will be open Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On December 15 and 22, the store will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Santa will be in the store on the December Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. He will also be there on the two Sundays they are open. The Dewey’s bakery items include a variety of cookies and other delicious snacks. Your purchases help this organization help the Eden community. For more information, contact Preppy Pirate Outfitters at 336-589-9668.

Panther Pride: Good News

Over the last several months, the City of Eden has worked with Morehead High School in publishing the Panther Pride: Good News column about what great things are taking place in our local high school in Eden’s Own Journal. We have covered young professionals who have returned home to start their careers in Eden, the Automotive Technology Class led by Instructor Blair Pruitt and how he has helped students who thrive in a hands-on learning environment as well as students who visited the RCC Simulated Hospital to learn more about healthcare careers. The January issue will feature the MHS JROTC program and February will include a story about how students are learning entrepreneurship through the high school food and nutrition programs. There are lots of great things happening at Morehead High School. Learn more about them by following these columns each month.

Winterfest

What a great night! A huge thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated winter and the Christmas season with us! It was wonderful seeing all the children’s smiles and wide eyes! We would also like to thank everyone that made this the fun night it was:

- Santa Claus
- Elsa, Anna and Olaf from Frozen – Once Upon A Time Fairytale Parties
- Michael Gravely of Outdoor Entertainment – slide and movie screen
- Kris Robbins & Family – lighted balloon ice castle and oversized games
- Rockingham County Schools – fabulous raffle baskets
- Debbie Ellis & Dale Warren – manning the smore’s bar
- Hot Stuff Beverages – delicious hot chocolate, cider and coffee
- Tim & Diana Biggs – popcorn
- Councilman Jim Burnette & Family – lighting the Christmas tree
- Mike Dougherty, Randy Hunt & Jamison Taylor – setup and breakdown
- Eden Police Department – John Edwards – lighting
- Jimmy Dillon – duty over and above to make sure lights worked.
- Drew Chilton, Johnny Massey & Brett Curry – decorating Grogan Park

2020 Signature Event Dates – Mark Your Calendars

- May 12 – Hispanic Heritage Day

- May 21 – Spring Grown & Gathered
- June 6 – Piedmont Pottery Festival
- June 20 – Oink & Ale
- July 25 – Shaggin’ on Fieldcrest
- August 13 – Summer Grown & Gathered
- August 22 – Touch-A-Truck
- September 18 & 19 – RiverFest
- December 5 – WinterFest

ENGINEERING

Waterline Replacement Projects Update

Preparation of preliminary plans is underway for three waterline projects for proposed improvements along George Street, a section of Primitive Street south of Spring Street, the section of Spring Street west of Dameron Street, and for the installation of a small booster pump station off the east side of Jackson Street.

PARKS & RECREATION

Construction of Phase II of the Matrimony Creek Greenway has begun and this facility should be completed by December 27.

Staff hosted the Parks & Recreation podcast with Mike Moore Media on December 9.

The City of Eden Prowlers Football program held its banquet on December 8.

The Santa Calling and Visits began December 1 and will continue through December 22.

There was a NSA Tournament at Freedom Park December 7 – 8.

Staff participated in the Leaksville Christmas Parade on November 29 and the Draper Christmas Parade on December 7.

Staff attended a Be Healthy Rockingham County meeting on December 11.

Coming up, Staff will conduct the monthly podcast with Mike Moore Media on January 3 and attend a Be Healthy Rockingham County meeting on January 8.

The City’s Youth Basketball program is in full swing and players are practicing at the Bridge Street Recreation Center and the Mill Avenue Gym. Games will continue through March 2020.

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS

Community Development Block Grant

The City received a \$750,000 Housing and Infrastructure Grant aimed at the mill village in the Draper area. We have not been given the grant agreement yet. Work cannot start until we get that from the State. This is the first housing related grant we have received strictly aimed at this section of the City.

NCDOT Stadium Drive Sidewalk Project

In partnership with NCDOT, we are underway with a sidewalk project that will extend from the intersection of Pierce Street and Stadium Drive east to the intersection of Edgewood Road and Stadium Drive. This sidewalk is a part of our Greenway Master Plan and our existing Pedestrian Plan. The NCDOT portion of the project is estimated to be \$394,000 and the City portion to be \$98,106. Wetherill Engineering has been engaged to prepare the plans.

NCDOT Bike and Pedestrian Plan

We have recently been notified that we have received funding from NCDOT to update our Bike and Pedestrian Plan. This process will begin soon. The Piedmont Triad Council of Governments will assist us with the plan. A plan of this type is a requirement to receive funds for pedestrian and bike facilities from the NCDOT.

Unified Development Ordinance

Our land used regulations are still in the framework that they were in when adopted in the 1960s. In 2019, the N.C. General Assembly overhauled all of the statutes relating to land use planning and put them in an entirely new chapter. Beginning January 1, 2021, all related ordinances must be amended to be in compliance with the statutes. The Strategic Planning Commission recommended to the City Council that \$60,000 be committed for this vital project. The City Council approved the funds at the November regular meeting. We are expecting bids to be in for a consultant in time to be approved at the December regular City Council Meeting.

Nantucket Mill Rehabilitation

The Nantucket Mill located at the intersection of Morgan Road and Church Street is owned by Nantucket Mill LLC. The zoning case to create a mixed use planned unit development as approved by the Planning Board at their November meeting and will be on the City Council agenda for December. The owners are preparing for a \$26,000,000 renovation of the property. We are seeking grant funds to help them. The property is a Brownfield property but the State has recently released the prohibition of residential uses of the property. Engineering and design work is expected to begin in early 2020.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anti-Litter

The Eden Police Department continues to post a Public Service Announcement on the Eden Police Department's Facebook page asking citizens to Stand Against Litter as part of the countywide campaign to aggressively enforce littering and illegal dumping violations. We will continue to replay the announcement each month and aggressively enforce littering and illegal dumping statutes.

Fundraiser for County employee

This year, our department is participating in 'No Shave November/December' and 'Crazy Nail / Casual Dress November/December' fundraising campaign. We will be supporting one of the members of our "First Responder" family this year. Emily Thacker is a Rockingham County 9-1-1 Telecommunicator and a volunteer in the Eden Rescue Squad. Emily is a 34-year-old single mother of three children (ages 11, 6, 5) and lives in Eden. Emily was diagnosed with Stage 1 Invasive Ductal Carcinoma Breast Cancer. Emily has been a trooper since her diagnosis. She has had multiple doctor's appointments for testing, scans, and biopsies. Emily has had to leave work for appointments and came back to work afterwards. This will be not only a lengthy process for her but a costly one as well.

Firearms replacement

In 2016, we applied for a grant to replace our aging duty firearms. We received the funding, \$24,244, in 2019. We have completed the transition to the new Ruger American Duty Firearm.

Keep our streets safe

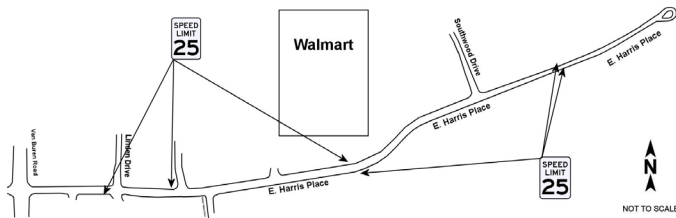
As we approach the Christmas holidays and New Year's Eve, we would encourage all our citizens to drink responsibly and utilize designated drivers. The Eden Police Department will have additional officers working throughout the holidays and New Year's Eve to keep our streets and highways safe. Facebook The Eden Police Department would like to continue to encourage the citizens of our community to utilize the Eden Police Department's Facebook page for updates and information concerning our community, as well as Crimestoppers, to provide anonymous information concerning illegal activity to keep our community safe. We all have to work together to keep our community safe.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Hall said the Consent Agenda had non-controversial items that were sent to the Council in advance for their review. He wanted to clarify that it did not include decisions regarding spending money. Those decisions were made during the budget retreat, budget workshop and the budget vote. The expenses on the Consent Agenda were items that had been included in the budget but had not been purchased yet. The funds had already been appropriated and were just being moved from the account over for payment.

- a. Approval and adoption of the November 19, 2019 minutes.
- b. Approval and adoption of an ordinance to lower the speed limit on E. Harris Place.

Sgt. Jim Robertson wrote in a memo that at the beginning of October, the Police Department was informed by Council Member Grogan of an issue of speeding on E. Harris Place. E. Harris Place currently had no speed limit signs in place. There are four apartment complexes along the length and terminus of E. Harris Place. An order was issued for speed surveys to be completed on E. Harris Place. Speed data was collected from 51 vehicles traveling through the area. Data indicated that 29% of the vehicles were traveling 26MPH-30MPH, 25% were traveling 31MPH-35MPH, 22% were traveling 21MPH-25MPH, 8% were traveling 16MPH-20MPH, 8% were traveling 10MPH-15MPH, and 8% were traveling 36MPH- 40MPH. In total, 76% of the recorded speeds were between 21MPH-35MPH. The speed data tended to indicate a pattern where a majority of drivers were adhering to a 35MPH speed limit (the citywide speed limit). Additionally, several residents were presented a survey letter as to their opinion about whether the speed limit on E. Harris Place should be 25mph, 35mph, neither, or either. Seventy-three 73 residents from the various apartment complexes responded to the survey letter. The responses revealed that 53% of the residents requested a 25MPH speed limit, 25% requested a 35MPH speed limit, 21% did not object to either a 25MPH or 35MPH speed limit, and 1% wanted neither a 25MPH nor a 35MPH speed limit (but actually wanted a lower speed limit). Many residents reported that there are a lot of children and elderly people who frequent the area on foot. Many commented that a reduced speed limit would improve the safety in the area. Due to the multiple apartment complexes in the area and the majority opinion of the residents, the recommendation of the Police Department is that the speed limit on E. Harris Place be reduced from the citywide speed of 35mph to 25mph. Below is a map of the proposed locations of the Speed Limit signs:



AN ORDINANCE REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON E. HARRIS PLACE FROM S. VAN BUREN ROAD EASTWARD TO THE DEAD END OF E. HARRIS PLACE

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

Section 1 – The City Council of the City of Eden has determined that operation of a motor vehicle Thirty-Five (35) miles per hour on E. Harris Place from S. Van Buren Road eastward to the dead end of E. Harris Place is greater than is reasonable and safe under the conditions existing upon E. Harris Place from S. Van Buren Road eastward to the dead end of E. Harris Place.

Section 2 – It shall be an infraction to operate a motor vehicle on E. Harris Place from S. Van Buren Road eastward to the dead end of E. Harris Place in excess of Twenty-Five (25) miles per hour.

Section 3 – Signs shall be placed, erected or installed on each side of E. Harris Place from S. Van Buren Road eastward to the dead end of E. Harris Place giving notice of the speed limit to traffic traveling in each direction on said street/roadway.

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

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

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFECTIVE, this 17 day of December, 2019.

CITY OF EDEN
Neville Hall, Mayor
ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

c. Approval and adoption of an ordinance to lower the speed limit on Merriman Street.

Sgt. Robertson wrote in a memo that in mid-October, the Police Department was requested by Council Member Ellis to conduct a traffic study on Merriman Street for the speed to be lowered to 25MPH and signs to be erected. Merriman Street traverses a residential neighborhood of just over 40 households and currently has 35MPH speed limit signs in place. This road runs from Delaware Avenue southward for half a mile until it dead ends. A visual survey of posted speed limits in the area shows that Maryland Avenue, South Avenue, Hale Street, and Hundley Drive are posted 25 MPH. An order was issued for speed surveys to be completed on Merriman Street. Speed data was collected from 40 vehicles traveling through the area. Data indicated that 45% of the vehicles were traveling 21MPH-25MPH, 27% were traveling 26MPH-30MPH, 15% were traveling 16MPH-20MPH, 8% were traveling 31MPH-35MPH, 3% were traveling 36MPH- 40MPH, and 2% were traveling 10MPH-15MPH. In total, 80% of the recorded speeds were between 21MPH-35MPH. The speed data tended to indicate a pattern where a majority of drivers are adhering to the posted 35MPH speed limit. Also of note, 63% of the vehicles were already traveling at a speed of 25MPH or less. The Police Department recommended that the speed on Merriman Street be reduced to 25MPH. This decision is based on the following considerations: the residential nature of the area, the large number of households along the length of Merriman Street, the percentage of vehicle speeds already traveling at 25MPH and below. Below is a map of the proposed locations of the Speed Limit signs:



AN ORDINANCE REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON MERRIMAN STREET FROM DELAWARE AVENUE SOUTHWARD TO THE DEAD END OF MERRIMAN STREET

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

Section 1 – The City Council of the City of Eden has determined that operation of a motor vehicle Thirty-Five (35) miles per hour on Merriman Street from Delaware Avenue southward to the dead end of Merriman Street is greater than is reasonable and safe under the conditions existing upon Merriman Street from Delaware Avenue southward to the dead end of Merriman Street.

Section 2 – It shall be an infraction to operate a motor vehicle on Merriman Street from Delaware Avenue southward to the dead end of Merriman Street in excess of Twenty-Five (25) miles per hour.

Minutes of the regular December 17, 2019 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

Section 3 – Signs shall be placed, erected or installed on each side of Merriman Street from Delaware Avenue southward to the dead end of Merriman Street giving notice of the speed limit to traffic traveling in each direction on said street/roadway.

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

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

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFECTIVE, this 17 day of December, 2019.

CITY OF EDEN

Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- d. Approval of financing for 2019-20 budgeted items: vacuum leaf machine, passenger van, sewer camera van and two police vehicles.

Assistant Finance Director Amy Winn wrote in a memo that in the 2019-2020 Budget, Council approved the purchase of a vacuum leaf machine for the Street Department, a 14-passenger bus for the Recreation Department, two police vehicles, and a sewer camera van for the Collection and Distribution Department, and they had been set up in the budget to be financed.

On November 25, she requested bids from our local banks for the financing for the leaf machine and received the following quotes: BB&T 2.38%, First National Bank 3.56%, United Financial (Home Trust) 2.14%. The total cost of the equipment was \$64,870 with annual payments of approximately \$13,818.69, which was within the budgeted amounts.

On November 25, she requested bids from our local banks for the financing for the 14-passenger bus and received the following quotes: BB&T 2.38%, First National Bank 3.56%, United Financial (Home Trust) 2.14%. The total cost of the equipment was \$54,132 with annual payments of approximately \$11,531.26, which was within the budgeted amounts.

On November 25, she requested bids from our local banks for the financing for two police vehicles and received the following quotes: BB&T 2.38%, First National Bank 3.56%, United Financial (Home Trust) 2.14%. The total cost of the equipment was \$88,258.98 with annual payments of approximately \$18,801.04, which was within the budgeted amounts.

On November 25, she requested bids from our local banks for the financing for the sewer camera van and received the following quotes: BB&T 2.38%, First National Bank 3.49%, United Financial (Home Trust) 2.14%. The total cost of the equipment is \$175,954.66 with annual payments of approximately \$37,482.08, which was within the budgeted amounts.

She respectfully asked that Council approve United Financial (Home Trust) as the successful bid for financing.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Hampton noted The Boulevard's holiday party and two ribbon cuttings had been postponed. A prayer walk would be held December 30 on The Boulevard in response to issues like graffiti happening along the street. The Home of Refuge Homeless Shelter below the Draper Fire Department was officially open. They did have people staying there. She asked for prayer for the shelter, as well as volunteers and donors if anyone felt led to help.

Council Member Epps wanted to thank everyone who coordinated, patrolled and participated in, as well as those who cleaned up after, the two Christmas parades. It was an asset to the community to see the cooperation between individuals and agencies to get the parades done.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter wanted to wish all the families represented in the audience a Merry Christmas. He appreciated their attendance. On Dec. 21, Santa would be at 334 Sunset Drive from 6 until 8 p.m. and all small children who came to see Santa would get a toy.

Council Member Ellis wanted to thank Ms. Grogan and Mr. Burnette for serving on the Council and congratulated Council Members Nooe and Hunnicutt on the election. He looked forward to working with them. Draper Christian Church would have a community meal on Dec. 24.

Council Member Epps wanted to thank the individual who put an article in the paper about the City. He thought that person was trying to bring unity and harmony and the article was great.

Audience member Shawn Bradley wanted to make an announcement. He said it was time for a change. He loved Eden. He envisioned Eden being a beautiful place. He was not saying it was ugly, but it could be so much better. There was a lot of division, even between Council and the people. It was time for them to all come together. No one knew when their time would end or when the man upstairs would say he had enough. If they took the initiative to start loving one another, doing for each other and helping each other out, they could prolong that time. The Council and Mayor had the power. Mayor Hall's name was French and meant new town. It was time for them to make a new town of Eden. They needed to get to the nitty gritty and plant the seeds in the soil and tend to it. He was on a different type of journey that had been up and down and he would not change it for the world. His journey had brought him there for that exact reason. He was a visionary and knew the things he envisioned for the City could work, bringing money back to the City. He wanted that for the City more than life itself and he was willing to die for it. He told Mayor Hall they could make it a new town and that the Mayor was in that seat for a reason.

Mayor Hall said that reminded him of a Chinese proverb he had read that day, that one generation plants the tree and the next generation got the shade.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Hunt
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Neville Hall
Mayor