

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 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:	Gerald Ellis
	Jerry Epps
	Kenny Kirkman
	Greg Light
	Bernie Moore
	Bruce Nooe
	Tommy Underwood
City Manager:	Jon Mendenhall
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley
City Clerk:	Deanna Hunt
Media:	Mike Moore, Mike Moore Media
	Roy Sawyers, Rockingham Update

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance, including the media present. Pastor Joel Clark, New Saint Paul Baptist Church, gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by members of the Eden Youth Council.

Mayor Hall noted that two items would be added: 4b and 4c.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

a. Proclamation in honor of Arbor Day.

Mayor Hall read the proclamation.

2023 ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden has been named a Tree City USA community by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 29th year, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day in the City of Eden, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and to plant trees to promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2023

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

b. Presentation from the Eden Youth Council.

Mayor Hall called on City Attorney and Youth Council Advisor Erin Gilley.

Ms. Gilley said there was a very active Eden Youth Council (EYC) that year and since they were a commission of the City Council, they wanted to give an update of what they had done and planned to do in the future. March and April were when they had most of their activities planned. The leader from their volleyball tournament could not be at the meeting so Ms. Gilley would review that project. They had wanted to do a tournament for several years. The members organized it and then marketed and promoted it at the high school among their friends. Four teams showed up. (A slideshow was presented with photos from the tournament.) The tournament was very competitive. The entrance fee was a bag of canned food. The food was given to the homeless shelter in Draper. Eden Parks & Recreation Director Terry Vernon and Supervisor Tank Overby stayed all morning and officiated the games. The winning team got a free meal at That Little Pork Shop. It was a successful tournament. She introduced Cooper Martin who would review the 5K.

Mr. Martin said he attended Rockingham Early College High School. One of the EYC's service projects for the year was a 5K Color Run to raise money for two really good organizations: Rockingham Hope, which was Osborne Baptist Church's food drive, and The Phoenix Alliance, which helped victims of sex trafficking. The 5K was named Run for Hope and it would be held Saturday, April 22 starting at 10 a.m. with check-in at 9 a.m. It would be held on the Smith River Greenway starting by the restrooms. The registration fee was \$20. He thanked Council for their time and donations to the cause and said he hoped to see some of Council there to support the EYC.

Laura Deel said she wanted to discuss the Draper Pool painting. (A slideshow was presented with photos from the work.) A couple of weeks prior the EYC went to the pool to paint a mural, which was something they had wanted to do the previous year. Members created a marine rendering and went to the pool to stencil it on the wall at 6 a.m. The stenciling had to be done in the dark so the image could be projected onto the wall. The next day members painted the mural. Ms. Gilley and her father (Jim Burnette) were on site helping the members. It was a fun project and they were fortunate to be able to do it. They thought it turned out well. She thanked the City for allowing them to do it.

Ms. Gilley advised the last project the EYC was doing would be the annual Kickball Tournament they were doing for elementary kids. It would be held at Freedom Park with the EYC members serving as coaches for the teams. The EYC members went to the elementary schools and had an assembly with the third- through fifth-grade students. The EYC members promoted the tournament and explained they would be the coaches. The elementary schools sent a team or teams to the tournament to compete for their school. It was also a community policing event as officers volunteered to serve as referees and officials for the games, as Council Member Light would recall doing when he served as police chief. It was a great opportunity for the EYC members to mentor the kids as coaches and for the police officers to get involved with the kids who saw the officers in a great light. It would be Saturday, April 29. She played a video from the assembly held at Douglass Elementary School. The students were very excited. She wanted to thank Council for the support they gave the EYC every year and they would continue on their projects.

Mayor Hall noted the Kickball Tournament was a lot of fun. He welcomed the students at the event and talked to them about sportsmanship. He recalled about two years ago when the only argument at the tournament was between two police officers about if one was out or safe on first base. He wanted to mention that Darryl Tilley, a City retiree, had helped organize the 5K and given a lot of time to it. Most of all, a thank you to Ms. Gilley for being the liaison to the EYC and keeping Council informed. He thanked the EYC.

c. Presentation of Morehead High School Job Shadowing.

Mayor Hall called on Marketing and Special Events Manager Cindy Adams.

Ms. Adams said on March 30, the City had 50 students come over from the high school. There were a little over 30 the previous year so it had grown immensely. They spent the day with employees for the Students in Government Day. It was a huge success, for the students and even more for the employees. The police department was very popular. They had an interactive session with the students and were really making a difference. There were students and staff at the meeting who would introduce themselves and tell about their experience. She thanked them for coming. It was a really great day.

Assistant Principal Landon Kimrey said Council Member Ellis had been missed at the school. On behalf of Principal Jason Tuggle, Career Development Coordinator Christy Hensley and himself, they wanted to thank everyone who was involved with the job shadowing. It was a huge success and the largest job shadow the school had done. Ms. Deel had given out some thank you notes and they had more to distribute. They wanted to thank the City for their partnership with the school and for giving up their time and busy schedules to spend with the students. He had talked to most of the students who were involved in it and they were amazed at how insightful the whole experience was. He recently had a student job shadow him and showed the students some of the things he did in maintaining the school. The student said they never thought about how did those things but they never thought it would be Mr. Kimrey. Mr. Kimrey said he laughed and told the student he could see how they would think he may not be able to do those things but he did. It just went to show how cool the experience was. He thought the kids had an idea of what the jobs were and looked like but they really did not understand the reality of it and he thought that was the best part of the experience.

Ms. Deel said she was asked to speak on behalf of the program as she had participated by job shadowing the Police Department. It was not something she was really interested in but she wanted to try something new. It was a great experience. She was there with 10 or 15 other students. The students saw a K-9 demonstration, got to go into the offices and see the investigations division and what that staff did daily. Students heard from Chief Clint Simpson and Deputy Chief Paul Moore. It made her appreciate what the department did. She had talked with students who were in Water Filtration and Parks & Recreation and they said they enjoyed their day too and were interested in those jobs. It made students appreciate what the City did. As Mr. Kimrey said, the students did not understand the depth of what staff did on a daily basis. They really got to see what was done that day. She thanked Council for allowing them to come over.

Council Member Ellis said Ms. Deel had a few ties with the Police Department. He asked her to tell how.

Ms. Deel advised her brother worked for the department and her grandfather, Skip Blackwell, did as well.

Mayor Hall said it was a great event. He thanked Ms. Adams for organizing it along with Ms. Hensley and the school guidance department. He had been there and each department was represented. The students had opportunities to look at everything and how it worked. At an afternoon session, the students gave great reviews of what they had learned and told how much fun they had.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall noted he had added 4b and 4c. Item 9a would be removed as information had come in too late to be included in the packet, as would the closed session as the information for it was not yet available.

A motion was made by Council Member Underwood to set the meeting agenda. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were none at this time.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

There were none at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

- a. Consideration to approve the City-County utility agreement.

This item was removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Message and Budget Ordinance; consideration to call a public hearing for adoption of the Budget Ordinance.

Mr. Mendenhall said Council should have a copy of the CIP at their seats. He would present the budget message and at the end would ask Council to set a public hearing to adopt the budget.

He read the budget message: I present for your review and consideration the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023. I am able to report to you that the City will discharge all of its financial obligations for the current budget year in the proper manner. Last fiscal year the City dealt with global inflation at a 40-year high, while the high-end inflationary number has lessened, persistent “sticky” inflation remains as evidenced by interest rates, the costs of certain goods/services, and labor scarcity not seen in 50 years. Continuing provision has been made for the on-going potential of downside risk due to inflation; since inflation cannot be easily predicted, this contingency is a planning number that is designed to backstop overages related to inflation in operating lines (past the point where these lines have already been escalated).

Mr. Mendenhall said what this meant was, last year they had talked about buffering for a recession and for the negative impacts of inflation. They had actually increased the buffer, with a substantial buffer in place if there were to be a recession or continuing inflation. There was a contingency number and they had buffered in both the general fund and water & sewer fund, as well as the self insurance fund.

Mr. Mendenhall continued reading: This budget as presented is a spending plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Pursuant to NCGS 159-8, the budget presented is balanced as required by law. In this budget the operating expenditures of the city reflect the impact of inflation, however; careful and precise expenditures are being provided for in order to enhance the public safety, improve the general welfare, and to continue to guard the public health. It should be noted that no new financing is a part of this budget, rather all the new items are being paid for on a PAYGO basis meaning “paid for as you go” rather than financed, this is the second year in which the City has enjoyed the benefits of PAYGO.

Mr. Mendenhall said looking at the interest rates, the City was not having to face a high interest rate due to the switch from financing to paying as they went with cash on hand.

He continued reading: The expenditures of note for this budget are enumerated below.

Mr. Mendenhall said he would read them all. There were a lot of things that went on, as the students at Morehead noticed, that people saw like fire trucks, police cars and City workers working, but sometimes people did not see the sludge scraper or sedimentation basin that kept the drinking water clean. He would go through each of them so everyone was aware of all the different things going on.

He continued reading:

Public Safety

- 6 new police cars – to maintain the vehicle replacement plan for law enforcement
- Replacement of one K-9 officer
- New fire radios to account for narrow banding the radio frequency

Mr. Mendenhall advised this was being pushed off on the City by the federal government and the FCC as they sold off bands for private use that used to be public. The bands were getting narrower and existing radios would not work in the new bands.

He continued reading:

- Renovation of Fire Station #4
- New roof for Fire Station #1
- Replacement of 1 emergency weather siren and based on sound propagation, funds to add 2 additional sirens to cover the northern and southern portions of the central area improving outdoor coverage of key recreational corridors

Mr. Mendenhall said they would start with one siren and see how it did. The sirens should be higher and taller. They would start with Station 1 on Henry Street. It would be removed from the former National Guard Armory and put back on City property and raised on a pole. It should have good propagation but they would test it and see.

He continued reading:

General Welfare

- Resurfacing streets: sections of Green, Jones, Shedd, Riverview, Turner and Monroe Streets; Short Morgan, Von Ruck and Peter Hill Roads; N. Hundley and Clarkway Drives, and Carolina Avenue.
- Small Area Plan – a small area plan to focus on the Spray neighborhoods including the downtown business district
- Festivals – funding two additional festivals and increasing municipal investment in festivals to reflect the increased cost of producing a positive festival experience including necessary investment in back-stage operations to improve efficiency of festival equipment

Mr. Mendenhall explained people did not realize all the festivals cost money and the fundraising efforts that the Marketing Office did were phenomenal; however, costs increased more rapidly than the ability to fundraise so they were having to make up that shortfall.

He continued reading:

- Pocket Park – funding a pocket park proposed by the Strategic Planning Commission for the Boulevard area; re-appropriated funds from FY 22-23 for this purpose
- Funding the employee pay program for the fiscal year
- New roof for City Hall
- New playground for Freedom Park

Public Health

- Repair of additional sludge scrapers at the water treatment plant sedimentation basins

Mr. Mendenhall said staff thought they could get two out of the money that was budgeted.

He continued reading:

- Upgrade of variable frequency drives for pumps at the water treatment plant
- Conversion from gaseous chlorine to sodium hypochlorite at the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant

Mr. Mendenhall told Council they had heard a very complex chemical conversation at the budget retreat, how gaseous chlorine was no longer abundantly available and the City was down to one supplier. Staff wanted to make a switch to sodium hypochlorite bleach and that would be better for all those concerned. It was safer for the public and safer for the employees. It would allow more people to supply the product to the City.

He continued reading:

- Rehabilitating a clarifier at the wastewater treatment plant
- Repair/replace influent gates at wastewater treatment plant
- Replacement of approximately 2,200 linear feet of waterline on Ray St, Riverview St, and Maryland Ave; to improve the drinking water supply system for residents
- Repairs to sanitary sewer collection system through the replacement of air release valves and rehabilitation of Railroad pump station

- All sanitary sewer collection system work related to the Environmental Protection Agency Administrative Order of Consent is being provided for as part of grant funds, a separate project budget accounts for these improvements apart from the annual budget.

Mr. Mendenhall said staff was planning a special called meeting to address some EPA matters probably within the week.

He continued reading: This budget proposal includes that there be no property tax increase keeping the rate at \$0.6090 which marks the 15th year without an increase since 2008. A pass-thru fee increase is proposed of \$1.00 in the solid waste fee from \$20.75 to \$21.75 in order to pass-thru the cost of landfill disposal that was increased \$1.00 by Rockingham County Government. Updates to other rates and charges have been undertaken to bring these in line with costs county and regionwide.

Mr. Mendenhall said staff had done some tweaking in areas with Parks & Recreation with rentals for the RV pads at Freedom Park and how they charged for some other things in the Parks & Recreation area to get those a little bit clearer and not so confusing. Rates were also being lowered to make sure they were in line with what the City's neighbors were charging, for instance Reidsville at their lake.

He continued reading: The proposed general fund budget is \$20,119,300 with the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.6090 per \$100 of valuation.

Mr. Mendenhall said he thought it was commendable for Council that they were in the 15th year without a tax increase. That was a very positive thing.

He continued reading: The proposed water and sewer fund budget is \$12,394,600.

Mr. Mendenhall said there was no water and sewer rate increase. He wanted to make sure everyone realized that. A lot of people were going up on rates, county and region wide but the City was not that year.

He continued reading: The proposed self-insurance fund budget is \$3,308,500.

Mr. Mendenhall said people asked what the fund was. The City was a health insurance self-funded entity, meaning that it had to run the program to provide health insurance for the employees. That balanced out. The health insurance fund was in good financial shape.

He continued reading: I commend and applaud each resident, volunteer, elected official, and employee for their hard work, sense of community, and togetherness during this past year and encourage their continued hard work as we begin the next fiscal year. I especially thank Mrs. Tammie McMichael and Mrs. Amy Winn for their assistance in the preparation of this budget. Copies of the proposed budget are being made available to news media and copies for the public to view will be available at City Hall in the Office of the City Clerk. As provided by law, above and herein the budget is thus submitted this the 14th day of April, 2023 in the County of Rockingham, City of Eden. Respectfully Submitted.

Mr. Mendenhall said he would like to make sure Council had their material to go through. The presentation was not the end of the process. It was really a midpoint from the backend work done by staff and Finance, meeting with the department heads and Council in the budget retreat. The information had been worked into an actual presentable document that the public could look at and consume and that was what Council had to look at as well. It was the operating budget to get through June 30, 2024. There was a capital plan that balanced out for 10 years into the future, realizing that things changed and prices were hard to predict. All the big-ticket items were in the capital plan. The way the budget had worked in the last two years was if it was not in the capital plan, it did not get budgeted unless there was an emergency. A good example was the concern that the sodium hypochlorite needed to be done. That was in the capital plan but not in the upcoming year. Staff was able to fit it in. Another one in the general fund was Fire Station 4 renovation. It was three years out in the capital plan but staff was able to balance the budget with no tax increase and move that forward based on careful budgeting to renovate that station so it did not go the way of Fire Station 2. The capital plan bore looking at. It was balanced just like the operating

budget so there was no future year the City fell off a cliff. It was projected forward in time to make sure the City was making adequate provision for capital items. A lot of requests came in and they tended to get many in a single year. They clustered up so staff had to do level spreading, meaning there was a capital cap and staff spread everything so they only did so many capital projects in one year. Council would see that in the plan with police cars and fire trucks and that sort of thing. No one department got everything year after year. There would be additional time for public input at the meeting in May. He requested that a public hearing be held at that time.

Mayor Hall thanked all the department heads, Finance and Mr. Mendenhall for working to present and put together all the information. He wanted to point out on the self insurance, he asked Mr. Mendenhall to check into some other options and it turned out to be the best thing for the City. He was hoping to join with some other groups to possibly save money but the City was probably in the best place it could be right now. They always kept an eye on it and any other spending. He thanked Mr. Mendenhall for the pay as you go system and capital improvement plan. Those were things that reined finances back in. Those were new since Mr. Mendenhall was hired and the finances were in wonderful shape.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to call a public hearing for adoption of the Budget Ordinance on May 16. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

- b. Consideration to adopt a resolution to direct the Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of an annexation petition for 345 Wilshire Drive.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: The City has received an annexation request for property located at 345 Wilshire Drive. The property is owned by Brian and Ruby Furbert. A motion to adopt a "Resolution Directing the Clerk to Investigate a Petition Received under G.S. 160A-58.1" is in order.



PETITION REQUESTING A NON-CONTIGUOUS ANNEXATION

Date: March 20, 2023

To the City Council of the City of Eden, North Carolina:

1. We the undersigned owners of real property respectfully request that the area described in Paragraph 2 below be annexed to the City of Eden.
2. The area to be annexed is non-contiguous to the City of Eden and the boundaries of such territory are as described in the attached Deed.
3. A map is attached showing the area proposed for annexation in relation to the primary corporate limits of the City of Eden.
4. We acknowledge that any zoning vested rights acquired pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-385.1 or N.C.G.S. 153A-344.1 must be declared and identified on this petition. We further acknowledge that failure to declare such rights on this petition shall result in a termination of vested rights previously acquired for the property.

Name	Address	Do you declare Vested rights? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Signature
Brian Furbert	345 Wilshire Dr. Eden 27288	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Brian Furbert</i>
Ruby Furbert		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ruby Furbert</i>

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said a few years prior, developer Homer Wright visited her about doing some expansion in the area that was Northridge and some of it was now Summer Place. They wanted to extend water and sewer which by policy required a request to annex. The whole subdivision was annexed except four lots there the Wright Company had sold to individuals. Three of those wanted to be annexed with everyone else and the fourth was a holdout. The property owner had since changed and the current owners had requested it be annexed. It would be a good thing for the City in many ways not the least of which would be providing services out there. Staff requested Council have the clerk check the sufficiency of the petition.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to adopt a resolution to direct the Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of an annexation petition for 345 Wilshire Drive. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

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

WHEREAS, a Petition requesting annexation of an area described in said Petition was received on March 20, 2023, by the City Council of the City of Eden; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 160A-58.1 provides that the sufficiency of the Petition shall be investigated by the City Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

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

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

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

This the 18th day of April 2023.

CITY OF EDEN

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- c. Consideration to adopt an amended and restated Lease Agreement for Draper Landing River Access and Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement between N.C. Wildlife Resources and the City.

Ms. Gilley wrote in a memo: I have prepared an Amended and Restated Lease Agreement with the owners of the property where the City's Draper Landing River Access. This City has been working with the NC Wildlife Resources to plan and construct improvements to this landing including new single-lane boat launch ramp, improvements to the gravel parking area, installation of a kiosk, and development of American with Disabilities Act-compliant parking. In this process, it became apparent that the City would need additional leased area from the property owners. The City commissioned a survey of the land and incorporated the new land area into the lease. The City will be leasing 4.72 acres. The Lease is otherwise the same as it has been. The owners agreed to an additional 10 year term which would allow the City the lease until 2058. The rental amount is \$5,000 per year. Additionally, the NC Wildlife Resources has requested the City to authorize the attached Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement. This Agreement provides that NC Wildlife will construct and install the improvements, and that the City will provide the area for the Lease, allow NC Wildlife review of the signage on the kiosk, maintain the grounds and have the grounds patrolled and allow launch and recover by the general public from the site.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Gilley.

Ms. Gilley read her memo. She said staff recommended approval.

Council Member Epps asked if the agreement was for 10 years.

Ms. Gilley advised it was for an additional 10 years from the original agreement so it would last until 2058.

Mayor Hall said unfortunately it became an obvious need when there was a tragedy on that end of the river several years prior. First responders were not able to get in there like they needed to. Staff had tried to move it forward a long time. They really appreciated the help they were getting out of Raleigh and N.C. Wildlife.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirkman to adopt an amended and restated Lease Agreement for Draper Landing River Access and Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement between N.C. Wildlife Resources and the City. Council Member Underwood seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Agreements are on file in the City Clerk's Office.

d. Consideration of a resolution for Transportation Priorities.

Mayor Hall said this was an item the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) had wanted put together for transportation. He called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said as Council all knew, the City was part of Division 7 with the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT). In that division, Eden competed with a lot of more urbanized areas; however, the RPO the City was a member of was an opportunity for smaller, rural jurisdictions to put their needs out there, talk about what needed to be done and have their projects considered for funding. The first item was a study for U.S. 311 widening to the state line. If Council recalled, Senator Berger helped get portions of the highway re-designated through Stoneville all the way through Eden as U.S. 311 as opposed to state roads. The second priority would be to widen N.C. 14/87 to the Virginia line. That would mean an opportunity for Eden to be even closer to an interstate if Virginia could be persuaded to four lane their portion. The City was going to advocate for the Department of Transportation connection related to N.C. 14/87 and U.S. 311 and respective improvements in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Virginia Route 87 and U.S. 311 by NCDOT. It was her understanding that Virginia had committed to widening what was known as the Berry Hill Road. That was a project the City hoped the state would pick up from the Virginia line back toward Purina. There had been a request and some votes of approval from some state legislators about putting a traffic circle in at the Washington Street/Bridge Street/Boone Road intersection. Roundabouts were safe and slow going. Eden had had one for a long time. They moved traffic more quickly and would be an asset to that downtown area. The Rails to Trails conversion of the Norfolk and Western corridor from Church Street to Pervie Bolick was something the City had been working on a couple of years with the company who were rehabbing Spray Cotton Mills prior to the fire. It was still something that would add to the greenway system and promote going down there either way. The Nantucket Mill was owned by the people who owned Spray Cotton and a friend of theirs had bought American Warehouse from Piedmont Folk Legacies. All of that would be turned into market-rate apartments. Faisal Khan, who owned the Spray Cotton property, had some ideas to move forward with an adaptive reuse of that property and improving it from its current state. She did not think it could ever be rebuilt to the point that apartments could go back in it. One of the buildings was in good shape but the larger of the buildings was basically gone.

Council Member Ellis asked about the type of apartments that would be put in.

Ms. Stultz advised they were market-rate apartments, meaning non-subsidized. If the resolution were adopted at the meeting, it would be shared with the RPO.

Mayor Hall said the RPO asked the City what was on its wish list. They took the lists and split points up. Hopefully the projects would stay on their radar and some of them could be taken care of.

Council Member Epps said they were some goals the City had been shooting for a long time.

Council Member Underwood said if they did not focus on getting some highways into Eden, the City was going to fall way behind. He did not think the City would ever get large industries with what it had now. They really needed to focus on creating four lanes on the highways.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to adopt a resolution for transportation priorities. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY OF EDEN

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the coordinated, efficient, and well-planned extension of highways to serve the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden desires to set priorities to benefit the traveling public, create jobs, expand the tax base, and generally protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Eden as well as the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary for the City of Eden to formally adopt plans, priorities, or programs of public improvement and policies related thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council for the City of Eden that officers, employees, delegates, and representatives of the City of Eden be presented with the formal transportation priorities of the Eden City Council enumerated below:

1. Feasibility study of US 311 widening to state-line.
2. Update existing NC 14/87 feasibility study to align with I-73 in Virginia (and bridgework that is planned on NC 14 in Eden).
3. Advocacy for transportation connection related to NC 14/87 and US 311 corridors and respective improvements in the Commonwealth of Virginia on Virginia Route 87 and US 311 by NCDOT and other State partners in order to achieve interstate cooperation.
4. Study intersection management at Washington Street / Bridge Street / King's Highway / Boone Road.
5. Rails to Trails conversion of the Norfolk & Western corridor from Church Street to Pervie Bolick Street.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 18th day of April, 2023.

CITY OF EDEN

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

- a. City Manager's Report.

Mayor Hall called on City Manager Jon Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall said he would be happy to answer any questions about the report.

Mayor Hall said additional copies were available at the meeting, online and in Eden's Own Journal.

City Manager's Report
April 2023
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Marketing & Communications Office

Our Spring Grown & Gathered is coming up on Thursday, May 18. There will be dinner and dessert prepared from locally grown foods, drinks, live music and lots of conversation in one of Eden's most beautiful spots – the Spray Mercantile. Make your reservations by calling 336-623-2110.

Join us for a Community Play Date at the Purina Bark Park located inside Freedom Park at 121 N. Edgewood Road on Friday, May 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Local pets and their people are invited to come experience the new Bark Park. The evening will feature a ribbon tugging ceremony, unveiling of the new park equipment, live performance from the Purina Incredible Dogs Team, Rockingham County Humane Society Pet Water Station, food trucks and more. The Purina Team will be on site to meet local pets and their owners and hand out treats and information. See you there.

As we continue to celebrate the Year of the Trail, on Mother's Day Weekend during the month of May get your mom or a mother figure that's special to you out on a TRAIL! Get the whole family together and GET OUTSIDE! All our trails are family friendly and safe.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Division

Bridge Street: In March, we had 2,016 visits from people of all ages. Meals with Friends is an ongoing program that allows many of our seniors an opportunity to get out and fellowship with others as well as to have a hot meal at lunch time. The Morehead Men's Varsity Tennis team is still practicing three or four afternoons each week on our tennis courts. We still

have a few seniors coming in at lunchtime to play pickleball in the gym. The facility was rented out four times on the weekends. Our Seniors are still doing exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The break in the weather has a multitude of people walking the track, playing basketball on the outside courts, utilizing the playground and playing shuffleboard. We still have a few that come in the gym in the afternoons and shoot basketball or play pick-up games. Our center hours are: Monday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

Mill Avenue: We had 2,663 that attended the Mill Avenue Center during the month of March. The cornhole league finished up with tournaments in both singles and doubles. Basketball finished up but we still have several that come to the facility in the afternoons and shoot. Warm weather has brought out a lot of people that are walking the track and children playing on the playground. Our staff helps with homework each afternoon after school and then has pick-up playground games like dodge ball, kickball or wiffleball in the gym. Our morning pickleball begins at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the evening group is now playing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Our regular center hours are: Monday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Mill Avenue Pool/Freedom Park Splash Pad: We are now interviewing applicants for the life guard and splash pad attendant positions.

Freedom Park: Our baseball and girls fast pitch softball practices and games began in March. We have around 120 players participating. A large crowd can be seen around the ball fields on weekdays as games are played. Warm weather has brought more people out to the park. More people are walking their dogs around the parking lot and are also utilizing our dog park. The basketball courts continue to be a busy place. The Holmes Middle School Baseball team had a couple of home games at our facility. The volleyball courts had a limited amount of use. The batting cage is staying busy each afternoon. The shelters are being reserved at least two times each weekend. The Concert In the Park/Cruise Ins will begin again in May.

Senior Citizens: We had 1,294 visits during the month of March. We had 141 people join in for cards and games, 149 in fitness and exercise, 46 in classes/workshops, 35 in off-site excursions, 110 in socializing, 97 in special groups, 355 in sports. Special events for the month were: kick off senior game's registration event, VITA–tax assistance, a new cornhole league began on March 6, community CPR and first aid training was held on March 21, shopping trip to Hamrick's, Spanish class had a nacho bar party on March 31. The Senior Games Opening Ceremonies will be held on April 18.

Special Events: Staff hosted a total of 6 students from Morehead High School that shadowed them on their occupations on the morning of Thursday, March 30.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Local Codes Inspections March 1– March 31, 2023

Total Local Code Inspections Performed 27

Local Code Notices Sent 6

Local Codes Abated 7

Abated by contractor 0

Abated by Property Owner 7

Permits

Building and trade permit applications are received in person, via e-mail and by fax then issued from the Planning Department. Hard copies of permits are mailed to contractors usually once a week on Friday. A copy of each permit is filed by property address for each trade.

Inspections & Permits March 1 – March 31 2023

Total Inspections Performed 210 (Does not include fire inspections)

Total Permits Issued 102

We currently have new single-family residences under construction along with 6 commercial upfits. Our inspector currently spends the mornings and early afternoons taking care of the normal inspection volume and spending the rest of the afternoon with daily inspections at the Purina project. There is now a push to have all production lines up and running by late 2023. He expects the inspection volume to increase in the coming months due to the grass season.

Boards & Commissions

The Community Appearance Commission met for the month of March and discussed future projects.

The Historic Preservation Commission met for the month of March and discussed future projects.

The Tree Board met for the month of March and discussed future projects.

The Planning Board met for the month of March to review Zoning Case Z-23-01, map amendment of a parcel of approximately 0.35 acres on N. Kennedy Ave from Residential-12 to Business Highway. Application filed by Martha Hopkins, part owner of subject property. The Planning Board approved the request.

Mural Project

Staff has selected a site location Ramsey’s Barber Shop for the Gus Shinn Mural Project. Staff is currently researching and networking with the Rockingham County Arts Council in order to select and determine the best compatible artist for the project.

Annexation Request

Staff received a request of annexation for property located at 773 Summit Loop. Application filed by property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor.

Staff received a request of annexation for property located at 345 Wilshire Drive. Application filed by property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Furbert.

Draper Small Area Plan

The first draft of the Draper Small Area Plan was presented to the Planning Board for review.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Tait radio project is near completion. The last phase of this project is the install of the radios used for recording and should be completed by mid-May.

Two FORD F-150 Police Responders (Detective) are currently being outfitted by Campbell-Brown. These two vehicles are scheduled for completion by April 7. We will drop the third vehicle (Patrol) off at the that time with a tentative completion date of May 1, 2023.

Trainee Philip Martin has transferred to the GTCC BLET Program that begins April 3, 2023. This will create an approximate 10-day delay in his graduation.

We are currently conducting background investigations on three potential hires. One is a transfer from another agency that would fill the vacant Elementary School SRO position and two of the applicants are for trainee positions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the March 21, 2023 Council meeting minutes.
- b. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #6.

Assistant Director of Finance Amy Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment appropriates fund balance from the Runabout Travel Fund to cover Senior activity expenditures.

Subject:	Account #	From	To	Amount
Runabout Travel Fund Revenues				
Fund Balance Appropriated	25-3991-99100	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ <u>500.00</u>
Runabout Travel Fund Expenditures				
Runabout Travel Expense	25-9100-31200	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ <u>500.00</u>
Appropriates fund balance for Senior activities.				
Adopted and effective this 18th day of April 2023.				
Attest:				
_____ Deanna Hunt, City Clerk		_____ Neville Hall, Mayor		

- c. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #7.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment appropriates funds received for the Rockingham County Arts Council for the Youth Native American Powwow.

Subject: Budget Amendment # 7				
	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Youth Native American PowWow	10-3350-02800	\$ -	\$ 15,800.00	<u>\$ 15,800.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Youth Native American PowWow	10-4135-30290	\$ -	\$ 15,800.00	<u>\$ 15,800.00</u>
Appropriates funds donated for Youth Native American PowWow.				
Adopted and effective this 18th day of April 2023.				
Attest:				
Deanna Hunt, City Clerk		Neville Hall, Mayor		

d. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #8.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo: The Senior Center received a Home and Community Block Grant for Older Adults (HCCBG) and a Senior Center General Purpose grant from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging. The HCC BG grant is for staff, program costs, equipment, and supplies for the Senior Center. The Senior Center General Purpose grant is for the operations of the Senior Center. This amendment increases the Recreation grant line items and the Program Activities line item in the Recreation budget.

Subject: Budget Amendment # 8				
	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
HCCBG Grant	10-3612-48410	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Senior Center General Purpose Grant	10-3612-48420	\$ -	\$ 7,400.00	<u>\$ 7,400.00</u>
				<u>\$ 37,400.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Recreation - Program Activities	10-6120-29600	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 62,400.00	<u>\$ 37,400.00</u>
Appropriates grant funds received for the HCCBG and Senior Center General Purpose				
Adopted and effective this 18th day of April, 2023.				
Attest:				
Deanna Hunt, City Clerk		Neville Hall, Mayor		

A motion was made by Council Member Kirkman to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Light seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall said Trail Days were happening all weekend with a kickoff at Reynold’s Brewery. There was the Youth Council 5K which people could participate in as a spectator. The Special Olympics were the following weekend at Freedom Park and the Fishing Derby was at the Fireman’s Club on Smith Acres Road. The Boulevard merchants were doing a N.C. Roots Festival on April 29 as well. Coming up quickly was Grown & Gathered and he congratulated Ms. Adams for another sold-out event. He thanked her for her work on it as it was a highlight of both the spring and fall.

Ms. Adams advised she was working closely with Parks & Recreation and Purina on the Community Play Date opening of the new dog park on May 19 at 5 p.m. Purina had given a grant for the work. There was a lot of buzz about the celebration

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

and Purina was adding onto some of the things they were bringing. It was going to be a great event. She hoped as many people could be there as possible.

Mayor Hall repeated what Ms. Adams said and added that Purina had made a nice donation and the City appreciated what they had done so far and continued to do.

CLOSED SESSION:

This item was removed from the agenda.

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