

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 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 Bruce Nooe Tommy Underwood Jason Wood |
| City Manager: | Jon Mendenhall |
| City Attorney: | Erin Gilley |
| City Clerk: | Deanna Hunt |
| Media: | Roy Sawyers, Rockingham Update Mike Moore, Mike Moore Media |

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council Member and Pastor Jerry Epps, First Church of the Living God, gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ben Rorrer, fourth grader and son of IT Analyst Taylor Rorrer.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- a. Recognition of Pace-Stone for 100 years in business.

Mayor Hall called the Pace family forward to join him at the podium. He said 100 years was a quite an accomplishment. Pace-Stone opened its doors in April 100 years ago and the business had seen and survived the Great Depression, two world wars, multiple recessions, Covid-19 and other events that bankrupted many, many businesses, including changes in generations which a lot of businesses could not survive. He was thankful to be standing with the Pace family tonight celebrating their history that led to this moment. Henry Pace, Sr., and his brother-in-law Eugene Stone started Pace-Stone on Washington Street close to their current location. Fitting with the times, the original store sold furniture and all kinds of hardware – even funeral supplies. On May 9, 1929, the store sold its first Karastan rug – the product that would make their business globally known. A couple of years later, they relocated to their current location at 663 Washington Street. And the rest, as they say, was history. The Pace family bought out the Stones. Henry Pace, Jr., took over from his father in the early 60s. When he retired in the mid-1980s, Henry Jr. still came in almost every day until his health no longer allowed it. Bill Pace took over in the '80s, retiring in 2005 and leaving sons Jay and Ty to run what was now a fourth-generation business. Pace-Stone adapted and evolved to fit their clientele's needs, and was now a powerhouse business selling top-of-the-line carpets and rugs to Eden and way, way beyond. He addressed the Pace family and congratulated them on their enduring success which was a testament to the dedication, innovation, and perseverance that had undoubtedly been at the core of the family's enterprise. He thanked them for playing such a big role in Eden's history, and said he looked forward to their continued success here for many years to come. Celebrating a century in business was an extraordinary feat. The milestone made Pace-Stone the oldest retail business in Eden. For that, the City wanted to bestow a unique honor – a key to the City of Eden. Mayor Hall presented Bill Pace with a plaque featuring a key to the City.

Bill Pace thanked everyone for coming that night. It meant a lot to his family. During the Depression, the business could not pay its help. His grandfather told James Dallas, who lived on Boone Road, that he could not pay him but told him if he wanted to come to the store, they would find something for him to do and when times got better, he would pay him what he was owed. They pitched horseshoes back in the parking lot for two years. When Bill came to work, one of this first things his father did was tell him to go over the books and learn as much as he could. He found a 50-cent monthly charge from the telephone company that Pace-Stone had been charged for

years for a bell that rang outside and broke up the horseshoe game. He thanked everyone for all the help they had given over the years. He wished everyone who had shopped at Pace-Stone were there to see the award.

b. Presentation of Life Saving Award.

Mayor Hall called on Rockingham County Fire Marshal Melissa Joyce.

Ms. Joyce thanked the City for allowing her to come and recognize the individuals. The Life Saving Award was intended to recognize members of the fire and rescue service who were clearly and directly responsible for saving human lives. When a member's actions saved a life to the extent that a person lived for any period of time after the effort, the member was eligible to receive the award even though the person may have expired at a later time. The award was meant to recognize members who went extraordinary lengths to save the lives of individuals in the community. Once the service call went out, it was not just that event that carried on, the first responders – firefighters and EMTs – made impressions on people. They were there for the families and helped them get through some of their most difficult times. Once the chief or captain went back to the station, they had a form they could send in that was researched to make sure it met the criteria. Each person being called forward had went above and beyond. There were two calls for service she would read a synopsis of. Fire Chief Chris White would assist her in giving out items to the people being called forward.

Ms. Joyce said that on October 28, 2022, the Eden Fire Department was dispatched, because EMS was going to have an extended time of arrival, to Hundley Drive for a patient unconscious and not breathing. Fire personnel continued CPR and EMS arrived on scene and applied the LUCAS machine, which was on all the EMS units in the county to give adequate, continuous compressions for someone when CPR was being performed. Fire personnel continued assisting EMS until the patient was stable enough to transport to UNC Rockingham. She truly believed without the quick response and effectiveness of doing CPR, the patient would not be alive today. She asked that the following people being recognized by her office come forward and stay forward for photographs afterward: Pete Dubois, who was not able to attend but was represented by Council Member Tommy Underwood; Firefighter Jay Lipford; Firefighter Jason Tilley; Captain Jon Worley, and Eden Rescue Chief and Council Member Jason Wood.

Ms. Joyce said the second call was earlier in the year when the Eden Fire Department was requested to assist law enforcement on Madison Street for an unconscious patient. EMS arrived on scene right before fire personnel arrived. They met together on the second floor of the location and found an unconscious patient lying in bed. Fire personnel assisted EMS in moving the patient to the floor and started CPR on the patient. After several minutes of CPR, the paramedic found the pulse was regained and the patient was prepared for transport to Moses Cone but needed a driver. Deputy Chief James Slaughter advised a member of the fire staff would drive the patient. Fire personnel assisted EMS with carrying the patient downstairs, onto a stretcher and into the unit for transport. Once the patient was loaded, Firefighter Adam Hundley drove the patient and EMS personnel to Greensboro, followed by Deputy Chief Slaughter to pick up Mr. Hundley. The patient still had a pulse when they were turned over to Moses Cone. Eden Rescue's convalescent crew was on scene and assisted with the call as well. Deputy Chief Slaughter said it best when he said he believed the combined efforts of all agencies saved the patient's life that day and they needed to be recognized for their actions. She called forward the following people to be recognized by her office for their heroic efforts: Deputy Chief Slaughter; Captain Wade Turpin; Firefighter Hundley; Firefighter Caleb Parker, who was unable to attend; Firefighter Curt Belcher; Eden Rescue EMT Patricia Cantu, and Eden Rescue EMT Aidan Moore.

She explained those recognized were presented with certificates and challenge coins, which were only given out with a life saving award. The coin they received was earned. They went above and beyond to try to provide the best life-saving efforts they could give the public in the community.

c. Proclamation for Arbor Day.

Mayor Hall read the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION
Arbor Day 2024

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 30th year, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 26, 2024, 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.

This the 16th day of April, 2024.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall noted item 10a (consideration to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a residential structure at 522 Greenwood Street under Article 9, Building Maintenance Standards of the City's Unified Development Ordinance) would be removed as it was not ready to be heard at the meeting.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. (1) Consideration of a zoning map amendment and adoption of an ordinance to rezone 11.37 acres at 435 E. Meadow Road from Residential 20 to Residential 12 - zoning case Z-24-03.
- (2) Consideration of a resolution adopting a statement of consistency regarding the proposed map amendment in zoning case Z-24-03.

Planning & Community Development Director Kelly Stultz wrote in a memo: The City has received a zoning map amendment request filed by Marvin Jones, President of Milestone Properties of NC, Inc., Owner, to rezone 11.37 acres at 435 E. Meadow Road. The request is to rezone the property from Residential-20 to Residential-12. The Planning and Community Development Department recommends approval of the map amendment request. At a regular meeting in March, the Planning Board voted to recommend that the City Council approve this request.

Mayor Hall declared the public hearing open and called on Ms. Stultz.

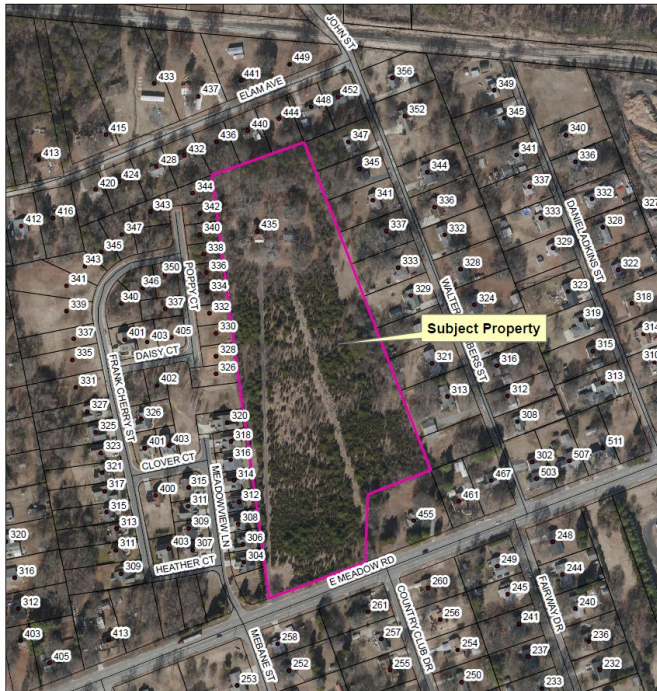
Ms. Stultz said the property was owned by Marvin Jones, president of Milestone Properties of North Carolina, Inc. Longtime residents would remember it as the Cox property which sat adjacent to The Meadows subdivision off Meadow Road. She had long thought the property was prime for redevelopment as it was in a desirable area close to the center of the community. There was currently one house on it. It had access to street improvements and public water. The Comprehensive Plan called for traditional development. It was not in a flood area but was in a water supply / watershed protected area which would limit some development density and cause the City to be creative with curbing and guttering. The request was to rezone the property from R-20 to R-12. The City's plan indicated the property being in a traditional neighborhood development area which was comprised of predominantly older neighborhoods that grew around Eden's historic downtowns. In this case it grew around Eden's metropolitan sanitary district. They were primarily single-family homes located on smaller lots that matched the existing patterns. Development in the traditional neighborhood areas could include a variety of housing types. The current owner expressed to her that he intended to prepare a subdivision for the property. With it being in the watershed, that would limit some development density and require some open space. The ability to have smaller lots for the houses made it easier for it to be redeveloped. The community did need infill development. Currently there were more new houses under construction at one time than had been in her entire 34 years with the City. The need was great and there was very little for sale. Infill development was important in that any infrastructure would have to be constructed by the developer before it was accepted by the City and the City would not have to travel additional distances to get outside the normal area with garbage trucks, police cars and all the things that cost money as they travelled the road. She and the Planning Board recommended approval of the request.

Council Member Underwood asked how many houses it would be.

Ms. Stultz said they would not know until the plans were submitted. The developer would have to build streets and sidewalks and lot of things that were now required and were not before. There would have to be an open space. She expected it would be fairly similar to The Meadows which was right next to it. The subdivision would come back before Council to be approved.

As there were no further comments or questions, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to approve the zoning map amendment and adopt an ordinance to rezone 11.37 acres at 435 E. Meadow Road from Residential 20 to Residential 12, and to adopt a resolution of a statement of consistency regarding the map amendment. Council Member Epps seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7 to 0.



ZONING CASE

Z-24-03

AERIAL MAP



PIN

7080-10-46-8301

**Zoned:
Residential 20**

**Request:
Residential 12**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDEN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, that, after having fully complied with all legal requirements, including publication of notice of a public hearing and the holding of a public hearing relative thereto, the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Eden is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1 - Change from Residential 20 to Residential 12 the following property: Being all that certain Tract or Parcel of Land containing 11.813 acres, as more particularly set forth on that Plat of Survey for the Estate of Charles Dan & Helen Cox, Leaksville Township, Rockingham County, North Carolina, dated November 16, 1987, by C. E. Robertson & Associates, Registered Land Surveyors, a copy of the same being attached to the Deed recorded in Book 1661, page 2660, Rockingham County Registry.

The above-described property being commonly known as 435 E. Meadow Road, identified by the Rockingham County Tax Dept. as containing approximately 11.37 acres and as PIN 7080-10-46-8301 and Parcel No. 170754.

Section 2 - The Official Zoning Map of the City of Eden is hereby amended to conform with this Ordinance.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 16th day of April, 2024.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY REGARDING
A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF EDEN UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
CASE NUMBER Z-24-03 MAP AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160D-605, prior to adoption or rejection of any zoning amendment, the Eden City Council is required to adopt a statement as to whether the amendment is consistent with the Land Development Plan and why the City Council considers the action taken to be reasonable and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2022, the Eden City Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan. Plans such as the City of Eden Comprehensive Plan are not designed to be static but are meant to reflect the City of Eden's needs, plans for future development and to remain in compliance with North Carolina State Law and the City of Eden's ordinances;

WHEREAS, the City of Eden Planning Board received a request to rezone approximately 11.37 acres at 435 E. Meadow Road from Residential 20 to Residential 12.

WHEREAS, On March 26, 2024, the City of Eden Planning Board voted to recommend to the Eden City Council that the rezoning request be approved.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

The Neighborhood Mixed Use District is intended to provide pedestrian-scaled, higher density residential housing and opportunities for limited scaled commercial & office activities. Development in this district should encourage pedestrian activity through construction of mixed-use buildings and connections to adjacent neighborhoods. Buildings in this district are typically smaller in scale and detached. The rezoning of this property would address a need in our community for multiple types of housing and access to retail and commercial uses.

STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY:

The property is denoted in the City of Eden Comprehensive Plan as Traditional Neighborhood. The Traditional Neighborhood area is comprised predominantly of older neighborhoods that grew around Eden’s historic downtowns. These areas feature smaller lots and provide a transition from the more urban downtowns (Town Center areas) to suburban residential areas. The Traditional Neighborhood category is designed to retain established neighborhoods and maintain their historic character while allowing some flexibility of housing types. Single-family homes are located on small lots that match existing patterns. Development in the Traditional Neighborhood areas can include a variety of housing types including single family homes, duplexes, townhomes, pocket neighborhoods, and well-designed house-scale multifamily buildings. To encourage walkability to the Town Center areas, streets should have pedestrian facilities. Infill is encouraged on vacant parcels.

WHEREAS, The Eden City Council has considered the written recommendation of the City of Eden Planning Board and has held a public hearing on the proposed amendment, and the Council desires to adopt a statement describing why the adoption of the proposed amendment is consistent with the City of Eden Comprehensive Plan and why the City Council considers the proposed amendment is reasonable and in the public’s best interest;

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

1. The Eden City Council finds that the proposed amendment to the City of Eden Unified Development Ordinance is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the 2022 City of Eden Comprehensive Plan.
2. At no time are land use regulations or plans of the City of Eden or any jurisdiction in the State of North Carolina permitted to be in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes.
3. Therefore, based upon the foregoing information, the amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance is reasonable and is in the public’s best interest.

Approved and adopted and effective this 16th day of April, 2024.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Hall asked City Attorney Erin Gilley to read the policy for speakers and she did.

Shane Woodall, 126 Eisenhower Court, spoke on behalf of the Rockingham County Special Olympics as the local coordinator. He thanked the City for allowing Freedom Park to be used for the second year. The event would be May 3 starting around 9:30 a.m. He thanked Parks & Recreation Director Ray Thomas who had helped with anything he needed. They had a volleyball team practicing now for the summer games to be held in Raleigh and the team had been allowed to use the recreation center. He appreciated that. Fire Chief White told him the department would help that day as well. He thanked the members of Council who had reached out and wanted to help. The event would be from about 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. He again thanked them and said he hoped to see them all at the event.

Norma Jean Corum, 244 Weaver Street, was there to appeal to Council again on behalf of the senior citizens in Eden to relocate the senior center. At its current location on Orchard Drive, transportation was a challenge because it was not included on the route for the skat bus. In addition, the number of seniors using and desiring to use the center had increased. They were quickly outgrowing the space, which was good. Several groups were now meeting in churches due to space constraints to lock up their sewing machines because there was nowhere at the center to lock them up. Seniors were forced to travel to Reidsville, Madison or Lake Reidsville to participate in the Senior Games. Furthermore, the senior men had nowhere to practice their pool for the Senior Games. The center had no pool tables and nowhere to put them. There was somewhere at Bridge Street. She had gone through the proper channels and procedures, speaking with the city manager and various members of Council to no avail for three years. She had reached out to House Representative Reece Pyrtle and to Senator Phil Berger, who told her he would try to find some money to help get them to Bridge Street or Freedom Park during session the following week. There was a petition from the seniors that they did not want to go to Draper School, that was out. They were trying to be centrally located so they could reach more seniors all over Eden, not just in one part of Eden. The skat bus would not come to the existing location but would drop seniors off at the bottom of the hill. There were seniors on canes and in wheelchairs who wanted to participate but could not because they could not drive. It was a problem. The current location was a fire hazard. Thank God they had not had a fire. They were on a one-way street. If the fire truck came, they were in a fenced-in area and the fire truck could not get in. She was thankful Council was now listening to her. The seniors were winning medals every day. She asked Council to raise their hands if they were over 50. The seniors were winning medals and bringing them back to Eden and they were proud they were from Eden. She was 81 and 5'3" and that day she won a gold medal in basketball. There were other seniors going out every day winning medals and they were proud they were from Eden. They had to go to Reidsville, Madison, Mayodan, Ferris Park to win any medals to bring back to Eden. Freedom Park could be fixed for the other people to come to Eden. She asked why the City would not fix it for the seniors to bring people to Eden. She was begging and imploring Council to help bring them to Eden. She said again that she was Norma Jean Corum and she was 81 years old and asking for help.

Patty Ethridge, 1017 Washington Street, relinquished her time to Ms. Corum.

Ms. Corum said she was asking for help for the seniors. There were a lot of seniors who could quilt and knit but they could not drive anymore. The skat bus would not come to Orchard Drive but it would come to Bridge Street. The only hold up was Meals on Wheels. They could bus those 20 people to Orchard Drive. The seniors were 80 to 100 people that could be put at Bridge Street. She asked why those 20 people could not be moved to Orchard Drive and the 80 to 100 people moved to Bridge Street. She asked what they were going to do with it if Senator Berger got her \$100,000. She asked if they were going to build a building at Freedom Park. She asked if Council could help them. They were seniors and they were begging. They were pleading. She would get Council all the petitions they wanted. She was begging. They had bocce ball, shuffleboard and horseshoes. They were closing down the horseshoe pit at Reidsville Lake. They could make a horseshoe pit at Freedom Park and bring in 200 people next year for the Senior Games. Eden could be put on the roadmap for Senior Games. She was begging for help. She was 81 with 19 great-grandchildren.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of appointments to the Community Appearance Commission.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: The following seats on the City Boards and Commissions are up for appointment or reappointment in 2024. When making appointments, please consider whether these people have the time or the ability (for whatever reason) to attend regular meetings and participate in the activities of the board or commission. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call. Ward 2 Councilman Nooe Community Appearance – Martha Corum (Resigned, 1-year unexpired term) Ward 3 Councilman Kirkman Community Appearance – Becky Shomali (Term Expired, Re-Appoint in April)

Council Member Nooe nominated Jada Johnston to serve on the Community Appearance Commission.

Council Member Kirkman nominated Becky Shomali to continue serving on the Community Appearance Commission.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to appoint Jada Johnston and reappoint Becky Shomali to serve on the Community Appearance Commission. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Mayor Hall said Council appreciated those people being willing to serve on the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration to adopt an ordinance for the demolition of a residential structure at 522 Greenwood Street under Article 9, Building Maintenance Standards of the City's Unified Development Ordinance.

This item was removed from the agenda.

- b. Consideration to adopt a resolution for the Rockingham County Outdoor Recreation Master Plan.

Dan River Basin Association Program Coordinator Anna Wheeler wrote in a memo: It is my honor to welcome the new Rockingham County Outdoor Recreation Master Plan to the City of Eden. Over the past three years, stakeholders from around the county; including city and town representatives, trail enthusiasts, trail groups, and the public were invited to collaborate on a master plan that would have a positive impact on the trails, blueways, and parks of Rockingham County. With over 38 projects and enhancements described in the document, we are respectfully submitting this resolution for the master plan to increase competitiveness in grant submissions for projects in the document.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Wheeler.

Ms. Wheeler thanked Council for adding her to the agenda and started a PowerPoint presentation. She explained that for the last three years, she had worked with stakeholders including people from each of the cities and people who had an interest in outdoor recreation to create the master plan. They held quarterly and sometimes monthly meetings. The plan was created through four stages, including asset mapping which was seeing what was out there. There was a design through GIS, looking at all the maps and locations that could correlate with those plans. Public input with stakeholder interest included five public meetings, with one at the City, along with online meetings through Zoom. At the end, they did all the designing and planning. The plan was over 220 pages and listed over 38 projects in the county which included river access, trail development and enhancements to all of those places as well. There were over eight projects listed for the City alone. There were projects all over the county they were currently working on including enhancements. She thought Council would be interested in the greenway extension that had been requested as part of the budget retreat. It had been listed in the plan. It was important to have a master plan because a recent one was requested as they went after grant funding. Having one added to the points or leverage they had getting the funding so having a plan increased their likelihood of winning grants. There were some great events going on that were not necessarily including the master plan. Part of their mission was creating enhancements around trail culture as well. They were having an Earth Day Clean Up with Dyer's, open to the public, on Saturday at 10 a.m. The first Tails on Trails event would be next Friday at Lake Reidsville and another one would be done in conjunction with RiverFest in September. It was sponsored through Purina and would be really fun. Lindsay Pegg, Rockingham County Tourism Manager, would have some input from the tourism side of things. The plan would be beneficial to health and to all of the things that made Eden a beautiful place as a small town with a big outdoors from an outsider's perspective of what that could look like for Eden and Rockingham County as a whole.

Ms. Pegg said they were making their way around the county presenting the plan to all the municipalities. Ms. Wheeler had been working on it since before Ms. Pegg was hired by Rockingham County Tourism. It was a great plan and any master plan would only help when they went after funding. There was so much funding available for outdoor recreation. They had just started a Trail Town program through tourism. It was done through a

partnership with the Visit N.C. and Outdoor N.C. partners which were at the state level. Outdoor N.C. was a new initiative and the county was one of 15 partners participating in a Trail Town Designation Program. Eden would be considered one of the designated areas as the entire county would, but essentially the municipalities. The program helped destinations leverage proximity to popular trails, there were lots in the City, to attract visitors, stimulate local businesses and create jobs. She was really excited to see how it unfolded and had been to about her third meeting. She was working towards building all of the assets and what it looked like when it was unveiled to the entire county. There would actually be a guide that would have it for marketing. An outdoor recreation economy was important in that. A study, she thought by NCDOT, showed the return on investment for trails and how important the master plan was to go after the projects and lay the roadmap for what could be accomplished. The study found every \$1 of trail construction supported \$1.72 annually for local businesses and sales tax revenue. It showed how important river accesses, trails and greenways were in the numerous benefits they could provide to the communities as far as health, recreational, environmental and economic impacts. Visitor spending was important in the county. Some of the plans in the project could lead to an increase in foot traffic, overnight stays and how they could build itineraries and projects around those things. They were looking forward to seeing the visitor spending report for 2023 which would come out in late summer to early fall. Two questions that were always asked were how much it would cost and where the money would be found. A slide showed all the different funding available. There was so much money available. Some of the funding sources had already closed for the year but would reopen the next year. Because of the success of the Year of the Trail, there was now Great Trails State Funding open until the fall. It was a great source of funding for all things outdoor recreation – from design to construction to maintenance. At the county level there were partners the City could go to and collaborate on going after funding sources, as well as state partners who were very helpful.

Ms. Wheeler advised the plan was available on the website and she had physical copies as well.

Council Member Ellis asked that she share about the Saturday event with Dyer's.

Ms. Wheeler said they were meeting at 10 a.m. at the Eden YMCA and would walk the Smith River Greenway picking up trash with recycling available as well. Gloves, trash bags, water and other needed items would be provided. Participants should be ready to get dirty. There would be at least 30 people participating.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirkman to adopt a resolution for the Rockingham County Outdoor Recreation Master Plan. Council Member Light seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7 to 0.

RESOLUTION

in support of the Rockingham County Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

WHEREAS, in December of 2022 the Rockingham County Commissioners and January of 2023 the City of Eden Council resolved to support Year of the Trail and,

WHEREAS, the Dan River Basin Association convened a stakeholder group representing diverse interests to guide and inform the planning process,

WHEREAS, multiple public meetings online, in-person and interviews were held for comments during development of the master plan for outdoor recreation,

WHEREAS, trails, blueways and parks re-connect people to the outdoors; improve community health and quality of life; attract visitors, new residents and businesses; and offer alternative transportation options; and,

WHEREAS, visitors spent a record \$88.19 million in 2022 in Rockingham County, an increase of 13.2% from 2021, making it the 22nd fastest-growing tourism revenue county in the state;

WHEREAS trails are the backbone of our state's growing \$28 billion outdoor recreation economy; and

Minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

WHEREAS, the benefits of trails and blueways are well-known and a number of state, federal and private trail funding sources are available to meet needs associated with aging, youth fitness, education, transportation, fit communities, and other needs; and,

WHEREAS, trails and blueways need to be coordinated and planned as part of a larger regional strategy to stimulate economic growth and promote healthy communities; and,

WHEREAS, it is well-understood that building a trail system is a long-term undertaking, and segments will emerge over time, and modifications will be made as circumstances dictate; and,

WHEREAS, when funds become available to build trails, property would be acquired only from willing landowners and no condemnation will be used; and,

WHEREAS, adoption of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan does not imply a commitment of funding by local governments for implementing the trails described therein.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eden City Council adopts the Rockingham County Outdoor Recreation Master Plan.

This the 16th day of April, 2024.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- c. Consideration of a project proposal implementing a river access from the Rockingham County Outdoor Recreation Master Plan on the Smith River.

Ms. Pegg wrote in a memo: Currently, there is not a public river access on the Smith River in North Carolina. With the construction of the new Highway 14 bridge, there may be an opportunity to build a river access at that location. Project Description: North Carolina Department of Transportation has requested several items in order to review the project request - Non-utility encroachment agreement, letter of compliance from the County/NC Wildlife Resource Commission, and detailed site-plan. Proposed project will on the Northbound side of NC 14. Public river access with stairs and a boat slide, including parking with trailhead kiosk. Request: Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority seeks to partner with the Dan River Basin Association, and the City of Eden for the design, construction, and maintenance of the access.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Pegg.

Ms. Pegg said on page 58 of the newly adopted Master Outdoor Recreation Plan for the county, there was a proposed plan for a river access on the Smith River at the Highway 14 access. There was construction work in the area by NCDOT that was close to completion. There was no public Smith River access in the state before the dam. Boaters put in on the river at Mitchell Bridge in Virginia with hopes to paddle down and somehow coordinate with property owners near the Dan to get off the river, portage around it, or somehow find their way off the river. It was in the plan because of the importance of getting boaters off the river. It was part of the whole visitor experience but also vital to the residents to connect to Virginia and have a place to get off. She was asking to explore the feasibility of putting a river access in at Highway 14. She had reached out to NCDOT and was given a laundry list of things they needed. Before the county started checking off those steps, they wanted to ask to explore a partnership with Eden, the county and DRBA to look at the design, construction and maintenance of a site outside the City's limits. She asked if that would be a possibility. She wanted to leave that with Council to see if that was something they could look at. As county Tourism Development Authority (TDA), she could start looking with NCDOT for a detailed site plan. She had already engaged with an engineer to look at the feasibility of the actual access dependent on when the construction was completed. One parcel was owned by NCDOT. It would be more of a natural turnaround with stairs and possibly a boat slide. It would be an encroachment agreement so any time NCDOT could come back in to widen the road or something. It would be a takeout only and not a put in for boaters.

Mayor Hall asked Ms. Gilley if it required any action.

Ms. Gilley said it needed a consensus from Council.

Mayor Hall asked if anyone had an objection to exploring the option.

Several members commented they thought it would be a great idea.

Council Member Nooe said the only issue he had would be taking the time to check safety. There were issues in the past with the dam. He asked what protections they could take to make sure people understood not to go past a certain point.

Ms. Pegg agreed and said she and Ms. Wheeler had been involved in some of those conversations with emergency services and some other folks. She thought they would take all those recommendations from meetings they had been in, such as signage and making sure that messaging was clear. It seemed like low-hanging fruit since there was no real purchase of property so they would see where it took them. She would definitely report back.

Council Member Underwood asked if they had anything to do with the Draper Landing.

Ms. Wheeler said it was worked out with N.C. Wildlife.

Ms. Pegg said they had actually spoken with N.C. Wildlife about the proposed project and Wildlife did not want to manage it but would be happy to contribute ideas about the engineering of the actual access.

Ms. Stultz said she had been in contact with N.C. Wildlife the previous day and they needed her to renew the flood permit so they could start construction, which should be started soon.

Council Member Underwood said that was great as he had several people ask about it.

Ms. Pegg said that would be a good addition as well and once it was installed, the blueway guide would be updated.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager's Report.

Mayor Hall called on City Manager Jon Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall wanted to highlight a couple of updates. He thanked the firefighters and first responders who had been recognized. He was proud of all of them. They did an excellent job protecting the public. ISO ratings were just numbers on a page but when you put eyes and faces with it, it really made it very touching and something to be proud of. Police Chief Paul Moore and Deputy Chief Anthony Lovings just completed the UNC City and County Administration Course and he congratulated them. He thanked DRBA and the county for their stewardship on conservation and advocacy on that, as well as all the partnerships they referenced. A lot of projects stayed stagnant because they did not have partnerships that could find funding and move projects forward. The City tried to be consistent in its conservative nature with not wanting to use all City funds to pay for projects so that was why that partnership came up a lot. They wanted to use partners and other funding sources so Eden taxpayers did not bear the brunt of all expenses. May 19 - 25 was Public Works Week and they would be honoring those employees in May for all the hard work they did. On April 17, the tax office with the county would hold a revaluation open house from 4 until 5:30 p.m. He strongly encouraged those with questions or concerns to attend. There were two very important exemptions – disabled veterans and a homestead exclusion for the elderly, infirm and those of low and moderate income. Residents could call the county tax office to find out if they qualified. On

Saturday, Dyer's was partnering with DRBA and the City to do a cleanup on the Smith River Greenway at 10 a.m. at the YMCA. He thanked all the partners for everything they did day in and day out.

Council Member Ellis thanked the fire department for the rescues that had done and for coming to assist his family to help his brother three times. It meant a lot to him. His family appreciated the fire and police departments. He congratulated Chief Moore and Deputy Chief Lovings on their accomplishment and he thanked them for their service.

Council Member Underwood had a thank you to pass to C&D Supervisor Tony Evans – Ed and Sandra Paisley had a sewer issue, contacted Mr. Evans and he handled it very quick. The Paisleys wanted Council Member Underwood to thank Mr. Evans. He asked Operations Manager Darren Gatewood to relay the message. Regarding what Ms. Corum had talked about, he had visited the Senior Center and they had definitely outgrown where they were. He asked Ms. Stultz for an update on Fire Station 3.

Ms. Stultz said she had talked with the person at the state the previous week. She was told they were getting ready to finish the environmental. She did not have any ability to make them go any faster.

Council Member Underwood said it had been a long time.

Ms. Stultz agreed and said too long.

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

City Manager's Report
April 2024
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ADMINISTRATION

Marketing & Communications Office

GROWN & GATHERED

We are very excited about our Spring Grown & Gathered coming up on Thursday, May 16 at the Spray Mercantile along the Canal. We are SOLD OUT but there is another opportunity to attend the Summer Grown & Gathered on Thursday, August 8.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Piedmont Pottery Festival- June 1 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church

Oink & Ale- June 15 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. along Monroe Street in Uptown Eden

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

We are now accepting applications for these Riverfest vendors:

Artisan/Crafter

Business Display

Ice Cream-Beverage-Food

Large Business- Vehicle Display

Contact the marketing office at 336-623-2110 or cadams@edennc.us or get your application at www.edennc.us.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Division

Bridge Street Recreation Center: Bridge Street Recreation Center stays busy with daily walkers, fitness classes.

Mill Avenue Recreation: Pickleball is played Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings. We are having open gym during the week for citizens that work can come play basketball. Cornhole has become a large program for the Monday evenings players.

Mill Avenue Pool/Freedom Park Splash Pad: The pool and splash pad are still closed but cleanup for both facilities will start in April. The pool and splash pad will open up in May as well as the miniature golf.

11a

Freedom Park: Holmes Middle School will have games at the park. The light poles and lights have been ordered for the middle field at the walking track. The work on this project will start soon.

Senior Center: The seniors are had a busy month playing pickleball, bingo, quilt making class, line dancing classes, watercolor classes and so many more fun activities.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Local Codes and Inspections

We are still receiving nuisance complaints either by phone or through our SeeClickFix App available to all citizens. While we still only have one inspector, complaints continue to be addressed in a timely manner and notices sent as needed. The inspector is also checking for other code violations as he sees them out in the field and submitting them to have notices sent to the property owners. Most abatements are being handled by outside contractors as Facility Maintenance is tied up with other duties.

Local Codes Inspections March 1- March 31, 2024

Total Local Code Inspections Performed- 20

Local Code Notices Sent- 2

Local Codes Abated- 6

Inspection volume is picking up. There was a total of 230 inspections conducted in the month of March. There were 6 building permits issued for new single-family residences. This now brings us to a total of 17 new single-family residences under construction. March 1 – March 31, 2024 Total Inspections Completed- 230 (does not include fire inspections) Full Permits Issued- 121 Board & Commissions The Planning Board met in March and reviewed two zoning cases. Z-24-03 The Planning Board net and reviewed a zoning case on Meadow Road. This property is adjacent to The Meadows development and was formerly Cox property. The request is to rezone the property to R-12 from R-20. The Planning Board voted in favor of this request. It will be heard at the April 2024 regular meeting of the Eden City Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Isaac Bibee was officially sworn in as a full-time police officer March 15, 2024.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to 84 calls for the month of March. The Fire Marshal completed 28 inspections in March. They are also applying for a safer grant for adequate staffing levels.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Streets Maintenance activities have focused on patching 34.94 tons used, based on asphalt plant availability and smaller concrete patch work that was delayed due to the two large projects (Monroe street and fuel depot). They are currently working on our street signs and traffic sign maintenance program. They have removed 107 bags of litter from our City streets. They have removed 610 cubic yards of leaves for leaf collection. They will be preparing to start picking up yard waste such as grass clippings starting in April. Maintenance work has been completed on the Smith River Greenway and at Grogan Park.

Construction

Construction activities include: stumped, stripped and rough graded approximately 400 feet of road at metro pump station. Hauled in 28 loads of dirt to fill over the 24-inch cross drain that we installed late February. Busted out potholes, graded and re-rocked the road at Draper Landing with the assistance of drivers from the Street Division. It took 125 tons of ABC stone to cover and re-crown the road. Cleaned sowed and matted 120 feet of ditch on Early Avenue and the Vine Street area for drainage improvement. The new watermain on Circle Drive has been filled, flushed and pressure tested. It passed the pressure test so chlorinating will begin the first week of April at which time the new line will be brought into use. Tying the residents to the new main will occur over the next few weeks.

Collections & Distribution

The Collection & Distribution Division is working toward starting the mowing season as water leaks are down. They will maintain water and sewer repairs as needed and proceed to clean, clear easement, outfall as needed.

Solid Waste

Solid Waste Division is continuing to work on collection of solid waste and transferring/hauling it to the landfill. The amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) hauled in the past month was 447.61 tons. The amount of vegetative tonnage (brush) collected in March was 10.80 tons while bulk waste tonnage collected was 13.50 tons.

Fleet

The Fleet Division had 79 work orders which includes all outside repairs, road calls as well as regular service, tires and NC inspections.

Utilities

iWork has gone live with the backflow/cross-connection program. We can now make changes, add information, and begin sending notices. The Golden Leaf grant application for BRIC matching funds was submitted. City council approved another grant/loan application for the North Basin project to cover extra costs and approved the updated Asset Management Plan.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the March 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes.
- b. Approval and adoption of a resolution approving updates made to the Asset Management Plan for the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as the 10-year CIP improvements to the North Basin.

Utilities Manager Melinda Ward wrote in a memo: The Resolution attached is for Council consideration to approve the updates made to the Asset Management Plan for the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as the 10-year CIP, which includes improvements to the North Basin. The city intends to request funding for the improvements, and the Asset Management Plan helps to show the full need for the improvements. The 10-year CIP shows that the city is prepared for this improvement.

RESOLUTION adopting the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Asset and the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plans

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of governments in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, and eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden intends to request federal and state grant, loan, and/or principal forgiveness assistance for the project to cover the costs, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden has developed an Asset Management Plan for the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant to show due diligence and qualify for the federal and state grant, loan, and/or principal forgiveness assistance, and

WHEREAS, The Asset Management Plan will be a tool for future assessments to assist in determining the end of life for crucial equipment used at the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Plant for better budget planning, and

WHEREAS, The City of Eden has developed a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to guide in the allocation of all capital expenditures for budgetary purposes. The CIP is broken down into two separate funds including Water and Sewer and General Fund, and

WHEREAS, the CIP includes necessary improvements to the Mebane Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, North Aeration Basin, which has been classified as “unserviceable – needs to be replaced.”

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

1. That the City of Eden adopts and places into effect this Asset Management Plan as a working plan.
2. That the City of Eden adopts and places into effect this 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan as a working plan.
3. That the City of Eden will provide for efficient operation and maintenance from the recommendations and revisions of this plan.

Adopted this 16th day of April 2024 at Eden, North Carolina.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt

c. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #9.

Assistant Finance Director Amy Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment allocates insurance proceeds received for repairs on vehicles in the Recreation, Planning, and Police departments. The repairs have been charged to the M/R Vehicles line item in each department's budget.

| Subject: | | Budget Amendment # 9 | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | Account # | From | To | Amount | |
| General Fund Revenues | | | | | |
| Insurance Proceeds | 10-3850-85000 | \$ - | \$ 25,700.00 | \$ 25,700.00 | |
| General Fund Expenditures | | | | | |
| Recreation M/R Vehicles | 10-6120-25300 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| Planning M/R Vehicles | 10-4910-25300 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 5,500.00 | \$ 3,500.00 | |
| Police M/R Vehicles | 10-4310-25300 | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 77,200.00 | \$ 17,200.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 25,700.00 | |

Appropriates insurance proceeds received for repairs on various vehicles.

Adopted and effective this 16th day of April, 2024.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

d. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #10.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment allocates refund proceeds received for the return of a Police K-9. This amendment increases the Police Revenue and the Police K-9 line items.

Minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

Subject: Budget Amendment # 10

| | Account # | From | To | Amount |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Revenues | | | | |
| Police Revenue | 10-3431-41700 | \$ 6,500.00 | \$ 17,500.00 | <u>\$ 11,000.00</u> |
| General Fund Expenditures | | | | |
| Police K-9 | 10-4310-29500 | \$ 23,000.00 | \$ 34,000.00 | <u>\$ 11,000.00</u> |

Appropriates refund from High Point Canine Solutions LLC for Police K-9 expenditures.

Adopted and effective this 16th day of April, 2024.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall reminded about the revaluation meeting the following night and said the next Saturday would be three events – the fishing derby, powwow and a benefit for the Barry L. Joyce Cancer Center. There was plenty going on in May.

Marketing & Special Events Manager Cindy Adams said the Fine Arts Festival would open its show at Rockingham Community College at 3 p.m. Sunday. They would do awards, followed by the show opening. Her division was hosting the reception that afternoon. She hoped Council came to see all the artists in Rockingham County and what they had created. It was a beautiful show and she thought people would be impressed with all the art in Rockingham County. The Argus Camera Collectors would be in Eden May 16 – 19 at City Hall. They used the hotels and restaurants. They literally came from all over the U.S. – Washington, Michigan, New Hampshire and Florida. The only local person ever involved was Ron Norwood. It was quite a treat and they had become like family. They had planned to come to Eden for four years and were on year 16 or 17 so they enjoyed the hospitality and Eden. The second annual Youth Powwow would be held Saturday, April 27 with kids ages 5 to 17 who had been working very hard. The regalia was amazing, the color, the beading. There were mentors working with the children who were carrying on a culture that could die if they were not doing it. They took it very seriously and it was very meaningful and moving. It was all day and the other events could be fit in as well. The fishing derby was very fun and organizer Carla Huffman worked very hard on it. Doors opened for the powwow at 10 a.m. with the vendors there, which was a whole other treat. There would be Native American food. The grand entry was at noon when everyone came in at the same time. Each dance and drum had a meaning and an emcee would be there to explain. Entry was free and the event was at Morehead High School gym. It was held there last year because of bad weather but it worked out well and would be there again. The City received a grant from the Rockingham County Arts Council that would be used for Fiesta in the Park, a Hispanic heritage celebration, on Friday, May 3 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. with a live mariachi band in Grogan Park as well as a taco truck, Hispanic desserts and drinks, so it would be a good time for the community to come together and have fun in the park. Grown & Gathered was sold out for May 16. There would be another opportunity on August 8. The Piedmont Pottery Festival was almost full. There were a lot of calls from people coming from out of town for it on Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. A lot of the guys interested in classic cars who worked for the City wanted a cool cruise in Uptown Eden so that had been pulled together. The first one was Friday, June 7. They were the first Fridays through the summer from 6 to 9 p.m. with music, food and merchants open late. It should be a good time of pretty cars and lots of conversation. The eighth year of Oink & Ale was set for Saturday, June 15. They were outgrowing Monroe Street and may have to move onto Washington. A lot

of people came and they were looking forward to it. Shaggin' on Fieldcrest was July 20 and it would be in a new location after meeting with merchants and people in the area. It would be in the street at 213 Main Street in front of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. It was a busy time and she was excited about the growth. She hoped Council would come out and support everything they were doing.

Council Member Ellis said the Prowlers were in the baseball and softball season and he invited everyone to come watch the kids play. Morehead High School baseball was undefeated and number two in the state. They would be playing again the following night at 7 p.m. at Morehead. It was an exciting time for the high school.

CLOSED SESSION:

To discuss personnel pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6).

A motion was made by Council Member Underwood go to into closed session. Council Member Light seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7 to 0.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to return to open session. Council Member Epps seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7 to 0.

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