

City of Eden
Regular Session

The City Council of the City of Eden met in regular session Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in the council chambers of City Hall.

Mayor & City Council Members

Mayor Agapito Torres
Councilperson Wade Ellison-absent
Councilperson Luz Saavedra

Councilperson Jennifer Martinez
Councilperson Grover Hall
Mayor Pro Tem Eddy Markham

City Staff/Appointed Officials

City Secretary/Admin Laura Beeson
Public Works Supervisor Ronnie Winans

WORKSHOP

Ronnie Winans, Public Works Supervisor, provided a monthly report. Public Works employees repaired the road on McCall Street and trimmed trees. They repaired water leaks at Lubke's Chevrolet, on Barnett Street, on Burleson, on the road by the Burrito Lady, and by Judge Dillard's. They read meters for billing and completed water cutoffs, hauled trash from the shop, hauled caliche from the old dump to the shop, and hauled black dirt to the shop. They cleaned out the sewer line at Lubke's, patched roads, and completed several animal control calls. They hauled brush from the Little League Field, weedeated, poured curbs at several locations, trimmed trees, pulled sewer pumps at the SBR and lift stations, and greased all pumps and equipment at the sewer plant.

City Secretary/Administrator Laura Beeson provided a monthly update. Work continues on the CDBG Project. Roberts Construction indicates completion in the next few weeks. The 2019-2020 Audit was completed last week, and the Auditors are presenting information tonight. We received a number of Citizen Survey responses, and those will be tabulated next week. Employee Appraisals will all be complete this week. All of the older vehicles have been retrieved and the funds received. The Public Works Supervisor and City Administrator completed the Vulnerability Assessment, Water System and Sewer System Emergency Response Plans for the USDA Project. Bids for the USDA Project will be discussed tonight and future actions determined. Interviews for the Billing Clerk will begin this week, and work continues on updating ordinances to include fee schedules.

INVOCATION

Councilperson Eddy Markham provided the Invocation.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS

None.

REPORTS OF OTHER AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS & STAFF

Michael Hamby, Merritt, McLane & Hamby, presented the 2019-2020 Audit Report. The audit went well, and a recommendation was provided to review all accounts and make necessary adjustments before each year's audit. This year's audit had adjustments to fixed assets, purchases, and debt.

Craig Pfluger, Eden Economic Development, noted that the Economic Development 2019-2020 Audit went well. Their net position increased by \$70,000, they have \$334,000 in cash and total assets of \$374,000. There is IRP money available; however, this involves a lengthy process. All rental and IRP payments are up to date, and the Incubator occupant is making payments. Her business is improving, but has still not improved to pre-COVID numbers. David Mendieta with the Mexican Café is ready to open. We are still in discussions with Found Media, and hope to finalize a plan soon. The AEP lease on the digital sign is on tonight's agenda. EEDC was ready to recommend signing the lease until a few concerns were received today about safety issues with this location. After investigating these concerns, Mr. Pfluger agrees that there are safety issues with this location, and he is therefore recommending that City Council wait to sign this lease until a proper location has been determined.

CONSENT ITEMS

Councilperson Markham made a motion to approve Consent Items A, B, C, and D, seconded by Councilperson Hall, motion carried.

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes, August 11, 2020
- B. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes, August 20, 2020
- C. Approval of Financial Statement Month Ending August 2020
- D. Approval of City of Eden Investment Report Month Ending August 2020

BUSINESS ITEMS

Sage Diller, Enprotec, Hibbs & Todd (eHT), discussed Business Item A, bids received for the USDA Water and Sewer Improvement Projects totaling \$3,152,636:

- 1. RD North Water System Improvement Project to Darnell Construction
- 2. RD South Water System Improvement Project to Darnell Construction
- 3. RD Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Project to Roberts Construction

While the total bids came in at \$3,152,636, the city has \$5,945,000 available. The projects would first be funded by City funds, and then secondly by grant funds. If these bids were accepted, the City would be leaving \$2,792,364 of grant funding on the table. Mr. Diller suggested that the City reject the bids, add some big ticket items to the project, and rebid all of the projects upon acceptance of the new items by Rural Development and TCEQ. Additional items to add to the project were discussed such as battery backups at the water and sewer plants, an additional cooling tower, improvements at the transfer pump station, an elevated storage tank, and a ground storage tank. Motion to reject all bids on Business Item A, RD North Water System Improvement Project, RD South Water System Improvement Project, and RD Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project, add additional items to the projects, and rebid the projects was made by seconded by Councilperson Markham and seconded by Councilperson Hall. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to table and reconsider on December 8, 2020, Business Item B, an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of City of Eden, Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2020; Levying an Annual Ad Valorem Tax and Providing for the Security for and Payment of said Certificates; Providing an Effective Date; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating to the Subject, was made by Councilperson Markham and seconded by Councilperson Hall. Motion carried 4-0.

Council discussed Business Item C, and an appraisal was submitted providing the value to the abandoned property at \$300.00. Motion was made by Councilperson Hall and seconded by Councilperson Markham to approve Business Item C, an Ordinance regarding the Closure and Abandonment of the following public streets and alleyways located in Blocks 9, 10, 15, and 16, McCall Anderson Subdivision, City of Eden, TX:

1. Abandonment of Malloy Street from Welch to Lefever to Harrod Street
2. Abandonment of Lefever Street between Maddox and Malloy and from Malloy to the city limits
3. Abandonment of the alleyway located in Blocks 10 and 15, McCall Anderson Subdivision from Welch to Lefever to Harrod Streets

Motion carried.

Councilperson Markham made a motion to approve Business Item D, a 2020 Tax Levy Ordinance adopting the effective rate of .700847, and seconded by Councilperson Martinez. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilperson Markham to table Business Item E, a Property Lease Agreement with AEP, seconded by Councilperson Hall. Motion carried.

Council discussed a Resolution designating the Eden Echo as the Official Newspaper for the City of Eden for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Councilperson Saavedra made a motion to approve Business Item F, a Resolution Designating the Eden Echo the Official Newspaper for the City for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, seconded by Councilperson Martinez. Motion carried.

Council discussed an estimate from Whitson Communications to fix and repair City Hall phone and data lines. Councilperson Martinez made a motion to approve Business Item G, an estimate from Whitson Communications, Inc. to fix and repair City Hall phone and data lines and purchase new phones for City Hall in the amount of \$4923. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Markham. Motion carried.

Councilperson Markham made a motion to approve Business Item H, Beautification Committee Board Members for 2020-2021, and seconded by Councilperson Saavedra. Motion carried.

Councilperson Markham made a motion to approve Business Item I, the closing Bank Account #0278715 for USDA Bond Reserve Funds and the opening of an interest bearing Account #30912 for USDA Bond Reserve Funds, seconded by Councilperson Saavedra. Motion carried.

Councilperson Saavedra made a motion to approve Business Item J, the August 2020 bills, seconded by Councilperson Markham. Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Agapito Torres, Mayor

Laura Beeson, City Administrator