

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6 p.m. electronically via Zoom and was streamed live on the City's YouTube channel. Those present for the meeting, all via Zoom, were as follows:

Mayor:	Neville Hall
Council Members:	Darryl Carter
	Gerald Ellis
	Jerry Epps
	Angela Hampton
	Phillip Hunnicutt
	Bernie Moore
	Bruce Nooe
Interim City Manager:	Terry Shelton (absent)
City Clerk:	Deanna Hunt
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. Pastor Chris Burns of Draper Pentecostal Holiness Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by City Clerk Deanna Hunt.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- a. Proclamation: Public Works Week.

Mayor Hall read the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION: PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

WHEREAS, public works infrastructure, facilities and services are of critical importance to the health, safety, economy and overall wellbeing of our community; and,

WHEREAS, such facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, engineers, and administrators, representing all levels of government, who are responsible for and must plan, design, construct, inspect, operate and maintain the public works facilities essential to serve our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works functions is materially influenced by the people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for our citizens, civic leaders and children to learn and understand the importance of vital public works programs such as drinking water, sanitary and storm sewers, streets and highways, public fleets, and solid waste collection and disposal; and,

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's celebration is "The Power of Public Works," and 2020 marks the 61st annual national Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim the week of May 17th – 23rd, 2020 as Public Works Week in the City of Eden, North Carolina, and call upon all citizens and civic leaders in this community to gain knowledge of, and maintain a progressive interest in the public works needs and programs vital

to our everyday lives, and to recognize the daily contributions which public works officials make to ensure our health, safety, comfort and quality of life.

This the 19th day of May, 2020.

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

SET MEETING AGENDA:

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to set the agenda. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

There were no requests and petitions of citizens.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of a request to approve 2019-20 Strategic Planning Commission funding for three projects: Klyce Street Landing amenities, Movies Under the Stars, and kayak lessons for middle schoolers.

Amenities for Klyce Street Landing - \$4,300

Items will include an entrance sign, kiosk, bench and a concrete pad for 2 picnic tables. This site has a beautiful and open view of the river.

Movies under the Stars - \$4,000

This will enable us to show 4 movies that will be shown on a large inflated screen in various places throughout the city. Potential sites are Grogan Park, Freedom Park, Downtown, Pool, etc. All of these movies would be free of charge to the public.

Kayak Lessons for Middle Schoolers - \$1,360

These lessons will be offered to 12 middle school age kids. Instruction and rental of kayaks, paddles and vests will be done through Three Rivers Outfitters. There will be 6 sessions that will include 1 instruction day in the classroom, 4 in the pool and the last in the river. We are using this as a pilot program that will hopefully lead to more regular instruction sessions for our youth.

Mayor Hall called on Coordinator of Tourism & Special Events/Projects Cindy Adams.

Ms. Adams presented three projects that had been unanimously approved by the Strategic Planning Commission. Klyce Street Landing amenities was the first. In spite of how popular the landing was, people had a difficult time finding it so an entrance sign was proposed. In addition, the installation of a kiosk would help people find where they were on the river. The project would also include a 10x12 concrete pad with two picnic tables. Ms. Adams showed a rendering of a metal sign for the Klyce Street

Landing which used the same logo that would be on signs for all the paddle trails. The logo on the metal sign at Matrimony Creek Nature Trail was proposed to be the same logo used at all of the walking trails.

The second project was Movies Under the Stars, which had previously been at Grogan Park. The funding would provide for four movies at different locations, such as the Freedom Park amphitheater, downtown and Mill Avenue Pool. Event dates would depend on when outdoor gatherings of a larger number of people were allowed.

Ms. Adams explained the third project was kayak lessons for middle schoolers, which was also supported by the Dan River Basin Association. The City had spent a lot of money and time branding itself as a river community and the project would help to enhance that. It would help teach the younger generation how to be safe, hopefully creating a generation of people who loved our rivers. The lessons would be offered to 12 middle schoolers, with instruction and rental of the kayaks, paddles and vests provided by Three Rivers Outfitters. There would be six sessions in all; one to include instruction in the classroom located at Three Rivers Outfitters, four to be held in the Mill Avenue pool, and the last session to be conducted on the river. The intention was to create a pilot program that would grow.

Ms. Adams said the total for all of the projects was \$9,660. For the amenities project at Klyce Street Landing, local company Mattco Metal Works would be used. The concrete pad would be poured in-house, as well as the installation of the beams around the metal sign. Therefore, the cost of \$4,300 for that project could possibly be lower.

Council Member Carter questioned if the money appropriated for the projects was available in the current fiscal year's budget.

Ms. Adams replied yes.

Council Member Hunnicutt said he was concerned about some of the shortfalls in the upcoming budget. Some departments would actually be running in the red the next year. He suggested waiting until after the budget review process took place before approving the projects and therefore, made a motion for the item to be put on hold for 30 days and then reviewed at the June meeting. He was concerned about priorities when spending additional money on the items when the City would be faced with issues in the upcoming budget.

Council Member Ellis agreed that it would be best to postpone the decision for 30 days.

Council Member Hunnicutt said he was not opposed to the projects and while he understood that the funds were out of the current fiscal year's budget, they could also be rolled over in the savings account and applied to next year's budget.

Council Member Epps questioned if it would be possible to go ahead and begin some of the in-house work.

Mayor Hall replied that he was unsure how they would be able to begin a portion of the project without a plan in place and felt it would be best to stay in the order of the project schedule.

Council Member Ellis asked if there was an announcement made regarding Oink & Ale.

Ms. Adams replied that it was canceled.

City Attorney Erin Gilley advised that the motion needed to be amended to reflect the next meeting instead of 30 days.

Mayor Hall said Council Member Hunnicutt’s motion was then amended to table the consideration of the three projects to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Council Member Nooe seconded the motion.

Council Member Carter voted yes, but wanted to go on record that he was in favor of the Strategic Plan and the amenities at the landing.

All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager’s Report

Mayor Hall requested the report be entered in the minutes as if it had been read in its entirety.

City Manager’s Report
May 2020

Administration

Eden Youth Council

Our youth council members found a way to spread positivity and cheer during the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. Owner Lynda Burnette volunteered the side of her building on Washington Street to be used for the project. Youth council members took turns putting their creative touch on the building by painting a rainbow and words of encouragement while also practicing social distancing. The message has brought hope to everyone that passes by and serves as a reminder that “Hope Flows Through Eden!”

Economic Development

Industry/Workforce Education

Building Reuse Grant

In April, an Eden industry was awarded a \$250,000 building reuse grant to renovate the building in which they are located by the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA). Pam Cundiff, owner of Travel Consultants, is an RIA Board member and a great supporter of Eden projects. The City of Eden and Rockingham County Economic Development Departments applied for this grant on the company’s behalf. While work is on-going in the company’s facility, the official opening has been delayed by COVID-19 and no exact date for their formal announcement has been determined.

Remaining Eden Industries

The COVID-19 shutdown has caused several Eden industries to close temporarily, reduce their workforces, or furlough employees. With the partial reopening of the economy starting on May 8, we remain hopeful that these industries will resume operations and return to some sense of normalcy. Because most industry supplies consumer products, full recovery will require consumer spending to resume to normal levels.

Commercial

Micro Business Impact Grant

Because of the generosity of the Rockingham County Citizens for Economic Development, the Reidsville Area Foundation, Reidsville and Eden Rotary Clubs, The Wright Company and Sylvia Grogan — as well as those individuals who have contributed to the Go Fund Me page set up by Randy Hunt through the Eden Downtown Development Inc. — more than 20 Eden businesses have received grants to help them with expenses during the COVID-19 shutdown. Thanks to those organizations and individuals who helped these small business owners.

Go Fund Me Page

Many organizations and individuals have donated to the Rockingham County Small Business Relief Fund to provide grants to struggling small businesses during this shutdown. Hair and nail salons remain closed, and inside dining remains prohibited for restaurants. A recent survey of NC restaurant owners revealed that 77% of their respondents have suffered losses of up to 70% of normal sales. The goal is \$10,000 and more than \$1,000 has already been raised.

If you wish to donate, please visit this link:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/rockingham-county-small-business-relief-fund?utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2B5806-thank-you-ask-share

Wendy's Restaurant

This restaurant is undergoing an interior dining room renovation while they are unable to have dine-in customers.

Eden Jewelry

Due to COVID-19, this company is permanently consolidating their Eden and Reidsville store locations at our Eden store located at 234 East Meadow Road. They can be reached at 336-623-1511. They want to thank their Reidsville and Eden customers for their loyalty and support over the years and appreciate their business. Robin Wyatt, their excellent staff, and jeweler will be available at our Eden store to assist Rockingham and adjoining county customers with all of their jewelry and repair needs.

Banking

Big banks are closing antiquated branches at a record pace, but they are also opening smaller and more digitally-focused ones to better serve their customers, according to research from Jones Long LaSalle's Branch Banking 2020. After peaking at 100,000 branches in 2009, the number of bank branches has plunged by 13,200. A few years ago, it was reported that banks could have closed 10,000 branches because their customers were not using them as more digital programs displaced traditional banking functions. This has been seen in Eden. Since 2015, Home Trust Banking, FNB Southeast, Bank of America, and Carter Bank and Trust have closed branches. Yet, each remaining institution remains dedicated to helping local customers both at their bank branches and through on-line services.

Other

Mountain Valley Pipeline

This organization has donated \$5,000 to the Rockingham County Salvation Army to help them continue to serve area citizens in need. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Main Street

Small Business Impact

Concerns of COVID-19 have caused many Eden businesses to close or restrict operations. Business support information is being shared throughout the City and through the three merchants' associations to share best practices, grant, and loan information. Many businesses have received the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program or Economic Injury Disaster Loan. Some businesses have received the county's micro business grant. Unfortunately, other businesses have received no relief.

The City's Planning & Inspections Department received new guidelines from the state about how businesses can social distance. Now, a business can have 15 people for every 1,000 square feet.

Many businesses reopened May 11 as part of the Governor's phased reopening process. Many businesses are still forced to stay closed.

A new business to Eden, Simply MK, at 571-A Bridge Street had a soft opening Saturday with an official opening Monday, May 11. They carry clothing, home décor, children's items, and much more.

Draper

The owners of Jerry's Restaurant have set up a food truck in the parking lot of the restaurant. The food truck will operate 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Boulevard

The Rockingham Community College GED classroom that was on Washington Street will move by June 30 to the front meeting space at 241 Events on the Boulevard. RCC ensures the area will have adequate power to operate the computers, monitors, and projectors.

Tourism and Special Events

Butterfly Trail at Smith River Greenway

Our latest addition to the Butterfly Trail is a large head board for photo opportunities located near the Rotary Observation Deck. Kids and adults alike enjoy putting their heads through the oversized butterfly board. HAVE FUN!

Landscaping at Matrimony Creek Nature Trail

Beautiful landscaping is underway at Matrimony Creek Nature Trail and there is more to come! Gorgeous trees are going to be planted along the entrance path leading to the trail and more plants will be placed at the trailhead sign. Come walk this great trail and see all the improvements! Thank you to the crew of Facility & Grounds and Josh Woodall for making this happen!

Amenities at Klyce Street Landing

COMING SOON! New amenities are being planned for the new Klyce Street Landing. Stay tuned!

Freedom Park Nature Trail Upgrades

In addition to the unique and beautiful boulder entrance signs and landscaping, more improvements are going to be made to the trail itself in the near future. Stay tuned for more details.

Sunflower Field at Smith River Greenway

The sunflower field at the Smith River Greenway has been planted and there are signs of sprouts already! We can't wait!

Educational Signage

As you are exploring our trails, pay attention to new signage. Near the otter sculpture there has been a sign placed entitled "Otters on the Smith River" and a new sign has been placed in the kiosk at the Matrimony Creek Nature Trail. Once the last portion of the trail is open, there will be educational signs showing fascinating information about the old grist mill that once stood there and another sign highlighting life in the creek. A huge thank you to Brian Williams of the Dan River Basin Association for helping us make this happen!

ExploreEdenNC.com

Our new tourism site is LIVE and full of great information. Check it out! If you have any great outdoor activity or nature pictures you would like to share to be placed on the site, please submit them to cadams@edennc.us.

Follow the Art

Check out our new Follow the Art flyer on our Explore Eden Facebook page and web page that highlights all the public art projects in our beautiful City. We are having some great weather that allows everyone to get out and Explore Eden!

Engineering

Waterline Replacement Projects Update

A Sam W. Smith, Inc. crew installed new water services off the 2-inch diameter schedule 80 PVC water main along Spring Street on April 15. New water taps for customers along N. Primitive Street were completed the following two days. The crew returned on April 21 to kill out the old 2" galvanized water main at the intersection of Spring and Dameron streets. Problems with at least one valve not holding resulted in this work taking longer than expected. The crew was able to complete asphalt patching of pavement cuts the next day, as well as final seeding and restoration work.

A Sam W. Smith, Inc. crew began installing 2-inch diameter schedule 80 PVC water main along the south side of George Street on April 23. Installation work to replace an old 2" galvanized water main continued through April 29, when the new water main was first filled with water and pressurized. The required hydrostatic pressure test passed on April 30. The crew returned on May 4 to pump in a high-test hypochlorite (HTH) solution to continue the rest of the required testing. After repeating the flushing and chlorinating procedures, good results from the bacteriological testing were received on May 8, allowing for connection of customers to the new water main. Two customers were switched over to the new PVC water main on May 11. The old galvanized water main will be cut and plugged at the intersection of Clark Street and George Street after the other customers are connected to the new PVC water main. The approval package from the Public Water Supply Section was received on April 24 for the Jackson Street Pressure Zone project, based on plans submitted by Stoltzfus Engineering Inc. Information has been shared with various individuals to obtain additional permits and agreements, as well as a revised quote for the approved package booster pump system. A meeting is scheduled to discuss electrical service to the small pump station on May 12.

Parks and Recreation

Facilities

All Parks and Recreation facilities, except for the Matrimony Creek Nature Trail, Smith River Greenway, Grogan Park, Bridge Street walking track, Mill Avenue walking track, Peter Hill Park walking track, Freedom Park walking track and the City's river access sites are closed due to COVID-19. The first three-quarters mile of the Matrimony Creek Nature Trail has been repaired and is open to the public. The City hopes to open additional amenities after May 22 when the Governor allows Phase II to go into effect.

Planning & Inspections

GIS

Water meters are continuing to be located for active water accounts that are not on the City's GIS maps. Data for gravity main lines and manholes provided by W.K. Dickson was reviewed and corrected in the system. Preparation is being made for the City's Enterprise Agreement with ESRI.

Stadium Drive Sidewalk

The surveying has been completed.

Unified Development Ordinance

Nearly all of the sections of Module 2 of the UDO have been received. A Steering Committee meeting along with the Planning Board will likely meet at the end of the month.

Boards and Commissions

The Strategic Planning Commission met online this past month, but the rest of the Boards and Commissions have not been meeting at this time. There will likely be a Planning Board meeting via online for May as there is a 10/70 Watershed request to consider and a rezoning on Gilley Road.

Police

Operations & Procedures

When someone calls the Eden Police Department, we know the incident they are reporting is important to them and we will continue to provide our services. Due to COVID-19, officers are taking some reports by telephone when feasible. The reports taken by phone are incidents where the crime is a misdemeanor, no assault or threats have occurred, and/or the suspect is no longer on scene. Detectives in the investigative unit are also working the reported incidents and interviewing by phone when appropriate and practicable depending on the type and seriousness of the case. We ask for the public's patience as this procedure is for their safety as well as ours. We will respond to all serious and ongoing calls as usual. This procedure is only utilized when it is appropriate. We are in this together and encourage all citizens to abide by Governor Cooper's Executive Order by social distancing of six feet or more and ask that the public not participate in gatherings of more than 10 people.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

- a. Approval and adoption of (1) April 21, 2020 Minutes and (2) May 1, 2020 Minutes.
- b. Approval to call a Public Hearing to consider the FY 2020-2021 Budget on June 16, 2020.
- c. Approval of Budget Amendment #12.

Assistant Director of Finance Amy Winn wrote in a memo that the budget amendment increased the General Fund Police Security revenue line item and increased the Police Department’s Police Security expenditure line item to reflect the additional revenue received from police security charges.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Police Security	10-3431-41100	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Police Security - Fringe Benefits	10-3431-41200	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 4,600.00
				<u>\$ 32,600.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Police Security	10-4310-12500	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 72,600.00	<u>\$ 32,600.00</u>

Appropriates additional revenue generated by police security.

Adopted and effective this 19th day of May, 2020.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

- d. Approval of Budget Amendment #13.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo that when Riverfest was completely transferred to the City’s accounts several years ago, there was a balance in the account at year end. Each year a fund balance was calculated for Riverfest based on the beginning fund balance and revenues over/under expenditures. At June 30, 2019, \$26,446 of the City’s General Fund fund balance was reserved for Riverfest. This budget amendment appropriates Riverfest funds received over the original budget appropriation for FY 2019-2020 and a portion of fund balance that is designated for Riverfest.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Riverfest	10-3350-02100	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 41,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
Fund Balance Appropriated - Riverfest	10-3991-99100	\$ 640,900.00	\$ 645,100.00	\$ 4,200.00
				<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Riverfest	10-4135-30200	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>

Appropriates Riverfest revenue and fund balance reserved for Riverfest.

Adopted and effective this 19th day of May, 2020.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

Minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

A motion was made by Council Member Carter to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements at that time.

CLOSED SESSION:

To discuss personnel pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

Council Member Moore made the motion to go into closed session. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

Council Member Epps made the motion to return to open session. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

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