

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, December 15, 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
City Manager:	Jon Mendenhall
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 Cynthia Nanney of First United Methodist and Spray United Methodist Churches gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Tommy Underwood.

Mayor Hall stated that Council wanted to express their gratitude to Chief Underwood, a longtime employee who was in attendance at his last Eden City Council meeting as a City employee due to his upcoming retirement on December 31. Chief Underwood had been in the fire service a majority of his life, starting as a volunteer for the City and for the Draper Volunteer Fire Department in 1983. In 1988, he came on full time as a relief driver for the City and worked at all four fire stations. He rose through the ranks and was named deputy fire chief in 2005. He had been the City's fire chief for the past 10 years. The department had continued to thrive and grow under his leadership, this year constructing a two and a half story fire training facility on Stadium Drive that would meet training needs for the fire department, as well as other local emergency response agencies, well into the future. He thanked Chief Underwood for his many years of service to the citizens of Eden and wished him well in his retirement.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

a. Proclamation: Arbor Day.

Mayor Hall read the proclamation.

2020 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 25th year, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, December 15, 2020 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 15th day of December, 2020.

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS:

a. ABC Board

Mayor Hall reappointed Lisa Duncan for a three-year term.

b. ABC Board Chair

Mayor Hall reappointed Tommy Flynt to serve as chair.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall wanted to add a closed session to discuss economic development pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and acquisition of real property pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) as item 15. Item 16 was added as adjournment.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were none at this time.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

There were none at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of a proposal for internal audit services.

Mayor Hall called on Director of Finance and Personnel Tammie McMichael.

Ms. McMichael stated that Council had a copy of a proposal from Bernard Robinson & Company, who had agreed to provide internal auditing services to the City for a two-year term. During the first year, the firm would complete an Internal Control Review and Assessment and review the City's User Access to Computer Systems. The cost was anticipated to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000. Year two would be more maintenance of the Internal Audit Plan and the cost would be based on the hours worked by the determined level of the person performing the work centered on the hourly rates stated in the proposal.

Mayor Hall stated this was something Council had discussed on and off in the past year. He asked if the anticipated cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000 was the total cost of the two-year term or if it was an annual cost.

Ms. McMichael replied the anticipated cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000 was only for the first year for the firm's services of establishing an internal audit plan. The second year would be used to test the controls and the City would be committing to pay an hourly rate.

Mayor Hall asked if the quoted rates listed in the proposal were for the second year of the term where they would be paid hourly and if so, would they impact the anticipated cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for the first year.

Ms. McMichael answered they would not.

Mayor Hall asked if it was possible to have something in the proposal that stated the anticipated cost would not exceed \$12,000.

Ms. McMichael said she felt it was straightforward that for the company to perform the initial assessment of making a recommendation and plan of what they proposed would help to ensure the City's internal controls were working, the cost would not exceed \$12,000. City staff could control what testing was conducted in the second year, but would be paying an hourly rate for the testing.

Mayor Hall pointed out to Council that normally a staff recommendation accompanied a proposal or memo from staff. However, he requested the finance department not give a recommendation as to whether or not to proceed with the internal audit proposal as it was basically an audit of their work. Therefore, there was no accompanying recommendation from staff and it would be the Council's decision whether to spend the money and proceed with the proposal.

Council Member Moore asked Ms. McMichael if the company would perform tests a few times during the second year versus the previous discussion of having them come every month for roughly eight to ten hours.

Ms. McMichael said yes and added that the City could control the frequency of testing. Once the company created a plan for the City, Council could look at it and decide how often the controls should be tested, which would determine what level person and hourly rate would be needed from their firm to conduct the testing.

City Attorney Erin Gilley said City staff did not feel comfortable developing the plan as it needed to be established by an outside source, which was the biggest part of the internal audit process and happened to be the most expensive.

Mayor Hall said the internal audit process was recommended to the City as a measure of control that was not currently in place.

Council Member Ellis suggested having the firm come to the City quarterly during the second year would likely be sufficient.

Council Member Hampton suggested that Ms. McMichael could possibly advise Council as to how often the firm should conduct control testing once she reviewed the plan they established.

Ms. McMichael stated that before the City entered into an agreement with the firm, it could make it very clear that it was asking the firm to conduct the initial assessment with the understanding of what the anticipated cost would be. However, City Council and management would be intimately involved in determining how often control testing was conducted. After receiving the initial plan, the firm could likely give the City a better idea of how much it would cost for them to test the recommended controls. The firm provided all of their hourly rates; however, the City would have the ability to control the cost once the plan was established and an agreement with the firm was entered into.

Council Member Carter expressed concern with the cost of the proposal and even though the audit itself was fine, he felt it was a lot of money. He asked if there were any other bids received for the internal audit.

Ms. McMichael said there were not any other bids received from the second Request for Proposal (RFP) sent out.

Council Member Ellis said it appeared to possibly cost \$2,000 quarterly for a maximum of \$8,000 for the second year. However, if the firm were to decide two control tests were enough, it would cost even less. A purpose of the internal audit was to show that Council was checking everything and working together.

Council Member Hunnicutt shared the same concern regarding the amount of money and stated that he doubted anything would be discovered to offset the cost. However, based on the circumstances that led to the recommendation made from an outside source who reviewed the City's policies and procedures to pursue an internal audit, he felt the City was taking a risk not to adapt some type of audit procedure that would be ongoing with guidelines and implementations that the City would have going forward.

Council Member Hunnicutt made a motion to pursue an internal audit agreement with Bernard Robinson & Company as proposed and with an allocation up to \$15,000 to cover the process. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

A copy of the proposal is available in the City Clerk's office.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of Boards and Commissions appointments.

Mayor Hall called on Director of Planning and Inspections Kelly Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated that Council had adopted all new regulations that would be effective January 1, 2021. In doing so, the City effectively did away with the original ordinances and created new ones. Therefore, everyone who currently served on the boards and commissions would have to be reappointed or newly appointed. Upon Mayor Hall's request, the appointments would be carried out by a slate of offices unless a member had a different person to appoint.

Mayor Hall stated there was a list of members belonging to the Board of Adjustment, Community Appearance Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board and Tree Board in the packet

sent to Council. He asked for a motion of approval or denial for all of the offices if there were no recommendations of different nominations.

Council Member Carter said there was a vacancy in his ward for the Historic Preservation Committee and he requested to hold that position open until January when he could fill it.

Mayor Hall agreed to pull the vacant position. He asked Council Member Nooe if he also wanted to pull the vacant position that was in his ward until January.

Council Member Nooe said yes but added he had verified the other positions within his ward.

Council Member Moore said he made contact with the members within his ward except for Mike Corum, whose term had expired on the Tree Board.

Council Member Epps said all of the members within his ward agreed to reappointment except for the member on the Board of Adjustment who declined.

Mayor Hall asked Council to try to have all vacant positions filled by the January Council meeting so that an approval could be given for all of them.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked if he needed to make contact with each of the members within his ward even if their term was not expired.

Ms. Stultz said it was up to him. The planning department mailed a letter to each of the members asking if they did not want to be reappointed. She only received phone calls from those who did wish to be reappointed.

Council Member Epps made a motion to approve the slate of nominees excluding the vacancies and declination. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

Appointments are as follows:

Board of Adjustment:

Ward 1	Joan Moore	2021	Councilman Moore
Ward 2	Will Flynt	2021	Councilman Nooe
Ward 3	Barney Walker	2021	Councilwoman Hampton
Ward 5	Charles Johnson	2021-2023	Councilman Carter
Ward 6	Cleveland Ellison	2021-2023	Councilman Hunnicutt
Ward 7	Diana Biggs	2021-2023	Councilman Ellis
Mayor	Jackie Hampton	2021-2022	Mayor Hall
ETJ	David Everett	2021-2022	Full Council approval
ETJ	Terry Shelton	2021-2023	Full Council approval

Community Appearance Commission:

Ward 1	Susan Cunningham	2021-2022	Councilman Moore
Ward 2	Tim Kirkman	2021	Councilman Nooe
Ward 3	Karla McDonald	2021-2023	Councilwoman Hampton
Ward 4	Faye Shelton	2021-2023	Councilman Epps
Ward 5	Cathy Carter	2021-2023	Councilman Carter
Ward 6	James Cherry	2021	Councilman Hunnicutt
Ward 7	Debbie Ellis	2021-2022	Councilman Ellis
Mayor	Julie Talbert	2021-2022	Mayor Hall

Historic Preservation Commission:

Ward 1	Everall Peele	2021-2023	Councilman Moore
Ward 3	Beth Pulliam	2021	Councilwoman Hampton
Ward 4	Louise Price	2021	Councilman Epps
Ward 6	Charles Yarbrough	2021-2022	Councilman Hunnicutt
Mayor	Blanche Hailey	2021-2022	Mayor Hall

Planning Board:

Ward 1	Eddie Barker	2021-2022	Councilman Moore
Ward 2	Gwen Taylor	2021-2023	Councilman Nooe
Ward 3	Barbara Garland	2021-2022	Councilwoman Hampton

Ward 4	Fred Ramsey	2021-2023	Councilman Epps
Ward 5	Amelia Dallas	2021-2022	Councilman Carter
Ward 6	Jerry Holland, Jr.	2021	Councilman Hunnicutt
Ward 7	Frank Wyatt	2021-2022	Councilman Ellis
Mayor	Carol Helms	2021	Mayor Hall
ETJ	Steve Morgan	2021-2023	Full Council approval
ETJ	Matthew Smith	2021	Full Council approval

Tree Board:

Ward 2	James Ivie	2021	Councilman Nooe
Ward 3	Brian Ferris	2021-2022	Councilwoman Hampton
Ward 4	Paul Dishmon	2021-2022	Councilman Epps
Ward 5	Max Kirks	2021-2022	Councilman Carter
Ward 6	Jason Harris	2021-2023	Councilman Hunnicutt
Ward 7	Tyra Hinton	2021-2023	Councilman Ellis
Mayor	Dale Warren	2021-2023	Mayor Hall

- b. Consideration of Strategic Planning Commission funding in the amount of \$4,500 for a Children’s Interactive Trail funding on the Smith River Greenway.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz stated that earlier in the year the Strategic Planning Commission (SPC) approved up to \$10,000 to participate in the Children’s Interactive Trail along with other arts groups from the County. As noted in a memo sent to Council by the SPC chair, Rockingham County Partnership for Children (RCPC) had received funding towards the project but was left with a deficit of \$4,500. Council was requested to grant the \$4,500 needed to complete the project on the Smith River Greenway.

Mayor Hall said the project was brought before Council several months ago in the form of a \$10,000 request that was tabled as Council was unsure as to the City’s financial situation due to COVID-19. In the meantime, the RCPC raised over half of the funds to complete the project but ran out of time and resources needed to make a decision.

Council Member Hampton made a motion to approve \$4,500 for a Children’s Interactive Trail funding on the Smith River Greenway. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. 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 called on City Manager Jon Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall thanked Council and Eden’s citizens for the opportunity to serve. He also thanked City staff, noting they were a good group of employees. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and welcomed any questions regarding the submitted report.

Mayor Hall wished Mr. Mendenhall a Merry Christmas and said he had enjoyed seeing him participate in the festivals and events being held in the downtown areas and noted it was a good move for the manager to establish relationships with the citizens.

Council Member Hunnicutt stated that even though 2020 had been a tough year for the City, the economic development effort between the City and the County was greatly appreciated as displayed in the City Manager’s report. For the City alone, the capital investment was \$460 million with the creation of 463 new jobs. He recently spoke with Mr. Mendenhall and expressed his hope that as the end of the year approached, the City’s achievements could be promoted. The City’s successes included the Nestle Purina investment, revitalization of the Eden Mall and downtown areas, and several other industrial projects that had generated a good amount of capital investment, as well as jobs. He wanted to express his gratitude for the successes achieved.

Council Member Ellis stated how positive it had been for Council to work together for the City and its citizens over the past year. He added that City employees did a great job and he was pleased with Mr. Mendenhall and the positive direction he was taking the City in. He looked forward to the upcoming year filled with great ideas.

Mayor Hall said Mr. Mendenhall was building a team mentality by establishing different committees responsible for looking at things and felt the City was going to start seeing the benefits of that in the near future.

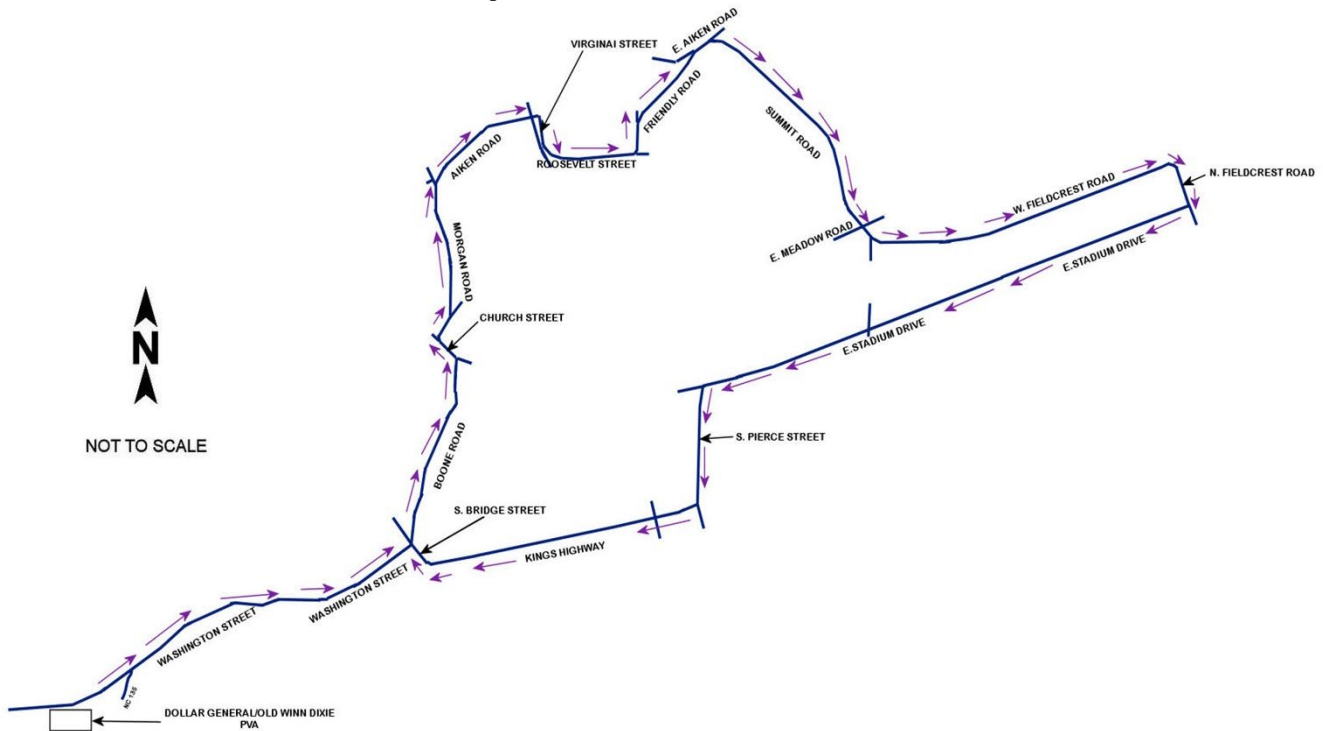
City Manager's Report
December 2020
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ADMINISTRATION

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

We just received a call from the North Pole and guess who is coming to town...SANTA! He will be touring the Eden neighborhoods with his friends on December 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Below is a map of his route that his elves sent us.

So turn on your lights and gather at the curb.
This fun-filled event will be quite superb!
Socially distance and please wear your mask.
Take care and be safe while Santa rides past!



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commercial

Ample Storage

At Ample Storage they understand all of your storage needs. Their on-site managers take personal care in watching over your belongings and offer the best customer service in the industry. With their wide range of locations and sizes, they offer storage that will fit any budget.

Dimensions	Square Feet	Monthly Cost
5' x 5'	25	\$25
5' x 10'	50	\$40
7.5' x 10'	75	\$60
10' x 10'	100	\$80
10' x 15'	150	\$100

They are located at 842 S. Van Buren Road next to Tractor Supply.

ARC Skate Shop

This long-time Eden skate shop has reopened at 428-A Kings Highway. They sell skateboards, skating equipment, wheels, apparel and more. They are open noon – 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Call 336-635-9350 for more information.

ModWash

This company will soon be opening the new car wash located in front of Food Lion on Van Buren Road. At ModWash, their goal is to make life shine. They are an express car wash with a commitment to quality service, professional car care and doing good for the communities in which they are located. They like to think that with every wash, they are delivering something special. Driving a clean car feels good and they want to spread that feeling of pride across every community they serve.

Slicks Tattoo Studio

This newest tattoo studio has opened at 428-B Kings Highway. They are open 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. everyday. Call 336-522-9970 for more information.

Housing

The City’s economic development team is working with local and regional housing developers to supply more housing stock in Eden. Since 2019, the Eden housing market has improved significantly with many homes selling within two days and bidding wars taking place. N.C. is one of the top states to which people are choosing to relocate because of its climate, relatively low cost of living and proximity to the mountains and ocean. Eden is participating in this success. COVID-19 has added fuel to this housing boom since many people wish to live in less densely populated areas of the country.

After decades of the larger urban areas enjoying significant annual population growth, the trends are now pointing to growth in mid-sized cities, such as Greensboro and Winston-Salem, and small towns like Eden. One person from Research Triangle Park and one from Wake Forest, N.C. contacted the City this summer stating they were moving to Eden because they preferred small town living and Eden’s internet speeds are the same as that of larger cities. COVID-19 has accelerated a trend of people working from home. They can live anywhere they can access the internet. Realtors report new residents from Arizona, California, New York, New Jersey, Vermont and Michigan coming to Eden in 2020. Our community is changing and the City staff is working to provide the amenities that current and new residents desire, such as trails and vibrant downtowns.

Industry

Acrow Bridges

This newest Eden company is located at 406 Summit Road across from Gildan Yarns. They are seeking a forklift operator and laborers for day shift work of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Compensation is \$15-\$17 per hour with benefits. If you are interested, apply online at careers@acrow.com

Weil-McLain

This Eden company currently has openings for two manufacturing engineers and one purchasing agent. In addition, they have 25 open full-time hourly positions including assembly, material handling and machine operators. Visit www.weil-mclain.com/careers for more information.

Gildan Yarns

Gildan is seeking machine electricians, spinning and carding technicians, spinning and carding operators, and can haulers. There are some day shift positions, but the majority of these openings are on the night shift. Most positions are for 12-hour shifts on a 2-2-3 schedule. For more information, visit their 335 Summit Road facility.

Sturm Ruger

On December 7, the N.C. Department of Commerce announced that Sturm Ruger will add roughly 60 jobs and invest approximately \$10 million at its site in Mayodan over the next three years. Salaries for the new jobs are expected to average \$44,033 per year, creating an annual payroll impact for the region of more than \$2 million per year. Rockingham County’s overall annual wages average \$35,146. Sturm Ruger’s new positions will include production associates and supervisors. For more information, visit <https://ruger.com/micros/careers/>

Rockingham County Economic Development: 2019-2020

Beginning in the spring of 2019 and throughout the pandemic-plagued 2020, Eden and Rockingham County have enjoyed unprecedented economic development success. Here is a rundown of the new projects and expansions that have taken place during this time:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Products</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
Pella Corp.	Reidsville	Window Mfg.	\$ 15.5 million	125
Gildan Yarns	Eden	Yarn Mfg.	\$ 4.5 million	75
Bovone	Reidsville	Glass machinery	\$ 1.0 million	5
Ontex	Rock. Cty.	Diaper Mfg.	\$ 93 million	403
Nestle Purina	Eden	Pet Food Mfg.	\$ 450 million	300
Night Owl	Eden	Granite Mfg.	\$ 3 million	60
EVBP	Eden	Cabinet Mfg.	\$ 1.6 million	18
Acrow	Eden	Bridges	\$ Not specified	10
Sturm Ruger	Mayodan	Firearm Mfg.	\$ 10 million	60
Farmina	Reidsville	Pet Food Mfg.	\$ 28.5 million	129
Total			\$ 607.1 million	1,185

Note: Nestle Purina is the largest single industrial investment in Rockingham County history and 39% of jobs will be in Eden—the largest single percentage of all county areas where jobs have located.

Special thanks goes to the Rockingham County Economic Development team that either spearheaded or assisted the Eden and Reidsville economic development departments with these projects. This success is truly a team effort. From Eden’s perspective, we appreciate the partnership we enjoy with Rockingham County Economic Development Director Leigh Cockram and Existing Industry Manager Kerry Taylor. They are invaluable to our success and Eden is proud to be part of the Rockingham County Economic Development team.

PARKS AND RECREATION

COVID-19 Updates-Phase 3

All Parks and Recreation facilities are open in a limited capacity due to Governor Roy Cooper’s Phase 3 regarding COVID-19. Please note, at all open indoor facilities, staff will have participants sign in and answer questions regarding symptoms of COVID-19 before they are allowed into the facility. Staff will also sanitize the facility before, during and at the end of each evening.

Bridge Street & Mill Avenue Recreation Centers

These two facilities will be open Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. There will be a maximum of ten participants allowed at any given time.

Citywide Playgrounds

All playgrounds are open.

Eden City Hall

City Hall is now open to individuals needing to conduct business within the Finance Department. In order to comply with social distancing guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask and remain six feet apart from others as there will be markings in the lobby appropriately spaced.

Staff from other departments within City Hall can meet with individuals in the lobby or in the front Conference Room if needed.

Facility Rentals

There will continue to be no facility rentals due to the limited number of individuals allowed in a facility only being ten.

Freedom Park

The park will continue to operate by maintaining social distancing during the use of the park by citizens. This includes the walking track, basketball courts, skateboard park, nature trail and dog park. There will continue to be no shelter rentals at this time.

The Freedom Park Softball Complex and Multi-Purpose Field will continue to operate as it did in Phase 2 with no weekend tournaments being held.

The 2021 Freedom Park schedule of events has been completed. If restrictions surrounding COVID-19 are lifted, there will be weekend tournaments scheduled at Freedom Park ballfields beginning February 6 and running through December 6. Included in the schedule of events is a N.C. Dixie Youth Baseball State Tournament from July 16-22.

Garden of Eden Center

This facility is operating with a limited capacity of ten participants at any given time and will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Santa Calling

Staff will provide “Santa Calling” to residents on December 16-17. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department to sign up to receive a phone call from Santa Claus.

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS

Board of Adjustment

The Board of adjustment approved the request for Solar as a Principal Use on Meadow Road at their November meeting.

Boards and Commissions

Meetings remain suspended for all boards and commissions except those that receive requests that cannot be delayed, such as the Planning Board and the Strategic Planning Commission.

COVID-19 CDBG Assistance to Low and Moderate Income Citizens Grant

Per a conversation with the N.C. Department of Commerce, they expect to send out grant agreements soon.

Dollar General

The new store located at 1819 NC 135 is now under construction.

Draper CDBG

The environmental review was completed and its record was posted on the City’s website, advertised in the Rockingham Now newspaper and is available for review at City Hall. The comment period for the environmental review record has ended and the report has been sent to the N.C. Department of Commerce with a ‘Request for Release of Funds’ for the grant.

GIS

Planning & Inspections Coordinator Debra Madison has updated the City’s street map book, which is used by various departments.

Historic Preservation Certified Local Government

Our Preservation Commission has been certified for a number of years. The annual report is being prepared and will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Offices by December 18.

Internal Technical Review Committee

The ITRC will meet again in mid-December. The committee plans to have further discussions regarding the Capital Improvement Plan program and a discussion regarding an internship program.

Nantucket Mill Project

At the present time, the City is awaiting an answer from the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. City staff is continuing to pursue grant funds for the project. However, Council has approved a way for the City to proceed with the project.

Pedestrian Plan

Planning staff had a virtual meeting with representatives of AECOM and Integrated Mobility Division at NCDOT. They are currently compiling the information and data requested during the meeting in order to begin the process in January 2021. The consulting firm was chosen by NCDOT.

Ray Commons Project

This project is known to many as the old Central Hotel. The first floor is currently in the framing stage while the second, third and fourth floors are in the trim-out stage.

Purina

The building permit for Purina has been issued. The plan review process for this project will be ongoing throughout the construction phase.

Stadium Drive Sidewalk Project with NCDOT

The plan is to begin construction in the spring of 2021. There are a few easements still needed from property owners. The most recent estimated cost of construction by the engineering firm is over budget. A representative from Wetherill and Planning & Inspections Director Kelly Stultz are arranging a conference call with NCDOT to discuss how the additional part of the project might be funded or if the project area will need to be changed.

Strategic Planning Commission

The SPC met on November 6 to discuss a recommendation that was made to purchase property for a farmers market. After discussions with County agricultural staff, the project is on hold.

Tree City USA

Eden has been designated as a Tree City USA since the 1990's. The annual report, prepared by Planner Debbie Galloway, to continue the program was due on December 1.

Unified Development Ordinance

At the regular October City Council meeting, Council voted to approve the text of the UDO with an effective date of January 1, 2021. At the regular November City Council meeting, the proposed maps were approved with one change recommended by staff for property on Highway 135. The next step will be to schedule a training session with City Council, the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and City staff.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Several scheduled training classes have been canceled due to COVID-19. Therefore, law enforcement advanced training has slowed and/or been postponed. The department continues to schedule training in hopes to keep its officers up to date and proficient. One of the classes that has been canceled is the annual In-Service Instructor Update for In-Service Training Coordinators. Chief Clint Simpson will participate in the online training that is being offered. Captain Paul Moore continues to work on the Governor's Crime Commission Grants, in particular the upcoming 2021 grant session that will close in January 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the (a) November 17, 2020 Minutes and (b) November 23, 2020 Minutes.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore 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:

Mayor Hall stated the Council budget retreat that was normally held in February was proposed by Mr. Mendenhall to take place on a school workday in January. He urged Council to reach out to Mr. Mendenhall for the date and hoped to have full participation. He added the preliminary agenda did not appear to be as lengthy as in the past.

Council Member Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

CLOSED SESSION:

To discuss economic development pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and acquisition of real property pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5).

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

Council Member Carter 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