

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 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. He recognized Rockingham Update and Mike Moore Media for being present and sharing the information from the meeting. Pastor Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris of St. John United Methodist Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Public Utilities Director Terry Shelton.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Proclamation: Black History Month

Mayor Hall read the proclamation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, this annual observance is an opportunity to remember the challenges of our past, but also to honor countless African American heroes who inspire us to shape our country's future, and

WHEREAS, we remember and celebrate the lives of William H. Carney, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, John S. Rock, Harriet Tubman, and countless other African Americans who triumphed over ignorance, oppression, and injustice to make indelible contributions to our American history. They are an integral part of our Nation's story. We are indebted to the individual and collective perseverance and patriotism of these outstanding men and women;

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we recommit to being a community of opportunity and hope for every citizen;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 to be

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Eden and encourage all City of Eden residents to join me in celebrating the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultures and traditions of African Americans and commit ourselves to raise awareness and appreciation of Black History Month by participating in educational events honoring the contributions of Black Americans.

Presented this 16th day of February, 2021.

This the 16th day of February, 2021.

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall requested to move item 12(a) approval and adoption of the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes from Consent Agenda to New Business as item 10(a) to allow for discussion. Council Member Carter requested to move item 12(e) approval of Budget Amendment #5 from Consent Agenda to New Business as item 10(b) to allow for discussion.

A motion was made by Council Member Carter to set the meeting agenda as amended. Council Member Epps 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 Boards and Commissions appointments.

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

Ms. Stultz said there were three vacant positions left for the 2021 Boards and Commissions appointments. In addition, the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Commission had been added in which the Council and the City Manager needed to appoint members to as well.

Council Member Carter appointed Jim Fink to the Historic Preservation Commission for Ward 5.

Council Member Nooe said he was working on getting the vacancy filled on the Tree Board for Ward 2.

Council Member Epps appointed Doris Hale to the Board of Adjustment for Ward 4.

Mayor Hall said the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Commission was added to the memo that was distributed and therefore, it was understandable if Council had not yet had a chance to reach out to potential candidates. However, if there were any recommendations to be made, he advised Council to bring those forward. He also asked them to contact Ms. Stultz with the name and address of any appointed members.

Council Member Moore said he had spoken with someone but did not yet have a confirmation.

Council Member Epps did not have an appointee at that time.

Council Member Hampton appointed Karla McDonald for Ward 3.

Council Member Carter appointed Matt Warren for Ward 5.

Council Member Hunnicutt appointed Judge Ed Wilson for Ward 6.

Council Member Nooe said he had someone who was interested in serving on the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Commission for Ward 2 but asked what night and time the commission would be meeting.

Ms. Stultz said there had not yet been a determination of meeting dates or times. The other boards and commissions met on either Mondays or Tuesdays.

Mayor Hall said that could impact whether someone could commit to serving on a commission and therefore, the dates and times needed to be set.

Council Member Ellis appointed Roy Frazier for Ward 7.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to appoint Jim Fink to the Historic Preservation Commission, Doris Hale to the Board of Adjustment, and Karla McDonald, Matt Warren, Ed Wilson and Roy Frazier to the Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces and Greenway Commission. Council Member Hampton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall). The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Approval and adoption of the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Hall said there was some concern about a motion made by Council Member Carter to have the interim fire chief do some additional research and bring information back to the February City Council meeting. The interim fire chief had been out sick and had not provided the information to discuss it in detail at the current meeting. That was part of the reason that it was not on the agenda. The way the motion was made included some additional research to be done on the needs of the City, including equipment, facilities and the potential for needing a study of what facilities the City needed. That was only described in the minutes as what the City may need. Council decided to pull that off and discuss the fact that in the minutes it should have reflected that Council Member Carter's motion was for not just the determination of vehicles or equipment but it included a broader scope that dealt with insurance ratings and those types of things

before a decision was made about what kind of equipment to buy. That would be the amendment to the minutes. He asked if anyone else had an issue with an item in the minutes.

Council Member Carter said he just wanted to be sure that the right questions were being asked. It was his understanding that the deputy chief, before he got sick, was possibly not asking some of the right questions to the state representatives.

Mayor Hall said as far as the minutes went, he thought they needed to put into record that it included those things that Council Member Carter wanted the answers to in addition to just what equipment they wanted.

Council Member Carter said that was correct, and the need for what trucks and how many trucks.

Mayor Hall said the minutes were adjusted to reflect that. He asked if anyone else had an amendment to the minutes from the January City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Hampton to approve the January 19, 2021 minutes as amended. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall).

b. Approval of Budget Amendment #5.

Council Member Carter said he pulled the budget amendment in order to make a counter-recommendation. Because the second deputy fire chief position had previously been approved, he suggested that it be replaced with a basic firefighter position, requiring the proper certifications, since the department was operating short on personnel.

City Manager Jon Mendenhall said the second deputy fire chief position was approved in the fall of 2020. Given the transition plans within the Fire Department, staff was trying to go back with a cost savings to the taxpayer of roughly \$102,900. However, Council Member Carter brought up a good point that because that department was short-staffed, it would be advantageous to add headcount. Staff was planning, based on the Budget Retreat, to have a SAFER grant application, which while not assured, would pay approximately 75 percent of the expense in federal funds in the new fiscal year. Based on Council Member Carter's recommendation, one new person could be added immediately, which would help to alleviate the staffing situation within that department.

Council Member Moore exited the meeting due to technical difficulties.

Council Member Carter said that was correct and recommended bringing them in at standard pay based on certifications.

Council Member Ellis asked Council Member Carter if that would leave the Fire Department with a fire chief but no fire captain.

Council Member Carter replied instead of having a second deputy fire chief, that position would be replaced with another basic firefighter, driver/operator position.

Mayor Hall said the budget amendment was to move the money into the appropriate place where the City could fulfill the position. The discussion was now focused on what to call the position being funded.

Council Member Carter said to change the title, which would require less funding as there would not be a vehicle needed.

Council Member Ellis asked if the person hired would be a regular driver/operator.

Council Member Carter said that was correct, but the person would also be a firefighter.

Mayor Hall said the item was pulled from Consent Agenda to allow discussion regarding whether or not to approve a second fire deputy chief position. He asked City Attorney Erin Gilley that while Council could vote on approving the position, if the approval of another position would have to be held at the next City Council meeting.

Ms. Gilley said she believed the item was on the agenda just as a budget amendment rather than as the creation of a position. She recalled the position being approved at the October 2020 City Council meeting.

Director of Finance and Personnel Tammie McMichael said that was correct. Finance staff had moved money from contingency to fund the new deputy fire chief position and when the decision was made not to hire for that position, staff felt it was better to put that money back into contingency in order to track where the monies were spent.

Ms. Gilley said any new position created or deleted would probably need to be done in a format different from that of a budget amendment.

Council Member Ellis exited the meeting due to technical difficulties.

Mayor Hall asked if the budget amendment item was to fund the second deputy fire chief position.

Ms. McMichael replied no and stated the budget amendment was for putting money back into contingency since the City was not funding that position at the present time. If Council wanted to fund a new position, it would need to be treated as a separate item altogether and added to the agenda.

Ms. Gilley said the item was just a budget amendment and therefore, Council would not be voting on creating or changing a position.

Mayor Hall said the main thing was the item was brought to reverse the money from hiring a second deputy fire chief back into the contingency fund. At that point, the City Manager, along with guidance from whoever he sought guidance from, especially the retired firefighters on Council, could decide what type of position the Fire Department needed. The item in question was an amendment to put the money back into the bank, so to speak.

Mr. Mendenhall said if Council did not want to move the money back into contingency, they would need to vote against the budget amendment.

Mayor Hall said if Council voted against the budget amendment, the money would remain there awaiting to fund a deputy fire chief position.

Council Member Carter asked if Mr. Mendenhall had the authority to change the title.

Mayor Hall said yes and added that Mr. Mendenhall could create the organization however he felt was the best way to do so. However, the amendment was to not hire a second deputy fire chief.

Ms. Gilley said that was correct.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked everyone who was not speaking to mute their microphones as there was a lot of background noise coming through. He did not have an issue with hiring the additional firefighter that Council Member Carter requested, but recommended Council proceed with what was on the current agenda by putting the money back into contingency and let Mr. Mendenhall look to see what that budget cost would be for the firefighter position. It could then be put on the next City Council meeting agenda for approval. It seemed like it was getting complicated trying to help the department in the method they were doing it in at that moment.

Council Member Ellis rejoined the meeting.

Mayor Hall stated that if the additional staffing was an immediate need, Mr. Mendenhall would not need Council's approval to hire an additional firefighter. The second deputy fire chief position was created to help with succession planning, but it did not appear that the City would need that position at the present time; therefore, the money could be placed back into contingency, allowing the City to possibly hire at least one firefighter. To vote no on the amendment would be saying Council wanted to leave the money in the Fire Department's budget to fund a second deputy fire chief.

Ms. Gilley agreed.

A motion was made by Council Member Hunnicutt to approve Budget Amendment #5. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor with Council Member Moore absent (according to a roll call vote by Mayor Hall).

Council Member Carter said Council Member Moore was having some electrical issues at his home and was able to listen but not able to communicate with those in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Hall asked Ms. Gilley if an absent vote counted as a yes vote for an electronic meeting.

Ms. Gilley said it did not if a member lost connection. It was assumed that member was not present for the quorum. If the member were able to rejoin the meeting, their vote could then be taken and counted.

Mayor Hall said it did not affect their quorum or the present motion. The motion carried.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Expenditures				
GF Contingency	10-9990-99100	\$ 297,100.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 102,900.00
Fire Salaries	10-4340-12100	\$ 795,800.00	\$ 753,400.00	\$ (42,400.00)
Fire FICA	10-4340-18100	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 67,700.00	\$ (3,300.00)
Fire Retirement	10-4340-18200	\$ 81,300.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ (4,300.00)
Fire Group Insurance	10-4340-18300	\$ 263,500.00	\$ 253,200.00	\$ (10,300.00)
Fire Life/AD&D/Disability Insurance	10-4310-18400	\$ 25,900.00	\$ 25,500.00	\$ (400.00)
Fire 401(k)	10-4340-18910	\$ 40,200.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ (2,200.00)
Fire C/O Vehicles	10-4340-55000	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ (40,000.00)
				<u>\$ -</u>

Reversal of budget amendment # 3 which appropriated contingency funds for additional Deputy Fire Chief position and vehicle.

Adopted and effective this 16th day of February, 2021.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager’s Report

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall said he wanted to give Council an update from the previous ice storm. The City was blessed to have been spared from the brunt of the storm but Mr. Mendenhall expressed his thanks to the City employees for their stellar response to the storm, as well as Duke Energy’s response of restoring power. There was a high probability of another ice storm hitting the City later in the week, but management was pushing information out to the departments to ensure they were prepared so necessary action could be taken, such as fueling generators, sharpening chainsaws and spreading salt. He stated his thoughts and prayers were with those in Brunswick County in response to the devastating tornado they endured the previous day. He welcomed any questions in regards to the City Manager’s Report.

Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Mendenhall for his outstanding updates with the City Manager’s Report as well as through email correspondence. He stated the report was available online and in Eden’s Own Journal.

City Manager’s Report
February 2021
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industry

Nestle Purina

Three jobs have been posted on the www.nestlepurina.com jobs website for the Eden facility: Plant Manufacturing Excellence Manager, Maintenance Manager and Storeroom Coordinator. Visit this site to apply.

Linon Powell Company

This company is currently seeking a second shift assistant warehouse manager, a quality control person and inventory clerks. Forklift order pickers for first and second shift are also needed. Interested parties can complete a paper application at 136 Gant Road outside of Eden.

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.

Commercial

Domino’s Pizza-Drivers Wanted

Drivers are wanted at Domino’s Pizza in Eden. Cash is paid nightly, no tax tip credit and flexible schedules are available. Contact Dan at 640 S. Van Buren Road in the Meadow Greens Shopping Center adjacent to the Kings Highway entrance.

Eden Venture Business Park (formerly Eden Mall)

Owner Ron Hutchens is offering build-to-suit spaces for businesses, except retailers. Thus far, Platinum Kutz has been established in the facility and opened February 1. Another company is also considering the space. If you want a location for your business, visit www.edenventurebusinesspark.com for more information and to apply.

Main Street Update

627 Monroe Street

Carpino Investments now owns the former Duke Power building, as it is best remembered, located at 627 Monroe Street. Plans are to build condominiums on the property. This property was vacant and deteriorating badly for more than a decade, so it is great to see it being renovated.

636 Washington Street

Another local developer is transforming the former Belk building into a renovated space. Angelo and Pam Tiano have painted the exterior and closed the rear of the structure.

Chamber of Commerce Director’s Award of Excellence

Last month, it was reported that sisters Janis Wade and Donna Hopkins, who also happen to own side-by-side businesses on Monroe Street, jointly won the Director’s Award of Excellence for 2020. This is the first time this award has been given to two people but it was almost impossible to select one over the other. Donna has created a very popular downtown restaurant after running the successful Red River Grill for many years. That Little Pork Shop is a hip BBQ (and other delicious items) spot that Eden residents enjoy. Janis runs Sophisticated Rubbish, a really cool shop that has an ever-changing inventory of great items for your shopping pleasure. She is also a vital part of the energy and progress in Uptown Eden. Congratulations to these two sisters who have made a difference indeed.

Special Events

City of Eden Coordinator of Special Events and Tourism Cindy Adams has released the 2021 schedule of events for Eden, assuming the COVID-19 social restrictions are lifted and the public is willing to participate in group events. They are as follows:

Spring Grown and Gathered	May 20
Piedmont Pottery Festival	June 5
Oink & Ale	June 19
Shaggin’ on Fieldcrest	July 24
Summer Grown and Gathered	August 12
Touch-A-Truck	August 21
RiverFest	September 17 & 18
Heritage & Heroes	October 16
Winterfest	December 4

Other

Eden Rotary Club

On February 2, N.C. Senate Pro-Tem Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) was the guest speaker at the Eden Rotary Club. He presented information about the education investment and reforms made by the N.C. General Assembly since 2010. It included the following:

- Increasing the annual budget by \$3 billion in K-12.
- Teacher pay was reformed by collapsing the 32-step pay scale toward an evidence-based pay schedule. Because of this reform, over a 30-year career, a teacher has the potential to make \$256,800 more in lifetime earnings in the new Republican base pay schedule than he/she would have on the former schedule. This amount does not include benefits or state and local supplements and bonuses.
- Provided teachers a pay raise each of the last seven consecutive years, with an average raise of 21.4% since 2013-14 and raised starting pay by \$5,000.
- The average pay raise in the 2019-21 budget was 3.9% sending average teacher pay to \$54,606.
- Teacher bonus programs centered on reading, math, advanced courses and industry certifications have been implemented. Teachers can earn from \$2,000 to \$7,000.

Affordable College Education

The cost to attend a public university has been on the rise nationally, including N.C. In 2016, the General Assembly passed the N.C. Promise Tuition Plan giving N.C. students access to more affordable public higher education options. There are four main pillars of the new law:

1. Guarantee of no in-state tuition increases for a standard undergraduate college term in all 16 N.C. public universities.
2. Freezes student fees-often used to fund non-academic expenses at all N.C. public universities at current levels and limits future increases to no more than 3% per academic year.
3. Lowers tuition at three universities to \$1,000 per academic year (\$500 a semester) for in-state students and \$5,000 per academic year for out-of-state students beginning in the fall of 2018. Those universities include Elizabeth City State, UNC-Pembroke and Western Carolina University. This has led to 41.9%, 32.1% and 11% increases in enrollment of these universities respectively.
4. Directs \$1.8 million annually to award up to 20 scholarships under the new Cheatham-White Merit Scholarship Program for students at N.C. Central and N.C. A&T Universities.

Senator Berger also noted that the newly-elected Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt, the General Assembly and now the Governor have all encouraged in-classroom education for the remaining academic year as evidence shows a very low likelihood of COVID-19 transmission between students and teachers.

ENGINEERING

FY 2020-21 Street Resurfacing Contract, No. 2

The main scope of work for this contract shall consist of the resurfacing of sections of Kennedy Avenue and Patterson Street. The bid opening was held on February 9. The City received the following bids: Waugh Asphalt, Inc., \$205,988.83; Adams Construction Company, \$218,109.00; APAC-Atlantic, Inc., \$229,947.00; J.C. Joyce Trucking & Paving Company, \$257,936.50; and Triangle Grading & Paving, Inc., \$285,036.00. The apparent low bidder was Waugh Asphalt, Inc. out of Franklinville, N.C. The availability date for this contract is April 5.

NCDOT Road Resurfacing – Kings Highway

The N.C. Department of Transportation has Kings Highway from Fagg Drive to Boone Road rescheduled to be resurfaced in the spring. APAC-Atlantic, Inc. will be the primary contractor. This work is scheduled to be completed during daytime hours, so traffic delays should be expected.

NCDOT Road Resurfacing – Washington Street

The N.C. Department of Transportation will soon be accepting bids for the resurfacing of Washington Street from Bridge Street to Hamilton Street. According to NCDOT District Engineer Jason Julian, this work is scheduled to be completed at night with a completion date of June 30.

FIRE

City Appoints Fire Administration

The City of Eden is pleased to announce the appointments of two career firefighters as interim administrators in the Eden Fire Department. Todd Harden has been named interim fire chief while James Slaughter was named interim deputy fire chief, effective February 10.

Harden, on his 19th year working for the City, had served as deputy fire chief and fire marshal since 2010. He has been acting fire chief since former Fire Chief Tommy Underwood's retirement January 1. In addition to being certified as a firefighter, Harden holds many certifications which include hazmat, technical rescue, and fire officer. He is a certified fire investigator, fire inspector, and fire instructor. Harden is also a North Carolina Emergency Medical Technician and holds his North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Certificate.

Slaughter has been an Eden firefighter since 1997, joining the department full time in 2006. He was promoted to captain in 2012 and served in that capacity until becoming acting deputy fire chief on January 1. Slaughter also holds many certifications, including fire officer, fire instructor, fire inspector, fire and life educator, hazmat, and technical rescue. He is a North Carolina Emergency Medical Technician as well.

Mayor Neville Hall congratulated the men on their promotions. "We appreciate Todd and James taking on these leadership roles," he said. "On behalf of the citizens, we thank them and all of our Eden firefighters for continuing to provide for our safety."

PARKS AND RECREATION

City Appoints New Head of Parks and Recreation

The City of Eden is pleased to announce the appointment of Terry Vernon as Interim Parks & Recreation Director, effective February 10.

Vernon is an Eden native and graduate of East Carolina University. He has made recreation a career for nearly 40 years, starting with the Boys & Girls Club in 1981 and eventually serving as their executive director. Vernon joined the City in 2007 and served as athletic director until this recent promotion. He is also the district 8 director for Dixie Youth Baseball for Rockingham, Caswell and Person counties, serves on the Dixie Youth Baseball State Board, and is Morehead High School's announcer for football, basketball, and baseball teams.

"Terry brings many years of experience to the Parks and Recreation Department," Mayor Neville Hall said. "His knowledge of the operations of the department will be an asset to the City of Eden. We appreciate him accepting this role and are confident he will do an outstanding job."

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, answer questions regarding symptoms of COVID-19 and pass a temperature check before they are allowed into the facility. Staff will also sanitize the facility before, during and at the end of each evening.

Baseball Program

Staff will continue to register for baseball with the possibility of practice starting in March if not affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

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 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. The first weekend tournament at Freedom Park took place on February 6 as the NSA (National Softball Association) held a Men's Tournament in which ten team participated in the tournament.

Garden of Eden Center

This facility is operating with a limited capacity of ten participants indoors and 25 outdoors at any given time and will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS

Boards and Commissions

There will be no Boards and Commissions meetings during the month of February that are not required by law.

Community Development Program/Code Enforcement

Staff has been working on a project to alter the approach and perception of the City's community development/local code enforcement program.

Comprehensive Plan

At the January City Council Budget Retreat, staff presented a request for a comprehensive plan. The overhaul of the planning statutes mandates that such a plan be reasonably maintained (the City's Land Use Plan is nearly 14 years old). Additionally, plans must be updated and or adopted by July 1, 2022.

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

Staff received notice of the grant agreement and package being sent from the Housing Finance Agency. There has been no release of funds thus far.

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

Staff is making progress with the solid waste maps requested by Public Works so that each truck can have a navigational device to direct them on the most efficient routes. The online services have been updated for City Staff to use with their mobile devices. The Engineering Department is providing data on the sewer remediation work as it progresses so that it can be made available to City staff as soon as possible.

Historic Landmark Request

The City received a request for a local landmark designation for the John B. Ray/Central Hotel building.

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.

Ongoing Projects for Inspections:

The new Dollar General located on NC Hwy 135 has been issued a 60 day temporary change order and should be open by mid-February.

After having a construction meeting with the Gray Architectural team, we should have full permits issued for plumbing, mechanical and electrical trades within two weeks for the Nestle Purina project. Currently the warehouse slab has been demolished at the site and new column footings are being placed. Once completed, steel will be erected and the roof raised to approximately 145'.

The fourth floor of Ray Commons (formerly the Central Hotel) has been issued a change order. Apartments are now occupied.

b. Update on Matrimony Creek Project.

Mr. Shelton said U.S. Fish and Wildlife confirmed the City would not have to conduct a biological survey before repairing Matrimony Creek. Therefore, the City only needed to request of the Army Corps of Engineers to allow the City to join a nationwide permit. To do so, they required the City to submit a preconstruction notification, which staff was currently working on. Once the nationwide permit was secured, the City could begin repairs to the sewer line and reinforcement of the bank, hopefully within 60 days.

Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Shelton for the update and his consistency with the project and stated that he was looking forward to the update that announced the repair was complete.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

This item was moved under New Business as item 10(a).

- b. Approval of comprehensive plan authorization to go through procurement via a Request for Qualifications.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo that the City needed to adopt a Comprehensive Plan by July 1, 2022, as it was required as a part of the overhaul of the Planning Statutes by the General Assembly. She requested City Council’s approval to publish a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking a consultant to assist City staff with the preparation, public engagement and statutory compliance of the plan. She also requested to use funds within the Planning and Inspections Department’s current budget for the process to begin in April in order to ensure meeting the deadline for adoption.

- c. Approval to award a bid to Southern Software for financial software.

Director of Information Technology Kevin Taylor wrote in a memo that \$126,000 was appropriated in the FY 2020/21 budget for software conversion and replacement for the Finance and Human Resources Departments. The cost was to be financed for five years with the first debt service payment being made in 2021. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on the City’s website in addition to being emailed to seven government software vendors. After reviewing all of the proposals, staff chose Southern Software because their proposal met the scope and requirements of the City’s RFP. The company was located in N.C. and did not charge for future software updates. The Police Department had used some of Southern Software’s programs in the past and were pleased. It was believed that Southern Software offered a good solution for the City’s finance and human resources software. Staff requested City Council’s approval to accept Southern Software’s proposal of \$115,675 for year 1 and \$13,250 for year 2, and to move forward with the project.

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

- d. Approval of Budget Amendment #4.

Assistant Director of Finance Amy Winn wrote in a memo that the budget amendment allocated grant proceeds for the Gildan Building Reuse Grant from the N.C. Department of Commerce. The City was only a pass-thru agency for the funds. The City received the funds from the N.C. Department of Commerce and in turn, issued a check to Gildan.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Building Reuse Grant	10-3491-88000	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	<u>\$ 500,000.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Building Reuse Grant	10-9920-72000	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	<u>\$ 500,000.00</u>

Appropriates funds received from NC Department of Commerce for a Building Reuse grant for Gildan.

Adopted and effective this 16th day of February, 2021.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

- e. Approval of Budget Amendment #5.

This item was moved under New Business as item 10(b).

- f. Approval of Budget Amendment #6.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo that the amendment allocated grant proceeds from the N.C. Department of Transportation for the Stadium Drive sidewalk project.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
NC DOT Sidewalk Grant - Stadium Drive	10-3451-35000	\$ -	\$ 394,400.00	<u>\$ 394,400.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
C/O Land Imprv - Stadium Dr Sidewalk	10-4510-52000	\$ -	\$ 394,400.00	<u>\$ 394,400.00</u>

Appropriates grant funds received from NC Department of Transportation for the Stadium Drive Sidewalk project.

Adopted and effective this 16th day of February, 2021.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

g. Approval of Budget Amendment #7.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo that the amendment allocated grant proceeds from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. The grant funds would be used to purchase 400 recycling bins to reestablish a voluntary curbside recycling program through Foothills Waste Disposal.

	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Recycle Grant	10-3471-81300	\$ -	\$ 19,800.00	<u>\$ 19,800.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Recycle Grant Expense	10-4710-24700	\$ -	\$ 19,800.00	<u>\$ 19,800.00</u>

Appropriates grant funds received from NC Department of Environmental Quality for curbside recycling bins.

Adopted and effective this 16th day of February, 2021.

Attest:

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

Council Member Ellis exited the meeting due to technical difficulties.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall thanked the Information Technology Department for their assistance with the Zoom meetings over the past several months.

Council Member Ellis rejoined the meeting.

Mayor Hall suggested that if anyone was experiencing internet connection issues to join any future Zoom City Council meetings from City Hall in order to make it easier for participation.

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