

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:	Neville Hall
Council Members:	Gerald Ellis
	Jerry Epps
	Phillip Hunnicutt
	Kenny Kirkman
	Bernie Moore
	Bruce Nooe
	Tommy Underwood
City Manager:	Jon Mendenhall
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley
City Clerk:	Deanna Hunt
Media:	Roy Sawyers, Rockingham Update

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. Pastor Lem Hardison of North Spray Christian Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Todd Harden.

Mayor Hall stated that Mike Moore of Mike Moore Media faced some health concerns and could not be in attendance but wished everyone the best and a Merry Christmas. He welcomed elected officials Sheriff Sam Page, District Attorney Jason Ramey, County Commissioner Charlie Hall, and N.C. House Member Reece Pyrtle who were in attendance.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- a. Recognition: Outgoing Council Members Darryl Carter and Angela Hampton

Mayor Hall stated that Council Member Carter was not in attendance. He had unselfishly given 16 years of his life to the betterment of the City, beyond what he did when he worked for the City. He was a huge asset to Council. It took a big commitment to serve as a member for 16 years and he wished him the best.

Mayor Hall asked Council Member Hampton to come forward. He stated that she served eight years on the City Council and had missed only two meetings. She was very active in The Boulevard community and saw the turn being made in that area, which was in large part due to the things Council Member Hampton had done. He hated to see her go but wished her and her family the best. He presented her with a gift from the City.

Council Member Hampton thanked everyone for what they had done for her and for electing her for two terms. She thanked God for her husband who stood by her side. She stated that she missed two meetings out of the eight years; once when her dog passed away and the other when she had surgery. She thanked everyone and asked for their continued prayers. She stated she would continue to work for the City, just not as part of Council.

- b. Proclamation: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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Mayor Hall asked Ms. Hampton to stay at the podium as he read the Martin Luther King Jr. Day proclamation, noting that she was the first female African-American to serve on Council. She was a barrier breaker in many ways.

Proclamation
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

WHEREAS, January 17 marks the observance of the federal legal holiday to honor the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and

WHEREAS, Dr. King dedicated his life to a vision: that all Americans would live free from injustice and enjoy equal opportunity. His peaceful and lifelong crusade against segregation and discrimination brought our communities closer to the founding ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as we honor Dr. King, we know that our community is stronger, more just, and more free because of his life and work; and

WHEREAS, in paying tribute, we are reminded that the call lies with each of us to fulfill Dr. King's work. Let us use our time, talents, and resources to give back and help those less fortunate. Let us not forget Dr. King's own tireless spirit and efforts as we work, celebrate, and pray alongside each other.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Neville Hall, Mayor of the City of Eden, hereby designate January 17, 2022 be set aside as

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

in the City of Eden and urge all citizens to join with me this day to apply Dr. King's life and teachings of community service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 21st day of December, 2021.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

OATHS OF OFFICE:

a. Introduction of the Honorable Judge Ed Wilson

Mayor Hall introduced the Honorable Edwin G. Wilson, Jr., Superior Court Judge, who was present to administer the oath of office to the newly elected Mayor and City Council Members.

b. Swearing in of newly elected Mayor Neville Hall.

Mayor Hall was sworn in by Judge Wilson.

c. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Kenny Kirkman – Ward 3

Council Member Kirkman was sworn in by Judge Wilson.

d. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Jerry Epps – Ward 4

Council Member Epps was sworn in by Judge Wilson.

e. Swearing in of newly elected Council Member Tommy Underwood – Ward 5

Council Member Underwood was sworn in by Judge Wilson.

Council Member Underwood thanked the Lord. It had been a long year. He thanked his wife and family for standing behind him. He was looking forward to serving the citizens of Eden for the next four years and then some, he hoped. He also thanked Elretha Perkins and Ms. Brown, who could not be in attendance, because they had been a tremendous help to him. He ended by thanking his campaign committee, stating they were the best and that without them, he could not have done it.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Council Member Nooe made a motion to nominate Council Member Moore to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried, 7-0.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS:

- a. ABC Board

Mayor Hall reappointed Tommy Flynt to the ABC Board.

- b. ABC Board Chair

Mayor Hall reappointed Tommy Flynt as chair on the ABC Board.

- c. Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee

Mayor Hall reappointed Council Member Moore to the Rockingham County Solid Waste Committee.

- d. Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Mayor Hall appointed Council Member Hunnicutt to serve on the Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

- e. Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Mayor Hall appointed Council Member Hunnicutt to serve on the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Council Member Hunnicutt requested to add item 12(a) First Responders on Tubing Program to Unfinished Business. 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. The motion carried, 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. Consideration and adoption of an ordinance to close an alley on the east side of Bridge Street.

Mayor Hall declared the public hearing open and called on Director of Planning and Community Development Kelly Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said an application was received to close a paper street between Scotty's Carpet and Oriental

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Rug Cleaning and the vacant lot next to it on Bridge Street. Staff had not received any negative information from the utility companies or the City; therefore, at the present time, staff recommended the alley be closed.

As there was no further discussion, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

Council Member Epps made a motion to adopt an ordinance to close an alley on the east side of Bridge Street. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried, 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE AND ORDER TO CLOSE AN ALLEY ON THE EAST SIDE OF BRIDGE STREET

WHEREAS, on the 17th day of September, 2021, Robert G. Shropshire and wife, Kim S. Shropshire filed a petition, by the terms of which they requested that an alley on the east side of Bridge Street be closed pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 13, Division 3 of the Eden City Code and North Carolina General Statutes §160A-299; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden, did on the 16th day of November, 2021, at its regular monthly meeting adopt a Resolution of Intent to Close An Alley on the East side of Bridge Street calling for a public hearing to be held; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden, did on the 16th day of November, 2021, at its regular monthly meeting, schedule a public hearing to be held on the 21st day of December, 2021, and requested a recommendation of the Planning Board on said closing; and

WHEREAS, the required legal notice was published in the Eden News on the 24th day of November, 2021, and on the 1st, 8th and 15th day of December, 2021, and copies were sent to the property owners as required by law on the 3rd day of December, 2021, and copies were posted on the 6th day of December, 2021, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board at its regular meeting on October 26, 2021, recommended to the City Council that said alley on the east side of Bridge Street be closed; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was held at the regular monthly meeting of the City Council on the 21st day of December, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the evidence offered at the public hearing did not establish that the closing would be detrimental to the public interest or would deprive an individual or entity owning property in the vicinity thereof of reasonable means of ingress and regress to and from his property; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the satisfaction of and it is determined by the City Council of the City of Eden from the Petition and other evidence submitted at said hearing that: Robert G. Shropshire and wife, Kim S. Shropshire are the owners of the property on each side of the alley on the east side of Bridge Street which is to be closed.

That said alley is not under the control or supervision of the Department of Transportation.

That the closing of an alley on the east side of Bridge Street is not contrary to the public interest and that no individual or entity owning property in the vicinity thereof will thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and regress to or from his property.

That upon the closing of said alley on the east side of Bridge Street, all right, title and interest therein shall be conclusively presumed to be vested in Robert G. Shropshire and wife, Kim S. Shropshire, the owners of the lot or parcel of land adjacent thereto.

That it appears that the provisions of the Eden City Code and the North Carolina General Statutes have been complied with fully in this matter.

That said alley on the east side of Bridge Street should be closed as requested.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Eden, that the following described alley on the east side of Bridge Street in the City of Eden be and the same is hereby closed, said alley on the east side of Bridge Street being more particularly described as follows:

Being all of that alley located on the east side of Bridge Street at its intersection with Boone Road and Washington Street referenced in Deed Book 1959, page 1961 and Deed Book 661, page 729, a copy of a survey showing a portion of the alley being recorded with the Deed in Book 661, page 729. This alley is surrounded on three sides by the property described in Deed Book 1959, page 1961, Tax PIN 7979-07-68-2808, Parcel Number 173480Z1 and as shown on the attached GIS map which is attached hereto for reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event there is no appeal from the adoption of this Ordinance and Order within thirty (30) days of the date hereof as provided by law, a certified copy of this Ordinance and Order shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 21st day of December, 2021.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

Scottie Eanes of 644 Summit Road in Eden said he met several people at Holmes Middle School over the past few months who walked late at night because they were not able to walk at Freedom Park. Freedom Park was unique because it offered an RV park within its parameters. He asked for Council to look into the options of leaving the park open for the walking track and adding four lights, one on each end and two in the center, similar to the walking track at Holmes Middle School that was lit up during the evening where one could see all the way around it. The walking track at Holmes Middle School was also open 24 hours a day. The RV component of Freedom Park forced the gates to stay open. He already spoke to the police chief, a couple of council members, and Facilities and Grounds Superintendent Ray Thomas. It was up to the City what was done with it but he felt it would be beneficial for the park to stay open, especially the walking track. Once the new plant opened, it would be a place for employees to get their exercise before or after work.

Mayor Hall said that was something previously discussed at various budget retreats and it was a matter of funding to install the proper lighting. He agreed it would be a huge improvement to the property and said the City would give it consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. First Responders on Tubing Program

Mayor Hall called on Council Member Hunnicutt.

Council Member Hunnicutt said he wanted to address the public safety issue for the recently approved tubing initiative. It was a concern for him that Council did not hear from any of the City's first responders, such as the Police Department, Fire Department, and even the Parks and Recreation Department in the proposal that was presented and approved at the November City Council meeting. He recalled when Council Member Underwood was fire chief, he requested more full-time firefighters. Unfortunately, the City had not been able to approve that request due to the lack of available funding. However, more responsibility was being added to the Fire Department and first responders, which was a concern. Because they were not part of the presentation, he requested the program be paused for 30 days and the request be sent back to City staff. He would like for the Internal Technical Review Committee (iTRC) to meet with all of the first responders, including the Eden Rescue Squad, in an effort to obtain their endorsement before moving

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forward. He had a concern that an additional burden was being put on a group that was already understaffed; therefore, he felt it was a prudent move to give them the opportunity to share their input.

Council Member Hunnicutt made a motion to postpone the tubing program initiative for 30 days so as to allow the proposal to be taken back to the city manager and iTRC for assessment and recommendation. He noted that the Eden Rescue Squad was not part of City operation, but he hoped they would be part of the conversation for input. Council Member Underwood seconded the motion.

Mayor Hall said to his knowledge, several of the issues were vetted out through the Strategic Planning Commission and the iTRC. For brevity reasons, those details were not disclosed at the time of the presentation. He acknowledged that every question may not have been asked but hoped those answers could be obtained to satisfy everything. He did not believe it was done haphazardly, but if more detail was needed, it could be looked at again.

Council Member Epps stated he believed it was a work in progress.

Council Member Ellis said since the program involved the river, he felt the Eden Rescue Squad would automatically be involved.

Council Member Hunnicutt said the Eden Rescue Squad was not a City function.

Council Member Ellis said he understood that but felt they would be part of the function since they would be called upon if emergency services were needed.

City Attorney Erin Gilley asked if the motion was for 30 days or until the next regular scheduled City Council meeting.

Mayor Hall replied the next regular scheduled City Council meeting in January.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked if Council had a budget retreat and a City Council meeting in January.

Ms. Gilley said the budget retreat was scheduled after the January City Council meeting. She advised to state the next regular City Council meeting in the motion made.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked City Manager Jon Mendenhall if he would rather discuss it at the budget retreat as it did not make a difference to him.

Mr. Mendenhall said he did not see a logistical problem either way. The iTRC met when needed and the easiest thing to do would be to contact the Eden Rescue Squad to see when they would be available to meet in order to have a report ready for Council at the next regular City Council meeting. It could be done at the budget retreat if desired.

Council Member Hunnicutt instructed Ms. Gilley to word the motion as being no later than the next regular City Council meeting in January.

Council Member Underwood said Chief Jason Woods of the Eden Rescue Squad was in attendance if Council wanted to ask him any questions.

Mayor Hall said he did not know of any questions that needed to be asked.

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Council Member Hunnicutt's motion to postpone the tubing program initiative until the next regular scheduled City Council meeting in January to allow the proposal to be taken back to the city manager and iTRC for assessment and recommendation was seconded by Council Member Underwood. All members voted in favor. The motion carried, 7-0.

Council Member Underwood stated he had a list of questions he had been asked regarding the tubing program that he wished to share with Council and Mr. Mendenhall.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Boards and Commissions Appointments.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said notice was sent to members who needed to either reappoint members or appoint new members to the various boards and commissions. She received Council Member Hunnicutt's list by email. He asked to reappoint Charles Yarborough to the Historic Preservation Commission, reappoint Jerry Holland to the Planning Board, appoint Martha Corum to the Community Appearance Commission, and reappoint Ed Wilson to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Council Member Moore nominated Joan Moore to continue on the Board of Adjustment and Susan Cunningham to continue on the Community Appearance Commission.

Council Member Nooe nominated Will Flynt to serve another term on the Board of Adjustment.

Council Member Kirkman did not have a recommendation for the Board of Adjustment. He nominated Chad Simpson for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Council Member Epps nominated Paul Dishmon to continue on the Tree Board and Faye Shelton to continue on the Community Appearance Commission.

Council Member Underwood said he would have his nominations next month.

Council Member Hunnicutt said Ms. Stultz covered his nominations.

Council Member Ellis nominated Debbie Ellis to continue on the Community Appearance Commission and Rick Willis to continue on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Hall nominated Julie Talbert to continue on the Community Appearance Commission, Blanche Hailey on the Historic Preservation Commission, and Carol Helms on the Planning Board. He asked Ms. Stultz if anyone had mentioned to her any recommendations for the vacant seat on the ETJ.

Ms. Stultz said there had been some interest and she would share those names with Council.

Council Member Kirkman said Barry Carter had expressed interest in the position.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the nominees for appointments to the boards and commissions. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried, 7-0.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager's Report

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall said he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the City Manager's report. He wished Council, staff and the public a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He looked forward to 2022.

Mayor Hall stated that he had extra copies of the report available for anyone wishing to have one and added that it was printed in Eden's Own Journal. He wished Mr. Mendenhall a Merry Christmas as well.

City Manager's Report:
December 2021
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ADMINISTRATION

Division of Design & Construction

FY 2021-22 Street Resurfacing Contract, No. 2

The FY 2021-22 Street Resurfacing Contract, No. 2 is scheduled for the spring of 2022. The preliminary street resurfacing schedule includes sections of: Prospect Street, Cedar Street, Harmon Drive, Hamlin Street, Delaware Avenue, and possibly Monroe Street.

Northridge Mobile Home Park – Roadway Construction

Lambeth Asphalt paved the new roadways of Northridge Mobile Home Park in November. The shoulder construction is scheduled to be completed during December.

Proposed Crosswalk – Morgan Road

Staff hopes to obtain an estimated cost for the pedestrian lighting and wheel chair ramps for the crosswalk on Morgan Road (Cook Block) in December.

Stamped Asphalt Decorative Crosswalks – Washington Street

Staff is currently working on the bid package for the stamped asphalt crosswalks on Washington Street in Uptown Eden. The bid package is scheduled to be released in January.

Marketing Office

Christmas Parade Thank You

The City would like to thank Peggy Good, Leaksville Night-time Christmas Parade organizer, and O.T. Coleman, Draper Children's Christmas Parade organizer! They both worked very hard fielding hundreds of phone calls, preparing line-ups, and making sure everything ran smoothly on the day of the events. Awesome job! We appreciate everything both of these organizers do to help create special Christmas memories for everyone!

Draper Tree Lighting Thank You

A huge thank you to Tim & Diana Biggs, as well as the Draper Merchants Association, for a very special Draper Tree Lighting on November 30 where City Manager Jon Mendenhall had the honor of lighting the tree. The tree was full of sparkling lights, the hot chocolate and other treats were delicious, and the Christmas Spirit was amongst everyone! This event always has a sweet hometown Christmas feeling that we cherish! Thank you!

Hike with Santa

Join us on December 18 at 10 a.m. for *Hike with Santa* on the Children's Interactive Trail along the Smith River Greenway located at 301 S. Kennedy Street here in Eden. Enjoy a storybook reading with Santa's sister, hot chocolate, and cookies! Children will also receive a free children's book to take home. So much fun!

PARKS AND RECREATION

Bridge Street & Mill Avenue Recreation Centers

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These two facilities are open Mondays 1 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 8 p.m., and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Those attending may participate in basketball, pickleball, track walking, cornhole, or the playground. The Bridge Street recreation center offers tennis courts while Mill Avenue recreation center offers a baseball field.

Bridge Street Recreation Center: basketball practice for ages 4 through 7 is being held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. A city-employee corn hole league is being played on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. A beginner's class for pickleball is now being offered in the mornings while games are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. The senior center is hosting exercise classes at the center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings.

Mill Avenue Recreation Center: basketball practice for ages 8 through 10 is being held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.; practice for ages 11 through 12 is being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.; and practice for ages 13 through 15 is being held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. The open cornhole league is playing on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Pickleball is played on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8 a.m.

Freedom Park

Open daily from dawn to dusk, this park offers a walking track, nature trail, skateboard park, basketball courts, playground, dog park, picnic shelters, and an amphitheater.

Garden of Eden Senior Center

The Garden of Eden Senior Center is open weekdays from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and offers paint classes, mahjongg, pickleball (mornings and evenings offsite), exercise classes, cornhole, knit and crochet, strength and balance, legal aid, quilt guild, Friends Club, bingo, watercolor classes, craft classes, senior technology classes, and card games, along with assistance and referral for seniors. The center prepared 30 baskets to donate to Hospice of Rockingham County and collected canned food for the Salvation Army as well during the month of November. The center also conducted a program on senior health insurance information that enabled participants to meet with advisors to help them decide which plan was best suited for them. Hand and Rehab Specialists provided a balance screening to participants and Eden Drug conducted a virtual and in-person class on blood pressure.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Collections

Payments received for code enforcement fees during the month of November consisted of \$600.

Community Appearance Commission

Pink Poppi was chosen to receive the community appearance award for the month of November. The commission agreed to help with identifying neighborhoods in which to install public art, such as murals. The commission also expressed interest in restarting the fire hydrant painting project.

Grants

The City received the Release of Funds from the N.C. Department of Commerce for the CDBG-COVID grant. Applications were released to the public on November 30.

The Draper Neighborhood Revitalization Grant is ready to begin.

Historic Preservation Commission

The commission seemed optimistic about reinitiating the historic marker project from several years ago. The commission also agreed to assist the Community Appearance Commission with identifying neighborhoods in which to install public art, such as murals.

Inspections and Permits

Total Inspections Performed-November:	145 (not including fire inspections)
Total Permits Issued-November	77

Spray Cotton Mill Local Landmark

Staff is working on the landmark designation report for Spray Cotton Mill.

Tree Board

Staff prepared the Tree City USA application for recertification as a Tree City.

Downtown and Economic Development Activities

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The Boulevard

The new owner of 246 The Boulevard has begun renovations of the downstairs storefront, as well as the upstairs apartment.

Draper

A concrete pad was poured for the State Employees Credit Union ATM.

Uptown

Duke Energy Downtown Revitalization Grant applications were distributed and collected. A committee was formed to review the applications from the Eden Downtown Development Inc. officers. Sidewalk improvements are scheduled for December. A new bakery is planned for Henry Street.

POLICE

All police vehicles purchased under the Police Department's vehicle capital outlay have been delivered. Parts for the animal control truck have been ordered and are awaiting installation.

The department's contract with Axon Enterprises has been signed with a rush order placed for implementation of the body worn cameras. The rush order will hopefully put the department in full operation of the body worn cameras by the middle of January, 2022, followed shortly by the tasers and in-car cameras.

Two new officers were recently hired, Sonya Crabtree and Robbie Deel. The department was currently accepting applications for two vacant positions.

b. Report on advisory committee proceedings.

(1) Strategic Planning Commission.

There was no report.

(2) Planning Organization Boards.

There was no report.

(3) Parks Commission

Mayor Hall called on Staff Advisor Terry Vernon.

Mr. Vernon said the Commission met December 7 and discussed some old business. The commission was instructed to come up with some ideas to bring to the budget retreat in January, in which they did. They were interested in the carbide trail in the Spray section of town and the riverwalk from Spray to the Pervie Bolick area, which would have to go through a government process as it involved rails-to-trails. The fastest growing sport the City currently offered was pickleball. The commission hoped to convert some of the tennis courts at Bridge Street to pickleball courts. The participants were still playing outside in spite of the cold weather and had even created a league on Sundays. They also discussed the unification of recreation within the city. Mr. Vernon spoke with the Boys and Girls Club but they were not too positive about the City taking over their athletic programs, which he understood. However, they were intent on having a meeting with any baseball enthusiasts in the area on January 11 at City Hall at 6 p.m. if anyone was interested. The intention was to discuss coming together on the same page with all of the organizations and utilizing the City's facilities and fields to help promote baseball and unification with everyone. The intent was not to put anyone out of business but to do what was best for the kids in Eden, which was something they had been trying to do for a long time. He was not sure they could make it happen but he was certainly going to try. The commission was also very interested in a bike trail at the New Street property and using Tony McGhee as an advisor to help promote and design the trail. The commission

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expressed interest in putting a frisbee disc golf course at one of the City's greenways. Mr. Vernon reached out to someone in regards to the sport but had not heard back. He felt it was a good, healthy sport as it encouraged physical activity between throwing the frisbee and walking throughout the course. It was very inexpensive and something he felt was a good idea.

Council Member Moore asked what time the baseball meeting was scheduled for on January 11.

Mr. Vernon replied 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Council Member Ellis asked what the main reason was for the baseball meeting.

Mr. Vernon said the intent of the meeting was to get everyone on the same page. The commission was interested in getting several of the travel teams involved to hopefully utilize some of the baseball fields at Spray and Draper that were not being used. They hoped to promote baseball and any other sport.

Council Member Ellis said he appreciated that because he felt it was very important to maintain the city's surroundings with area teams that had that within their city.

Mr. Vernon said Eden was home and always had been. Sometimes there were parents coming through the program for three to four years with their children and even though the City tried to improve things all along, they hoped it would prove to be advantageous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the November 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried, 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall said WinterFest was a huge success in Grogan Park and he thanked Ms. Adams for organizing the event and for all the City staff that assisted with it.

Council Member Ellis wished all the citizens and City employees a Merry Christmas. He thanked all the retirees leaving the City at the end of the year. He also thanked Council Members Kirkman, Underwood, and Epps for taking seats on the Council. He looked forward to working together in the upcoming year. He thanked everyone for their prayers over the last few weeks regarding his hip surgery and noted that it felt good to be walking normal again.

Council Member Epps said he appreciated the confidence the citizens had in him to elect him for another term and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Hall apologized for the late notice to staff members and their families who were invited to the traditional gathering at the mayor's house following the meeting, but after consulting with medical personnel, he was advised to not be in close quarters together with a big group. It might be rescheduled when the virus calmed back down. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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