

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 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:	Mike Moore, Mike Moore 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 Merinda Easley of Shaw Christian Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Fire Chief James Slaughter.

PRESENTATIONS:

There were none at this time.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall said item 10a would need to be removed from the agenda to be revisited at a later date.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to set the meeting agenda. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. Consideration of an amendment to the CDBG-CV program.

Planning & Community Development Director Kelly Stultz wrote in a memo: The City of Eden was granted \$950,000 for a grant to assist citizens impacted by COVID with rents, mortgage payments and utility payments. The City of Eden like many other jurisdictions was able to expend only a small amount of these funds for their original intended use. We have spoken with our representatives from the Department of Commerce that manages these grants about the possibility of allocating the remaining funds to another allowable project. We have asked to use the remaining funds on the Draper School project. Please approve the budget amendment request. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mayor Hall declared the public meeting open and called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said in 2020 at the height of the pandemic, she got word from the people at Commerce that they were going to put out a grant to aid citizens with rent, utilities and those kinds of things. It was all over the country. It would not pay for cable or internet services but was really designed to help people stay in their homes due to job losses and other reasons. Council adopted a resolution authorizing it on September 9, 2020. On December 17, the state sent word that the City received funding. On January 6, 2021, the City received a grant packet and on January 19, 2021, the City executed the grant agreement. On February 22, 2021, they amended the scope of work. That was due to the federal government asking for the applications before it was entirely sure how they would be handled. On April 28, 2021, a decision was made that because of the small

amount of delinquency in overdue water bills, they would not be included in the grant and therefore another consultant did not have to be hired. They were thinking that would free up more money to help people in the community. A consultant was hired in May 2021. In July 2021, the City requested an extension. Even though it took forever, the grant deadlines were the same. On November 19, 2021, they finally released conditions and funds. The information was posted on the City's website that applications were being accepted. The City published ads in January, February and March for Covid applications. They published a reminder that the last day to apply for funds was March 15. Anyone who called on the phone before or on March 15 was allowed to fill out an application. Like many other communities in North Carolina, because of the length of time the federal and state governments added to the process, most people were back to work and did not need the money. The City did spend \$21,725.68. She knew they had people in the community who needed assistance and that children had been held back in their academic process brought on by being at home for homeschooling. Not every child had the advantage of internet in the home and those things. She decided to contact her friend at the Department of Commerce and asked if the budget could be amended to do something else. The person said probably, and asked what the City wanted to do. She said they had tried a number of things, including the fire station repairs. It had to be something the American Recovery Act would approve. During the same time, the City had begun to talk about the older building at Draper Elementary School. Ms. Stultz was told that because they were going to have afterschool tutoring and mentoring in the building and a recreational activity which was health related, that building would qualify. In order to do that, the City was holding the public hearing to request that the state amend the budget. She did not anticipate that the City would spend every dollar that was left on Draper Elementary School. Either way they had to keep paying the consultant. There were a lot of things that had to keep coming out of that. They needed to get the funds obligated. If they did not, the state Department of Commerce would allocate them to some other jurisdiction. It was her opinion that Eden's citizens needed it was badly as anyone else. She had met with the Boys & Girls Club and they were still on go with all of that. She really hoped they could help the younger children. It would really help the recreation programs.

Council Member Hunnicutt said he was still questioning why it could not be done now if the funds were originally targeted for direct assistance for low-income citizens. He asked if there were restrictions on how that could be done. The City had tons of people who needed a roof or heat and air or whatever it may be. He did not understand how they could take income that was specifically for low-income assistance and turn that over and put it into building improvements when in his mind they had not really vetted out all of the options for the low-income assistance. He asked if it was understanding from staff that there were no other options to help people direct.

Ms. Stultz said yes, that had been cut off.

Council Member Hunnicutt asked what had been cut off.

Ms. Stultz said their ability to keep seeking people to apply. In order to qualify when the City was seeking individual applications, someone had to have a job loss or some other loss that was Covid related. They had to have had Covid. If someone was a waitress and the restaurant closed, they had lost their income. It was direct Covid applied. Commerce was able, because this happened all across the country. Charlotte, which was an entitlement City meaning they got a huge influx of CDBG money every year, told Commerce to just forget it because they could not get any more spent than Eden did. It was a problem that had happened everywhere. In speaking with Valarie Fegans from the CDBG office, when they had all that money and no one was able to spend it, they got approval from the federal government that it could be spent on other activities that were allowed under the American Recovery Plan. Because the program was aimed at helping school children, afterschool care, mentoring, tutoring and those kinds of things, plus the recreation department using the gymnasium, those things qualified. She had information from the Boys & Girls Club that they would like to operate a teen center in the other part of the building and the City had already been contemplating a business development spot. Because it was helping children who had suffered and small businesses and those kinds of

things, the activities were approved. Her real estimate was about \$600,000 of the money. Before they could do anything, they had to hire a designer and have the plans done and all those kinds of things. They had it looked at and had estimates. They had been able to stop the roof from leaking so it was not getting any worse. The Community Development Block Grant was a very rigid federal program. They had to do everything they were told which was why they were having the public hearing in order to ask to amend the budget.

Council Member Epps recalled the grant for the Flynn Hill area and people would not apply. Old houses could be torn down and trailer homes put up. Ms. Stultz had to give a lot of the money back because people would not apply.

Ms. Stultz said the City had always taken the tactic, because of CDBG and state rules, to make payments that were grant related out of the fund balance. Then they would requisition the state to get the City's money back because if it took more than three days to process after a chunk of money was received, the City would be fined. It would harm their ability to get grants in the future. There were a lot of hoops to jump through to stay on track.

Council Member Hunnicutt confirmed the public hearing was a request to amend or adjust the original requirement so it could be spent on a building but they could not do the same thing asking for more time to be able to dedicate the money directly to individuals. He was still perplexed as to why, through The Salvation Army or United Way or Genesis Ministries or whatever, there were so many areas in need, he was having a hard time understanding why they could not offer some relief to some of the organizations, directly to individuals. He did not understand why that was not possible. He was first to admit, he was not very good at grant administration. Maybe there was some block to it that just did not allow it. He just did not feel good that the dollars were intended to help low-income families and the City was not doing that.

Council Member Ellis asked if Ms. Stultz had ideas how the funds could be spent in the recreation department compared to the needs others may have in the City like Boys & Girls Club or daycares with afterschool care.

Ms. Stultz said she had asked all those questions and she received one extension to keep begging people to fill out applications.

Council Member Ellis confirmed that no one had come forward.

Ms. Stultz replied no. Because she wanted Eden's citizens, particularly those who were low and moderate income, to benefit from it, it was an idea that Commerce agreed would fit the requirements. They could stay out of trouble with the federal government over it. Another project she pitched to them was the river walk and some improvements around the mills and they were not thrilled with those. If Council would like her to go back and ask questions, she could. They would then have to have another public hearing and would be right back in the same place. Or they could let the money go back.

Council Member Underwood asked when the cutoff was.

Ms. Stultz advised March 15, 2022.

Council Member Moore asked if she had any idea why there was a such a big gap.

Ms. Stultz said the state laid off, sent home or let go a lot of the employees in the department that managed the grants so very little of the work got done. They did not release the City to start spending the money until they had filled back up.

Minutes of the August 16, 2022 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

Council Member Moore asked why the citizens in Eden did not respond. She had some but there were a whole lot that did not evidently.

Ms. Stultz agreed. She said a lot of them were able to get other grants, HOPE funds that the feds put out. They did that because it was faster and the other program was not working.

City Attorney Gilley agreed. She knew for a fact that a tremendous amount of evictions were put on hold. There was a law that stopped rental evictions. Before the evictions could continue, the HOPE program in this area gave a lot of money to renters to give to their landlords.

Council Member Ellis asked if they could use some of the money for new playground equipment at the park.

Ms. Stultz replied she would be happy to ask questions. There was a park-related fixture in the building with the gymnasium. She would be happy to ask if improvements were allowed on the outside of the school. The consultants had been working with them. It was a tight rope they balanced. As, after Council Member Epps referenced, the pain of not being able to help people at all with money the City was granted, she hoped they could avoid that.

Council Member Epps said like the window shut on Flynn Hill, the window had shut on this particular part.

Ms. Stultz agreed.

Council Member Underwood asked if it was advertised any at all.

Ms. Stultz said in the newspaper, on Facebook, on the board outside. Marketing & Special Events Manager Cindy Adams was excellent at that. She had copies of the ads and newspaper things and all of that in her file.

As no one came forward to speak and there was no further discussion, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to amend the CDBG-CV program before they lost that money. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. Council Members Epps, Moore, Ellis, Nooe, Kirkman and Underwood voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Hunnicutt voted in opposition. The motion carried 6-1.

- b. Consideration of a zoning text amendment request and adoption of an ordinance to amend Articles 10.01, 12.02, 13.03 and 13.07 of the Unified Development Ordinance to remove criminal penalties per changes to the N.C. General Statutes, Z-22-05.

Consideration to adopt a resolution of a statement of consistency for Z-22-05.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: The Planning Board initiated a zoning text amendment to amend or repeal sections of the Unified Development that contain provisions for criminal penalties. These articles are 10.01, 12.02, 13.03 and 13.07. North Carolina General Statutes 160A-175 has been amended to disallow the use of criminal penalties for violations of regulations contained in the Unified Development Ordinance. The Planning and Community Department recommends approval of the text amendment. At their regular meeting on July 26, 2022, the Planning Board voted to recommend that the City Council approve this request and adopted a Resolution Adopting A Statement of Consistency Regarding the Proposed Amendment. If you have questions, please contact this office.

Mayor Hall called the public hearing open and called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said for all of her career, cities and counties had the ability to charge people criminally for ordinance violations. The City had only done it once to her knowledge and it was a last-ditch effort with a property there were continued problems with. Shortly thereafter, the General Assembly decided it was inappropriate for any local government to do that, not that the City did anything wrong. She was certain the courts did not want courthouses full of local code actions and so the laws were changed. They were changed after the City adopted their ordinance and so what they needed to do to stay in compliance was remove any reference to criminal penalties.

As no one came forward to speak and there was no further discussion, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirkman to adopt a zoning text amendment ordinance to amend Articles 10.01, 12.02, 13.03 and 13.07 of the Unified Development Ordinance to remove criminal penalties per changes to the N.C. General Statutes and to adopt a resolution of a statement of consistency for Z-22-05. Council Member Nooe seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDEN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, that, after having fully complied with all legal requirements, including publication of notice of a public hearing and the holding of a public hearing relative thereto, Articles 10.01, 12.02, 13.03 and 13.07 of the Unified Development Ordinance are hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 10.01 Watershed Protection, paragraph C Criminal Penalties is repealed.
2. The remaining paragraphs in Article 10, D – M shall be amended to C – L.
3. Article 12.02 Weeds, Wild Growth, Rubbish, paragraph D is repealed.
4. Article 12.02, paragraph E shall be amended to D.
5. Article 13.03 Liable, the first paragraph shall be amended to remove the words “and/or criminal.”
6. Article 13.07 Specific Types of Violations, paragraph B Flood Damage Prevention, (1) shall read as follows:

1. Violation of the City of Eden flood damage provisions in this Ordinance or failure to comply with any of the requirements, including violation of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variance or special exceptions, shall constitute a violation Any person who violates the flood damage provisions of this Ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall be fined not more than \$50.00. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the City of Eden from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

7. Article 13.07 Specific Types of Violations, paragraph F Stormwater Management, the first paragraph in (3) shall be amended to remove the words “whether civil or criminal.”

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 16st day of August, 2022

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY REGARDING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE CITY OF EDEN UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE CASE NUMBER Z-22-05
TEXT AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 160D-605, prior to adoption or rejection of any zoning amendment, the Eden City Council is required to adopt a statement as to whether the amendment is consistent with the Land Development Plan and why the City Council considers the action taken to be reasonable and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2022, the Eden City Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan. Plans such as the City of Eden Comprehensive Plan are not designed to be static but are meant to reflect the City of Eden’s needs, plans for future development and to remain in compliance with North Carolina State Law and the City of Eden’s ordinances;

WHEREAS, the City of Eden Planning Board initiated a request to amend the UDO to repeal sections pertaining to criminal penalties for certain violations, as per changes in the N.C. General Statutes.

WHEREAS, On July 26, 2022, the City of Eden Planning Board voted to recommend to the Eden City Council that the text amendment be approved.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Articles 10.01, 12.02, 13.03 and 13.07 contain provisions for criminal penalties for violation of the Ordinance. This request is necessary in order for the City of Eden Unified Development Ordinance to stay in compliance with the North Carolina General Statutes.

STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY:

The goals of the 2022 City of Eden Comprehensive Plan are to make smart growth decisions by carefully managing growth to:

- A. Strategically locate new land development in the most appropriate places.
- B. Maintain and enhance Eden's community character and heritage.
- C. Use infrastructure investments as effectively as possible.
- D. Attract new jobs and a more diverse tax base.
- E. Protect natural, cultural and historic resources and open space as we grow.

WHEREAS, The Eden City Council has considered the written recommendation of the City of Eden Planning Board and has held a public hearing on the proposed amendment, and the Council desires to adopt a statement describing why the adoption of the proposed amendment is consistent with the City of Eden Comprehensive Plan and why the City Council considers the proposed amendment to be reasonable and in the public interest;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EDEN CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Eden City Council finds that the proposed amendment to the City of Eden Unified Development Ordinance is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the 2022 City of Eden Comprehensive Plan.
2. At no time are land use regulations or plans of the City of Eden or any jurisdiction in the State of North Carolina permitted to be in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes.
3. Therefore, based upon the foregoing information, the amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance is reasonable and in the public's, best interest.

Approved and adopted and effective this 16th day of August, 2022.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

City Attorney Erin Gilley read the policy for speakers.

Scottie Eanes, 644 Summit Road, said he saw in reading the agenda the City wanted to do a pocket park at 835 Bridge Street. In his opinion, he understood the property was going to be given to the City but that was out of the way of what a pocket park should be. There were no residences right there at it. It had stuff stolen from the property before. He was told earlier that day that the City was already mowing that property and if that was the case, he questioned if the City was under contract to mow it or if they were getting paid to mow it. If the City wanted to do a pocket park, they owned a piece of property next to what he thought was a Shell station on Kings Highway. He asked why it was not opened up and a park put there, which was also access to the greenway. This property, if anyone went by and looked at it, was really out of the way for anyone to go by and enjoy. You could not see the water. There was nothing there but a couple of picnic tables and places to sit. He was concerned that the City was going to take another piece of property off of the tax books, which it was only valued around \$2,700 so it was not a lot of money. He did not think it was worth having. To be called a pocket park, it was out of the way from anyone's house. He thought pocket parks went near houses so people could enjoy them.

Mayor Hall noted the property was currently owned by a non-profit and not on the tax roll. An Eagle Scout project developed that park and it was a great place.

David Campt, 921 Carter Street, said he had lived there for 10 years. He came to get some information and perhaps support for a grant that he was submitting. It was a grant to the New Pluralists Foundation. By way of context, he had been living in Eden 10 years. His granddad taught in Rockingham County as did his aunt, Sylvia Jean Campt, in Madison and dad, 97, who lived in Stoneville. His parents moved away from the area because of racial divisions and moved to Detroit, which had a lot of racial divisions. That was where he grew up. His parents moved back in the 80s and he moved here 10 years ago. The grant that he was writing to try and bring some programming here in Rockingham County and then expand to the state was to try to deal with two issues: divisions between groups and how people on the left and right could not talk to each other. Divisions like that, black and white, etc. And also to prevent political violence. People may not know that 80 percent of people thought political violence was unacceptable but 20 percent of people thought it was acceptable. Twenty percent of North Carolinians. Fifty percent of people were worried about it. The grant was to create opportunities for people to come together so they become more united. One of the things, even though the divisions here were not severe, they existed a lot less than they used to be. In 1997, he came here and a cop told him not to go to a bar because he was afraid of what could happen to him. He had been to that bar, it was the one near Winn-Dixie and was closed now, but that was a lot of progress that had been made. He had also been profiled by his neighbors for doing some videotaping outside in his neighborhood. There were still divisions that needed to be dealt with. The idea was to have a set of events to bring people together to celebrate the progress we had made and we could have a united future and would not be subject to calls for violence. He was looking for information about people, traditions or organizations that had a history of bringing people together. He would love to get that. He did not know if the City did letters of support for grant applications but he would be interested in that. He was mostly looking for information because he was still trying to find traditions or organizations that had a history of bringing people together across differences. He thanked Council for their time. His email was david@thedialoguecompany.com. Again, information on people, traditions or organizations that had a history of bringing people together would be great.

Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Campt and noted he very much enjoyed the meeting they had earlier in the week.

Diana Biggs, 110 Vaughn Street, thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak. She wanted to touch on three subjects. First, she was out of town when the July meeting took place but she did watch it online. She was there to talk about the City hiring a company to recruit more businesses to come to town. The representative who spoke made a comment that Eden only had one sit-down restaurant. She was sure he was referring to a chain restaurant – Ruby Tuesday. The City had many more sit-down restaurants owned and operated by its own citizens. Many were the sole income to provide for the owners and their families. Right now, they were trying to keep their heads above water due to staffing shortages and food supply and demand. Some were having to close early, open late or not at all because of no staff. These were the same people who gave back to the community for athletic events and fundraisers for many reasons. They were Eden's citizens who had endured Covid and now staffing. The City should do what they could to support the existing restaurants so the City did not lose another business. As much as she would love to see another chain restaurant or clothing or whatever it may be, the company that they wanted to pay could not guarantee that it would happen. Their little town first needed to recoup from what it had lost. It was not only the restaurants that were suffering. They were not the only ones who were short staffed. There were hiring signs everywhere in town. She, along with some of the others, did not feel that was the appropriate time to do that. Maybe later on but not now. She emailed each member of Council about an hour before the July meeting and asked them to do some soul searching because of the reasons she had just mentioned. She would like to ask them to do the same then. She would also like to say thank you to the ones who responded to her text or acknowledged that they received it as it was a text about business that was intended for them, the Council. On the second thing, she would ask that the City please give an update on where the Draper Fire Department stood. The third thing was regarding the job that was done at Edgewood and Stadium where the water main broke. The

City repaired that. It was very rough when you came across the area and it was not like that before. She would like to see what the City could do to get that straightened back out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration to authorize a commercial recruitment engagement with The Retail Coach.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo (which remained unchanged from the July meeting): At the July City Council Meeting, a representative from The Retail Coach will make a presentation about the services they provide. This will provide the Council with the opportunity to ask questions as you consider their company. The cost of their program is \$40,000 for the first year and \$30,000 per year for future years if the service is renewed. Each year there is the possibility of up to \$3,000 in expenses. The Retail Coach seems to be the best fit for our current needs with available staff. If a contract with them is approved by the City Council, staff recommends that the program be evaluated in a year to determine effectiveness.

Mayor Hall said Council Member Hunnicutt would like to speak to the item.

Council Member Hunnicutt said shortly he wanted to propose to withdraw the motion in support of the retail recruiting initiative. His primary purpose for proposing and supporting the retail initiative was as a source of trying to grow the City's revenue. At most every meeting, Council was asked for approval to spend on something. They rarely had the opportunity to look at something where they could grow their revenue. That was the basis for trying to do that. What he had done since their last Council meeting, he had given it a lot of thought. He had questioned what was next, what could they do if they did not try to do the recruitment. He had a conversation with the county's economic development director, Leigh Cockram. She had offered a good proposal for the City that he would like to put in front of them. Basically, Ms. Cockram had suggested they have what he was calling an economic development workshop. It would be like a budget retreat format where they had a special called meeting. The sole topic would be economic development. Basically what Ms. Cockram was proposing they do was talk about economic development in Eden, what they were doing and what they were not doing. What were the things they needed to do different, do better, etc., and that kind of thing. Basically, what she was proposing would be a couple of hours of their time and maybe they could allow for some opportunity for public input and that type of thing. She even said in a couple of areas all of them could be, and these were his words, educated a little bit. Even in the retail recruiting initiative to better understand because part of the information that would be gathered and available actually helped some of the existing merchants. Some of the other topics that would be on there, number one being industrial recruiting. As they all knew, it had been very slow in Eden and to try and understand why that was. He thought the number one reason was they did not have any sites. He had used the analogy before that if Amazon were there at the meeting and said they would build a distribution center and all they needed was 40 acres to start construction in 60 days, he did not think the City could deliver on that. He did not know in the City where there was something graded with infrastructure and zoned, all of those kinds of things. That was one of the things they may hear from Ms. Cockram. They needed to talk about that and identify that. Another topic was likely to be the labor situation. For him, he was wondering if it was a temporary thing, if it was the new norm. He thought she could have some people there to talk about that. The last part of that was that it may turn into two sessions. In talking with the city manager, he thought it may turn into two sessions. He had some things that sooner or later may need to come before Council about infrastructure, water and sewer growth. As something hit at the megapark, he questioned how much water and sewer the City would need to reserve for themselves. They could not give it all away. Those kinds of things on it. The last part of it would be the highways. As they may recall, when former Council Member Carter left Council, he gave up his seat on the Piedmont Triad Regional Organization, which was a 12-county planning organization. The mayor had asked him to take that seat. One of the things they were doing was updating the highway priorities. He and Mr. Mendenhall and Ms. Stultz hosted a meeting a few weeks ago at City Hall. They had the other cities from the county come to start the conversation about highway priorities in a goal with the priorities for the county to take that to the state. The whole idea was if they spoke as a county instead of individual they would get more attention. There were a number of areas that were directly economic development or related to it for Council to talk about. He was not asking for a motion on that but asked if there was anybody who would be opposed to it.

Mayor Hall said they needed to stay on the topic of The Retail Coach. He said he did not think they needed to be committing to a meeting or voting to schedule a meeting until they knew what they were meeting about. He did not mind having that as an agenda item to discuss but he thought they needed to discuss the item on the agenda first.

Council Member Hunnicutt said with that being said, he withdrew the motion to proceed with a retail recruiting initiative. He would like to table that for six months.

Mayor Hall confirmed that was not a motion to deny but a motion to table.

Council Member Hunnicutt agreed it was a motion to table for six months. Council Member Nooe seconded the motion.

Council Member Epps made a substitute motion that they wait a year and have them come back and see how things had picked up or failed. He did not want them to just dump it and wonder what would happen. His problem was, when he came to a meeting, he heard about things he had not been in the loop on. He did not know what was going on until he got there. Then all that stuff got dumped on him. The rest of the Council was left out of things like the meetings and different things going on in the county and in the state. When he got to the meeting, he got a big surprise about all the things that had undermined staff, the elected officials and more. He believed when they had anything that was very important like now, all of Council needed to be in the loop on it so they could understand what was going on before it got published to the public and on Facebook.

Mayor Hall noted there was a substitute motion to extend the consideration to a year.

Council Member Ellis seconded the motion.

Council Member Epps said he wanted to revisit the item in a year.

Mayor Hall asked Ms. Gilley for clarification.

Ms. Gilley advised when something was tabled, it was on the table indefinitely until it was pulled off. If they wanted to continue it to a certain date, they needed a date. Even if they were going six months, she would like a council meeting date.

Council Member Ellis noted a year out would be the August 2023 meeting.

Ms. Gilley noted it would then show up on that agenda. They were considering an offer and she did not know if that offer would still be on the table from The Retail Coach. They could have The Retail Coach on the August 2023 agenda if that is what they wanted to do.

Council Member Epps said it was not that he was trying not to give The Retail Coach an opportunity. They were good and good at what they did. The City right now was suffering, as Ms. Biggs had said earlier. They would suffer right now if businesses were brought in who did the same thing. He respected The Retail Coach business, he thought they would probably do good things, but the City was not set up for it at that time.

Council Member Nooe asked Ms. Gilley if Council would be restricted from discussing The Retail Coach at any planning sessions if it were tabled for a year.

Ms. Gilley advised Council could discuss it and bring it back up if there was a majority decision to do that. The vote to table would not preclude Council from doing that. It would just not automatically appear in six months if the motion passed for it to be a year.

Council Members Epps, Moore, Ellis, Kirkman and Underwood voted to table consideration to authorize a commercial recruitment engagement of The Retail Coach for a year. Council Members Hunnicutt and Nooe voted against the motion. The motion carried 5-2.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of a request to make market adjustments to compensation and leave, and to institute a workforce training program.

Assistant City Manager Clint Simpson and Finance & Personnel Director Tammie McMichael wrote in a memo: Once again, we are faced with hardships dealing with the retention of employees. In the times that we are faced with, we must stay in step with what is happening around us or we are going to lose more and more employees to other employers. When we advertise for open positions, we are receiving less and less applications. It is very important that we do what we have to do keep our dedicated employees. Staff believes that Council's consideration needs to be made in regards to market adjustments to compensate, leave, and to institute a workforce training program. We need to give great consideration on how the city's compensation compares to other local governments, and make sure that we are giving necessary cost-of-living adjustments. With the cost of living increasing at a rapid pace, employees are going where they can make the most money and have good benefits. We fully understand that we cannot compete with larger municipalities; however, we must remain competitive with other local governments our size. We need to give consideration on the increased federal holidays. The city has traditionally followed the State holiday schedule. We need to recognize that there should be an individual choice in celebrating holidays. We need to give consideration that there is a great need to implement a Public Service Program. We may not be able to completely solve our problem of not being able to find interested and qualified applicants for open positions by increasing compensation; therefore, we look outside the box...and possibly find potential applicants who can be trained prior to entering into the workforce. And lastly, we need to give consideration that COVID is going to haunt us for years to come. Unfortunately, it is a matter of when we get COVID, and not if we are going to get COVID that we are being faced with. Until June 30, 2022 we have been accommodating employees with emergency paid sick leave. We want all of our employees to remain healthy, and we do not want sick employees to feel like they have to come to work. Therefore, we should give consideration on some additional sick days for employees. Staff's recommendation is to implement a cost of living increase of 4% effective January 1, 2023 with a merit increase of 1% effective June 1, 2023 this would increase all full-time employee's compensation 5%. In recognition of the new federal holidays, and to recognize diversity and to allow individual choice in celebrating the holidays that the city would allow the accrual of 2 extra vacation days for each employee annually. We believe partnering with Rockingham County Schools on a Public Service Program would be an expanded recruitment initiative that would be a win win situation for the interested students as well as for the city. The last item to be considered is 3 extra sick days to address the COVID situation. This will help encourage employees who are exposed or become positive with COVID to feel like that can stay home to recover.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

- b. Consideration to accept a pocket park near 835 Bridge Street.

Parks & Recreation Terry Vernon wrote in a memo: The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) has offered to donate 2.25 acres of land along the Dan River located on Bridge St. known as Clearwater Park to the City of Eden. DRBA volunteers along with Boys Scout Troop #567 have worked for the past two years to improve the property. Today there are several picnic tables along with a kiosk there and also a nature trail that extends ¼ mile down to the old covered bridge pilings from years ago. DRBA asks that we have a formal agreement between them and our City to ensure that the property will be managed and maintained in suitable condition for public use. There are restrictions on subject property. Upon acceptance of this property by the City Council, it is understood that our Eden City Attorney will handle the transfer of the property from DRBA to the City of Eden. Clearwater Park will be an asset for the City of Eden and will allow our citizens and visitors to have lunch along the river as well as walk along the river and enjoy the outdoors and scenery.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Vernon.

Mr. Vernon said in 2019, Phillip Hunnicutt donated 2.25 acres to the Dan River Basin Association. It was located right on the Dan River. The parcel had both recreational and historic relevance. It provided an ideal

view of the river. You could see the old stone pilings from the middle of the river remaining from the Leaksville covered bridge that was built in 1852. The tract was located between public accesses of Leaksville Landing and the Leaksville Wildlife Access trail that ran from the bridge on 87 to the pump station on Bridge Street. The property was cleared of debris, litter and fencing structures by DRBA staff, board members and volunteers including Boy Scouts. Boy Scout Troop 567 sponsored several Eagle Scout projects on the site, one of which was construction of a trail. DRBA engaged Tony McGee of Round Rock Design to create a trail-building class for the troop. The Scouts created a quarter-mile trail from the site along the river to a scenic overlook. Two additional projects included building and installing picnic tables and benches at the site and construction and installation of the site kiosk. DRBA also partnered with T and Lindley Butler to assist to provide historical descriptions for the site kiosk and an educational sign at the end of the trail describing the historical significance of the Leaksville covered bridge. The fourth Eagle Scout project included designing and building a short trail and installation of a bench that overlooked the river. Overall, the investment in the development of the park including volunteer time, DRBA staff time, supplies, printing and construction costs was estimated to be at \$35,000. DRBA wished to transfer the land to the City. Once transferred, DRBA would continue to partner with the City to further enhance the amenities at Clearwater Park through grant and funding sources. Staff and board time would also be included through DRBA and the City would recruit volunteers and so forth to help as time went by. Upkeep would include mowing and trimming of the property. They needed to probably have more signage. He had spoken with a member of Council about possibly building a pier to maybe fish off of. The City did not have a whole lot of spots where people could go out and fish on the Smith or the Dan and that was something they could possibly do later on.

Council Member Hunnicutt said he wanted to exclude himself from any vote on the park. He did donate the land to DRBA prior to joining Council or otherwise associated with the City. He had been approached by Dr. Butler, who was now deceased, and he and his wife met Council Member Hunnicutt at the site and explained the historical significance of the property. He decided to gift the property to DRBA and part of the conversation was that part of Eden's logo was that it was a town of two rivers. Eden did not have a location that he could think of where someone could go and sit directly by the river and have lunch or anything like that. His goal and understanding with DRBA was that they wanted to do a pocket park there and keep it as natural as possible. There was a written agreement and he conveyed the property to them. As Mr. Vernon had pointed out, the property went from the City's pump station to river columns. It had over 600 feet of river frontage. If the City did not want it, he guessed DRBA would come to him and see if he wanted it back. He did not know what they would do with it. DRBA was not in the business of long-term land ownership. That was why they wanted to dispose of it. He was going to exclude himself from any vote. He did want to make that disclosure. He had no interest in the property now. He did not know why he could not vote, but he was not going to simply because of the original connection.

Ms. Gilley said she did not see where Council Member Hunnicutt had any financial interest and that was what would preclude him from voting. He had the opportunity to recuse himself and as long as Council saw and understood that, it was good to go.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to accept the pocket park near 835 Bridge Street. Council Member Nooe seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor, with Council Member Hunnicutt recusing himself from the vote. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

a. City Manager's Report

Mayor Hall advised there were copies available for the public, the report was published in Eden's Own Journal and it was online as well.

City Manager's Report August 2022
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ADMINISTRATION

Marketing & Special Events

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SHAGGIN' ON FIELDCREST SPONSORS!! WITHOUT YOU THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE!

Nestle Purina
Eden Tourism
Draper Volunteer Fire Dept.
Mabe's Trucking
Draper Cycle
Audie & Cathy Land Rentals
Elite Driving School
Railroad Café
Fair Funeral Home, Inc.
Tim Biggs Towing
Kenny & Tina Kirkman
Boone-Cooke Funeral Service
Hale Automotive
Rio Grande
Ray's Hitch & Trailer Sales, LLC
Clarence M. Hale Auto Sales, Inc.
Tommy & Vicki Underwood
Home Lumber
Jerry & Debbie Ellis
Benny Wray Auctions
Raymond Thomas
Draper Lumber
Adams Insurance Agency
Luck Stone
Karen Cochran

And to all those who came out and braved the heat to see a great show by Jim Quick & Coastline – THANK YOU!!

Our SUMMER GROWN & GATHERED set for August 11 SOLD OUT once again! Great evening celebrating local food, beverages, music and a beautiful and historic venue.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK takes place on August 20 along Henry Street in Uptown Eden from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thank you to each and every driver/operator of over 45 trucks and pieces of equipment that come and interact with hundreds and kids. You are helping make some great memories for our children!!

RIVERFEST IS ALMOST HERE!! There is going to be big fun for the entire family that will include live concerts, delicious food, artisans & crafters, Purina Dog Team, gem sluice, Butterfly Experience, Kids Zone and so much more!!! Plan to come early and stay late!

FRIDAY – September 16 – 5 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY – September 17 – 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

See you there!!

PARKS AND RECREATION

MEALS ON WHEELS continues to operate out of the nutrition center each weekday morning and our Nutrition Center is now open Monday thru Friday at noon to feed our seniors on site with over 20 participating. Some of our seniors ride the SCAT bus to our center and arrive early to fellowship, socialize and enjoy themselves.

MILL AVENUE RECREATION CENTER has morning pickleball at 8:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

AQUATICS has been very popular this summer!! The Splash Pad had over 4,000 visitors plus 51 rentals for parties during the month of July and over 3,200 people have visited the Mill Avenue Pool with 27 rentals for parties. Plus, 126 children aged 15 and under attend swimming lessons and 16 adults aged 16 and up.

FREEDOM PARK continues to be a very busy place for citizens of Eden! The park is full of people enjoying the playground, Splash Pad, basketball courts, skate board park, dog park, walking track, shelters and so much more. Plus, the Concert in the Park/Cruz-In continues to be successful the last Saturday of every month.

PROWLERS FOOTBALL & CHEER PROGRAM is underway and they are already practicing and getting ready for an exciting season!

The SENIOR CENTER is very busy with classes, bocce, shuffleboard, line dancing, pickleball and many other activities and services. We encourage all of our seniors to check it out and get involved. You will be glad you did!!

STAY ACTIVE!!!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Eden Fire Department assisted with several community activities that included the 4th of July Fireworks Display, a fire safety training class for Pleasant View Baptist Daycare employees plus a Public Education Event at the Blue Octopus located on Meadow Road utilizing the Fire Life Safety Trailer.

PUBLIC WORKS

The City has partnered with JCR Recycling here in Eden to offer CURBSIDE RECYCLING. We need a minimum of 200 households to register. This will be a bi-weekly pick-up with the cost of \$15.86 per month. Please call 623-2110 or come by City Hall to register.

The Street Division will begin work on the Monroe Street Sidewalk Project in August. Please be patient and cautious through this process.

A huge thank you to the Part-Time Litter Control team that worked in the heat and gathered 115 bags of trash in July!

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL CODE complaints were slightly down this month. Complaints continue to be addressed in a timely manner and notices sent as needed. The inspector is also checking for other code violations as he sees them out in the field and submitting them.

LOCAL CODE INSPECTIONS JULY 1-JULY 31, 2022

Total Local Code Inspections Performed 75

Local Code Notices Sent 27

Local Codes Abated 20

Abated by Contractor 5

Abated by Facility Maintenance 1

There were 224 inspections performed and 128 permits issued.

The Planning Board met on July 26 to consider 2 cases: (1) Rezone approximately 34.34 acres close to the Oak Hills Golf Course; and (2) Delete criminal penalties as required by changes to the North Carolina General Statutes.

We are working on a Rural Transformation Grant and another for the Fire Station repairs.

UPDATE ON COVID-Draper GRANT: We are expecting to hear from the Rehab Specialist with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council any day to start inspecting the houses and provided us with the work write up so we can proceed with advertising for bids.

b. Report on advisory committee proceedings.

(1) Strategic Planning Commission.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Adams.

Ms. Adams had nothing to report.

(2) Planning Organization Boards.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said the Planning Board had met that month and reviewed a zoning case that had since been withdrawn for now, as well as the text amendment with all the parts. The Board of Adjustment had not met but the other boards had and seemed to be progressing along.

(3) Parks Commission.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Vernon.

Mr. Vernon said the commission had not met in several months. He wanted to recognize the workers for summer camp. They had 25 campers for most of the summer and Carla Huffman and Vickie Scales did an outstanding job running the camp. He asked them to come forward.

Ms. Huffman said they had been doing summer camp for 14 years and Ms. Scales had been with her almost the whole time. Ms. Scales did get a raise that year but prior to that she came back every year to work for very little money. Ms. Huffman always wondered if she would return to work and luckily, she had each summer, which was amazing because no one else did. Ms. Scales cared about the children and did it from her heart. Ms. Huffman said it was actor Denzel Washington who said “don’t aspire to make a living, aspire to make a difference.” Ms. Huffman thought that was what Ms. Scales did. Both of them felt that way about the kids in the program. Ms. Scales had kept them almost by herself all summer while Ms. Huffman helped transport and a worker came in the morning. They had a lot of sign ups at the last minute. It had looked like they would have 15 kids but ended up with 25 and a waiting list. At that point it was too late to hire anyone so they were it.

Ms. Huffman started a slideshow presentation of photos.

Ms. Scales explained on Mondays the campers went to pool, Tuesdays they went skating, Wednesdays they went to the splash pad, Thursdays they played tennis in the morning and then went to Osborne, and Fridays they went back to the pool. They did have the opportunity to go to a Grasshoppers game, which was a blessing. They also went to Spare Time, which the kids really loved as the adults did too. It was truly a blessing to be with the kids over the summer.

Ms. Huffman said a kid at the Bridge Street Recreation Center found a duck at the center. It was alone and there was a dog across the street looking like it wanted to eat it. They had taken it to Mr. Vernon and Animal Control had been contacted but they did not deal with ducks. Mr. Vernon went to Dyer’s and got the duck food and ended up keeping it. He brought it with him to work so it hung out with the kids and they loved it. Even the city manager got into it. The duck would walk right into the Bridge Street center, it got used to them all.

Ms. Huffman played a video of two children talking about what they enjoyed about camp.

Ms. Huffman said hopefully Ms. Scales would be back the next year. She said the camp was a good service. She did not know what the parents would do without it.

Mayor Hall thanked them for what they did.

Mr. Vernon said summer camp ended Friday and Daisy the Duck had moved onto a farm in the country with four other ducks and five chickens and a couple of goats. She was doing well with her new owners who occasionally sent him videos. Ten weeks was a long time to keep the duck because he had to get it up in the morning and take it to work and then take it home. That was all thanks to Mr. Mendenhall who had said the duck was a good mascot for the summer campers. Prowlers football had 43 cheerleaders with a waiting list, 24 flag tag players with a waiting list, 17 8U players when they all showed up, 35 10U players with a waiting list, and 16 12U players showing up with 20 on the roster. There were a lot of kids and hopefully they would pick up a couple more for those teams that needed more. Another thing they had been doing since the pool opened was swim lessons, which were another creative idea from Mr. Mendenhall. There had been 177 kids and adults at the pool on Saturdays taking swim lessons. Not all of them showed up every Saturday, but several of them showed up four or five Saturdays in a row. They had one of the kids who progressed to being able to swim like a duck. There were some small kids who could swim very well at the end of the sessions. A lot of parents came through at the end of lessons and thanked the lifeguards and thanked him for the opportunity. Just like he and Mr. Mendenhall had talked about in the beginning of the season, if they had just one kid who learned to swim and it saved his life or the life of a friend or family member, it made a difference. The cornhole league ended up the night before with about 29 people at the Mill Avenue Recreation Center. He did not want to brag on himself, but they drew for partners each week. He was partnered with a young man and they came in second in the tournament. He thought they did pretty good. He was getting better.

Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Vernon, Ms. Huffman and Ms. Scales.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the July 19 regular meeting minutes.
- b. Approval of a proposed water main extension by Dan River Water, Inc., to serve Guerrant Springs Road (Phase 2).

Design and Construction Manager Bev O'Dell wrote in a memo: Mike Lemons, Utility Supervisor for Dan River Water, Inc., is requesting that City Council grant approval for the proposed installation of about 8,000 LF of 8-inch diameter PVC water main along Guerrant Springs Road (SR# 2023). The project starts about 100 feet northeast of the intersection with Stephens Road and Maverick Road (where WL project approved by City Council in March 2022 ended). The project ends just east of the intersection with Lillard Road. Approval of the proposed improvements is being requested in accordance with the water purchase agreement between the City of Eden and Dan River Water, Inc. Preliminary plans for the proposed water main improvements, prepared by William E. Mitchell Associates, are enclosed for review and information. The Engineer's Report for the project is also enclosed. The proposed improvements are intended to serve up to 12 single-family residences, and provide additional fire protection in the area, with four hydrants shown to be installed. It is recommended that the proposed Dan River Water, Inc. water main extension along Guerrant Springs Road be allowed to proceed towards getting plan approval from Public Water Supply Section, then installed when DRW has the funding needed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Mike Lemons, prior to the August City Council meeting. Thanks for reviewing and considering this matter.

- c. Approval and adoption of a resolution requesting the addition of the Highland Drive bridge into the State Highway System.

Mr. Mendenhall wrote in a memo: Please find the attached resolution and correspondence from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) related to the addition of the Highland Drive Bridge over Kings Highway (SR 2066) for your consideration. This has been initiated by staff in order to accomplish some key goals:

1. As part of long-range capital planning, transportation related costs have and will more than likely continue to exceed the City's ability to pay.

2. In order to adequately manage transportation assets, a close look at long-term obligations is being made and maintenance budgets are being shifted to address preservation and maintenance over our long-term maintenance cycles as a City.
3. The City has two municipal bridges in the municipal bridge inventory, Highland Drive and Park Road. These bridges are also part of the National Bridge Inventory and are required (by federal law) to be inspected biennially.
4. In a capital review of the replacement probability of these structures and associated capital planning, it has been determined that:
 - a. Highland Drive Bridge was built by NCDOT and when Highland Drive was turned over to the City (1968), the bridge was as well. The bridge was built; however, for Kings Highway as a grade separated crossing and serves that purpose.
 - b. The replacement cost to Highland Drive bridge exceed \$2,000,000; therefore, if this asset can be correctly reassigned to NCDOT responsibility a substantial amount of cost avoidance can occur.
 - c. The reassignment of this asset would cut bridge replacement costs by 66% or more as the Park Road bridge is a smaller span that staff is also looking to replace with an elliptical culvert thereby reducing the City's overall bridge inventory and long-term maintenance/replacement liability effectively to zero (culverts have a finite lifespan and will require replacement, but at a lesser cost than a bridge).

RESOLUTION 23-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EDEN REQUESTING THE ADDITION OF THE HIGHLAND DRIVE BRIDGE OVER KINGS HIGHWAY (SR 2066) BE ADDED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden continually partners with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on a multitude of transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and eventual replacement of transportation infrastructure is both an important and expensive undertaking; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eden is desirous to improve the coordination of maintenance and replacement and to align those priorities with the City's ability to allocate funds; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Drive Bridge over Kings Highway (SR 2066) serves as an important grade separation of the local traffic from the through traffic of the state highway; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Drive Bridge is on the National Bridge Inventory requiring biennial inspection; and

WHEREAS, the estimated eventual replacement cost of the Highland Drive Bridge is estimated to exceed \$2,000,000.00;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Eden City Council that it approves of the requested addition to the State Highway System of the Highland Drive Bridge over Kings Highway (SR 2066) and the concurrent removal of the Highland Drive Bridge from the City of Eden's operation and maintenance responsibility.

In the COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

Adopted this 16th day of August, 2022

CITY OF EDEN CITY COUNCIL

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- d. Approval of legal action against the property owner at 1002 Lawson Street for violation of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: On May 7, 2021, a letter was mailed to the property owner at 1002 Lawson Street, Suzanne Patterson Williamson, giving her notice that she was in violation of the City of Eden's Unified Development Ordinance. She installed an accessory structure in the front yard of her property without a permit and in violation of the setbacks. On July 21, 2021, Mrs. Williamson filed a Variance Application asking that she be granted a variance from the Zoning Ordinance and that she be allowed to keep the accessory structure as installed. On November 4, 2021, the Board of Adjustment met to hear the evidence presented by City Staff and Mrs. Williamson. The Board of Adjustment adopted an Order Denying A Variance. A copy of the Order was mailed to the Mrs. Williamson by certified mail, return receipt requested, on November 8, 2021. She had 30 days to appeal the decision of the Board of Adjustment to the Rockingham

County Superior Court. As of this date, an appeal has not been filed. Staff requests that the City Council authorize the City Attorney to begin legal action immediately to enforce the City of Eden Unified Development Ordinance. Attached are copies of the two letters mailed to Mrs. Williamson, the Order Denying A Variance and the Accessory Structure provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Underwood to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Epps seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Report on external committees by Council liaisons.

Mayor Hall noted that Council Member Hunnicutt had talked about his highway project information earlier in the meeting.

Council Member Moore reported the Solid Waste Committee had not met.

- b. General comments.

Mayor Hall noted Saturday was Touch-A-Truck on Henry Street from 10 until 1. It was a very popular event. The City did a good job cleaning up the trucks, at least once a year they got cleaned up. They brought them out and the kids climbed all over them and had a great time. School supplies were collected at the gate. He said to think about that if you were riding through and saw all the cars and truck. He said there were extra copies of the City Manager's Report if anyone wanted to come forward at the end and pick one up.

Council Member Underwood asked for Rev. Jamie Galloway's family to be remembered in prayer. He passed away that morning. He also asked that Council focus on the highways in Eden. They needed to be opened up if Eden was going to grow any at all. The highways were very important. Reidsville, Madison and Mayodan all had highways and they were growing. Eden was getting left behind. They needed to put some pressure on whomever to get the highways opened up. He asked Mr. Mendenhall if he could give a report on the Draper Fire Station.

Mr. Mendenhall reported the Draper Fire Station was being funded by CDBG dollars. Another round of leftover funds the state had committed would help in that endeavor. It was being bid out as they spoke. The bid specs were being done in such a way to comply with CDBG requirements. They were bidding that work out. Originally, they were given a timeline of the middle of September. Quite frankly they could not get anything through the supply chain like windows and that sort of thing. What they were doing, like they had talked about last time, was not only a renovation of the floor but any other item in the station that it would make sense to renovate while it was not occupied so that when they were done with it, it would be a fully renovated and repaired fire station for the benefit not only of the residents but also for the firemen in the station.

Council Member Underwood would like to ask if they could get it expedited in any way, form or fashion. He knew the residents wanted the fire truck back in the area.

Mr. Mendenhall agreed and said Ms. Stultz had reminded him the bid opening was the following Monday so they should have a better idea where they were. He thought they had asked the contractors to look at timelines and to be able to deliver quicker, to comply with the CDBG requirements of a quick turnaround but also to get it back in service. They were very much aware people were concerned about not having a fire station in the Draper community. He had heard rumors that people thought the City was going to close it. He wanted to go on record and said that was not on anyone's mind on staff and he did not think that was on anyone's mind on Council. It was something they wanted to get done and completed and back in service.

Council Member Underwood asked if there was more than one bid.

Mr. Mendenhall advised he did not know if they had all been received yet. They were due Monday.

Council Member Epps said Generation 4 Hope was an entity of his church's conference and they had a big event at the park a while back. They were having a lock-in at the Boone Road Community Building with a jail lockup. They would have free hotdogs, desserts and a group singing on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Council Member Hunnicutt had two things. First, he agreed with Council Member Underwood about the highways. Highways were what he had been working on during the last couple of weeks as far as where they were now. The last time a formal update was done was in 2009. It had been a long time since it had been done. There were a lot of things that had grown and a lot of changes that had occurred and were continuing to occur that they were going to try to address. They had been working on it. He, Ms. Stultz and Mr. Mendenhall met a few weeks ago to talk about the process. Mr. Mendenhall was working with the other mayors to try and get their thoughts together. Before the end of the year he hoped. As part of the economic development thing he was going to talk about, he thought there would be some information and recommendations to come to Council so that they could talk about it and decide what their priorities were. The second thing was, and he apologized for drifting on the retail conversation, he was looking for direction. He asked if Council wanted to do an economic development workshop and take advantage of Ms. Cockram's offer. He asked if anyone was opposed to it. He would work with Mr. Mendenhall and have him and Ms. Cockram start to put it together.

Ms. Adams advised a lot of exciting things were happening. The following night would be the first of three meetings with the Dan River Basin Association, two of which would be virtual. They along with partners all across the county had been working on a master plan for outdoor recreation, which was rivers and trails. It would not include parks as those already had plans. She invited everyone to come and be a part of that conversation. They would have maps and ideas. It had been a year-long process. The meeting would be held at 6 p.m. On Thursday, the City would hold a Draper Small Area Plan public meeting from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Draper Christian Church at 1122 Fieldcrest Road. The first meeting they had back in the winter was well attended and she expected this one would be as well. It would be a floating type of meeting, not a sit-down event. She invited everyone to attend. She noted Mayor Hall had mentioned Touch-A-Truck. She said the Summer Grown & Gathered that was rescheduled for the next Thursday was still sold out. They were closing the applications for RiverFest as it was full. It was September 16 and 17. She wanted to brag on the hotels. They were thriving as they had a record year, which ended in July with 41.43 percent above the previous year. That was the most in any year they had collected since the inception of the tax. They were all doing very well.

Mayor Hall said they needed to recruit another one.

Ms. Adams agreed.

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