

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, December 20, 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
	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
	Lisa Finney Griffith, Eden's Own Journal

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Hall called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He noted the media present and said that Mike Moore of Mike Moore Media was out of town for the holidays but the work he did on podcasts to keep citizens informed was appreciated. Pastor Chris Burns of Draper Pentecostal Holiness Church gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Eden Prowlers.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

a. Recognition: Prowlers Football Champions

Mayor Hall called the Prowlers players and staff forward. He congratulated the young men and women who participated in the football program. It was the first time there had been three teams win championships and that said a lot about the leadership of the coaches and the parents who were dedicated to bringing the kids to the practices and games. Starting them out playing at that age was the way to eventually improve the high school program, teaching them the fundamentals. There was a great group of volunteers who helped to coach the kids. He called on Parks and Recreation Director Terry Vernon.

Mr. Vernon said there had been a good number of kids who came out for football so they were very blessed. Football Director Earl Fountain and Assistant Director Ben Curtis had led the whole group. It started out a little bit sluggish and slow except for the 8U team who came out busting heads from the start. By the end of the season, each team improved, getting better and better. For the season, there were three teams who won playoff championships. The 8U won Division 1, which was the best of the teams. The 10U and 12U won Division 2. Staff was proud of all of them, they did an excellent job. They looked for the players to get bigger and better when they went to Holmes Middle School and Morehead High School. Hopefully he would be calling their names numerous times over the loudspeaker when they played junior varsity and varsity. He thanked everyone for participating, including the coaches who put their time and effort into the past three months to improve the football program. He thanked the players for participating and the parents who brought the kids to and from the practices. Without them, there would have been no participation. He thanked everyone.

Mayor Hall called on Mr. Fountain.

Mr. Fountain introduced his son, Joe Joe, who was a Prowlers player. He appreciated everyone involved in helping all the things going on, and for everyone who gave time and donated so the team could have all the nice apparel they were wearing. He thanked the other coaches, whom he considered his brothers and friends. He could not do it without them. The previous

year when the Prowlers came to a meeting, he said he would be back. And now he was saying he would be back again the next year. They were building five stars. He thanked everyone.

Mayor Hall asked the City's new Planning and Economic Development Specialist and Main Street Administrator Ken White to come forward and join him for the next two presentations.

b. Recognition: The Vacuum and Sewing Center for 51 years in business

Mayor Hall asked business owner Davis Lee to join them at the podium.

Mayor Hall said The Vacuum and Sewing Center on The Boulevard opened 51 years ago on November 8, 1971. Mr. Lee started the business at 248 The Boulevard and had outgrown that space within a couple of years. He then relocated to his current location of 226 The Boulevard. The business was not only retail, including a large selection of fabric and machine parts, but also serviced all types of sewing and vacuum equipment. Mr. Lee opened on The Boulevard at a time when it was a bustling street and he looked forward to it regaining its vibrancy. We are so glad The Vacuum and Sewing Center are still a fixture on that street and congratulate the business and Mr. Lee on an incredible 51 years of business. He presented Mr. Lee with a plaque from Eden City Council.

Mr. Lee said he did appreciate the recognition. He appreciated his neighbors from The Boulevard – Kendra and Connie – who were both there in support. He noted some of his daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren were in attendance. Fifty-one years felt like it was yesterday sometimes. When he started his business, The Boulevard was full, every building was full. It was coming back. He asked that people bear with them, it was going to get there. He appreciated the recognition and thanked Council.

c. Recognition: Quality Cleaners for 75 years in business

Mayor Hall called owners J.T. and Doris Hale forward. He said Quality Cleaners opened 75 years ago on December 27, 1947 at its current location of 712 Church Street. It was started by Jessie Hale who stepped down in 1986. Jessie's son and daughter, J.T. and Susan, then operated the dry cleaners until Susan moved out of the area. J.T. and his wife Doris now ran the dry cleaners which offered full services including sewing and wash and fold laundry. The business was open six days a week and offered same-day service. We want to congratulate Quality Cleaners and the Hale family on this incredible milestone of 75 years in business. He presented the Hales with a plaque from Eden City Council.

Ms. Hale said the other two sisters could not make it that night, but Melinda was there as well as the staff of the dry cleaners and she and Mr. Hale could not do it without them. She thanked everyone.

d. Proclamation: Year of the Trail

Mayor Hall called Mr. Vernon, Marketing and Special Events Manager Cindy Adams and Anna Wheeler of the Dan River Basin Association forward to the podium. He noted there were several celebrations planned for 2023. The North Carolina Year of the Trail celebration in Eden would be April 21-23. It would include a kickoff, hikes and walks all over Eden and the county, an Uptown Eden street celebration and more, a chainsaw public art installation on Freedom Park Nature Trail, the 20th annual RiverFest, guided night hikes under a full moon and signage, so everyone should stay tuned for more information about Eden and statewide. Eden was one of 11 cities in North Carolina designated as a Trail Town in 2023. He read the proclamation.

Ms. Wheeler thanked Ms. Adams, Mr. Vernon and City Council for all they did for the trails in the City of Eden and the area. The Dan River Basin Association's first Year of the Trail event would be at Matrimony Creek on January 7 at 10 a.m. so they were starting off in the City of Eden. She was thankful for the City and their commitment to trails and protecting the beautiful region.

Mayor Hall said there should be some exciting events coming up in the year.

PROCLAMATION: Year of the Trail 2023

WHEREAS, the Governor of North Carolina has proclaimed that 2023 is “The Year of the Trail” in our state, with North Carolina already known as the “Great Trails State” and expressing that our state’s natural beauty is important to our citizens’ overall health, quality of life and contributes economically to the state; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Eden and Rockingham County, along with all 100 counties of North Carolina, will host events to highlight the benefits of our trails for recreation and tourism, and will promote greenways and hiking, biking and paddling, with this being the largest statewide celebration of trails and outdoor recreation in our state’s history; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Eden is home to six trails and four river access points that will support the Year of the Trail and contribute to showcasing the City’s natural beauty and diversity; and,

WHEREAS, other objectives of the Year of the Trail are the creation of new trails, increasing outdoor recreation and tourism across our county and state, and promoting safe and responsible use of our trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, in honor and appreciation of the invaluable benefit that trails and outdoor recreation afford the residents of the City of Eden, the Eden City Council proclaims 2023 as the Year of the Trail in the City of Eden, and encourages community involvement in activities celebrating Eden’s natural beauty and resources.

This the 20th day of December, 2022.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

e. Proclamation: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mayor Hall read the proclamation.

Proclamation: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

WHEREAS, January 16 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 16, 2023 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 20th day of December, 2022.

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Mayor Hall wanted to give a word of appreciation for Council Member Phil Hunnicutt, who was no longer on Council but had served on Council for more than three years. He brought a wealth of economic development and industrial knowledge to Council. Council appreciated his leadership and service to the City and wished him well.

SET MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Hall noted an item needed to be added to the consent agenda: approval to accept bid for Junction Pump Station rehabilitation. It was brought before Council by Special Projects Manager Terry Shelton to accept the low bid. Information had been at Council's chairs. It was a time sensitive issue and that was why it was added and not put off until the following month.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to set the meeting agenda. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. (1) Consideration of an ordinance to adopt a zoning map amendment to rezone a 2.8-acre property on Main Street from Residential Agriculture to Light Industrial. Zoning Case Z-22-08.
- (2) Consideration to adopt a resolution of a statement of consistency regarding the proposed map amendment.

Planning and Community Development Director Kelly Stultz wrote in a memo: The City has received a zoning map amendment request filed by Mark Frederick, Agent for the property owner, Nestle Purina Petcare Company, to rezone a property of 2.8 acres on Main Street in the Draper area. The request is to rezone the property from Residential Agriculture to Light Industrial. The Planning and Community Development Department recommends approval of the map amendment request. At a regular meeting in November, the Planning Board voted to recommend that the City Council approve this request.



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

Ms. Stultz said an application had been received from Attorney Mark Frederick of Parker, Poe and Adams to represent Nestle-Purina on a rezoning. As all of Council knew, for many years the property that Nestle-Purina owned had been in single ownership since it was the Nelson Farm. There was one parcel on Main Street that was zoned differently than the rest of the property. When the Unified Development Ordinance was done in 2020-2021, the property was kept as Residential-Agricultural but it was necessary for the company and some of the corporate issues that all the property have the same map

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district. Both she and the Planning Board recommended the property be rezoned as Light Industrial, the same as the rest of the property. They did find it was consistent with the land use plan.

Council Member Ellis asked if everyone on the Planning Board was in favor.

Ms. Stultz replied yes.

Mayor Hall wanted to verify that there was no resistance by the neighbors.

Ms. Stultz said there was none and it had been posted.

As there were no further questions or discussion and no one came forward to speak in favor or opposition, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Ellis to adopt an ordinance for a zoning map amendment to rezone a 2.8-acre property on Main Street from Residential Agriculture to Light Industrial and to adopt a resolution of a statement of consistency regarding the proposed map amendment. Council Member Kirkman seconded the motion.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING 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, the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Eden is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1 - Change from Residential Agricultural to Light Industrial the following property:

Being a lot 150 feet x 800 feet on the west side of Main Street which contains approximately 2.8 acres and is identified by the Rockingham County Tax Department as PIN 7091-00-41-9281 and Parcel No. 112699.

Section 2 - The Official Zoning Map of the City of Eden is hereby amended to conform with this Ordinance.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 20th day of December, 2022.

CITY OF EDEN

By: Neville 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-22-08 MAP 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 which included a Future Land Use Map. 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 received a request to rezone 2.8 acres located on Main Street in the Draper area from Residential Agricultural District (RA) to Light Industrial District (LI).

WHEREAS, On November 22, 2022, the City of Eden Planning Board voted to recommend to the Eden City Council that the rezoning request be approved.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

The LI District is intended to accommodate externally benign industrial and office uses that pose little nuisance to adjacent residential areas.

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 20th day of December, 2022.

CITY OF EDEN

By: Neville Hall, Mayor

Attest: Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

- b. Consideration of a program amendment to the City's 2018 Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization program.

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

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: The City of Eden was granted \$750,000 for a grant to assist low to moderate income citizens with housing repairs in the Draper area. After the City discovered that Fire Station No. 2 needed extensive repairs, I reached out to the N.C. Department of Commerce to find out if they had funds that would help with the costs of these repairs which would be approximately \$400,000. A representative from the Department of Commerce has indicated that the funds are available and that they can add these funds to a grant in that area that we are already administering. Please approve the budget amendment request to add the additional funds to the CDBG-NR project. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ms. Stultz said everyone was aware of the Covid funds the City had received to help the low and moderate income residents with rental, housing and utilities during the time of the pandemic. Eden was unable, like nearly every city and county across the state, to spend the funds. The problem started when the City was given 10 days to send the application in, after which the City was notified of award about six weeks later. It was a year and a half before the City was allowed to start spending the money. Some of it had to do with state offices being closed down. It was a difficult situation everywhere and in fact, the City of Charlotte sent a bunch of money back. With that, she was having a conversation with the City's grant person about the housing grant in Draper and at the time, she mentioned that there were issues with Fire Station 2. She asked if any of the Covid funds could be used for the fire station and was told no. The grant person indicated there was a funding source for it and the City had moved along with that. The project had been bid out the first time following CDBG rules and there was only one bid. It was bid out the second time and by the time that rolled around, the deadline had passed for obligating the funds because there was a very narrow window. Since then, the grant person said there were funds in a different funding source so the City started over. The project was bid again and Cirrus Construction was the low bidder. The fire station's truck bays were now safe. All the repairs that had been made to it were fascinating but it would hold the trucks. Ms. Stultz had emailed the grant person to find out what the City needed to do to be reimbursed and Ms. Stultz was told there were hoops the City should have gone through that Ms. Stultz had not been told of. The project had to be paused. The good news

at that point was the contractor found a considerable amount of additional problems with the station. Some stairs on the east side of the building were removed and it was discovered the block that was originally put in was never waterproofed or sealed in any way, which explained how the water had been getting in all that time. The repairs would be extensive and the grant person had agreed to fund the City the additional amount of money in order to make the repairs. The first thing that needed to be done was the public hearing. She wanted to get it done as soon as possible because she knew Council, the citizens of Draper and staff wanted to see the station reopened and safe as quickly as possible. The City would have to rebid the project but would move forward to get it fixed. Currently, they were estimating it would cost about \$400,000 to get it fixed assuming no other issues were found. That was where they were with it. She hoped Council would approve the application being made.

Council Member Ellis asked what the original bid was.

Ms. Stultz advised staff estimated \$200,000 and the bid came in at \$174,000. There was now reason to believe there may be issues behind the paneling on the interior of the building.

Council Member asked if it would be gutted.

Ms. Stultz said it would.

Council Member Moore asked if the \$400,000 would be added to the existing grant.

Ms. Stultz said it would be a completely new grant but the City would get \$400,000. Staff thought it would take that much more to fix it.

Council Member Ellis asked when she thought the station would be open again.

Ms. Stultz said she was afraid to answer that question. It was being pushed as quickly as possible. There were some hoops the City had to jump through and the state shut down during the holidays. She would keep Council updated with where it was and how quickly they could get started again.

Council Member Kirkman questioned if it had to be rebid again.

Ms. Stultz advised it did.

As there were no further questions or discussion and no one came forward to speak in favor or opposition, Mayor Hall declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to approve the program amendment to the City's 2018 Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization program. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

No one signed up to speak.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: The following seats on the City Boards and Commissions are up for appointment or reappointment in 2023. When making appointments, please consider whether these persons have the time or the ability (for whatever reason) to attend regular meetings and participate in the activities of the board or commission.

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If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call. Ward 1 Councilman Moore: None to report; Ward 2 Councilman Nooe: Historic Preservation – Frank Reid (Term expired); Ward 3 Councilman Kirkman: None to report; Ward 4 Councilman Epps: Board of Adjustment – Doris Hale (Term expired); Community Appearance – Faye Shelton (Term expired); Ward 5 Councilman Underwood: None to report; Ward 6 Councilman Hunnicutt: Tree Board – Recommendation of appointing Melinda Collins; Ward 7 Councilman Ellis: Tree Board – Gina Ellis (Term expired); Mayor Hall: None to report; ETJ (Must be appointed by City Council and approved by County Commissioners): Board of Adjustment – David L. Everett (Term expired)

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said Council Member Epps wanted to nominate Rodger Denny to serve on the Board of Adjustment and Faye Shelton to continue on the Community Appearance Commission.

Council Member Nooe nominated Frank Reid to continue on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Council Member Ellis nominated Jim Ivie to serve on the Tree Board.

Mayor Hall said in the absence of the Ward 6 Council Member, he wanted to nominate Melinda Collins to fill the Tree Board seat.

Ms. Stultz agreed and said former Council Member Hunnicutt had intended to nominate her before his resignation.

Mayor Hall said he had a note that Mr. Hunnicutt and Ms. Collins had agreed to the seat.

Mayor Hall appointed Tom Barbour to continue on the ABC Board and Tommy Flynt to continue as ABC Board chair. He said he would have to get with the Council to divide the appointments to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee and Eden Downtown Development Incorporated.

Ms. Stultz said the term of David Everett, who was an ETJ member of the Board of Adjustment, had expired and Council would have to make a recommendation and send it to the county for approval.

Council Member Ellis asked if Mr. Everett wanted to continue.

Ms. Stultz advised he did.

Mayor Hall recommended Mr. Everett continue and the nomination should go to the county for approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirkman to approve the nominations. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mayoral appointments: (1) ABC Board (2) ABC Board Chair (3) Piedmont Triad Regional Council (4) Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee and (5) Eden Downtown Development Incorporated.

This item was discussed as above under Unfinished Business – a.

- b. Presentation of the Fair Housing Report for the Community Development Block Grant projects.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: One requirement of the N. C. Department of Commerce in administering Community Development Block Grants is to adopt a Fair Housing Plan. This plan includes quarterly activities that the City of Eden must do to help educate the citizens, lenders and realtors on Fair Housing laws and regulations. First Quarter of 2022 – The Fair Housing Complaint Procedure was posted on the City's website. Second Quarter of 2022 – Fair Housing brochures and posters were posted in City Hall on the wall as you enter the building and in the Planning and Community Development Department. Third Quarter of 2022 – Fair Housing brochures were mailed to all local lenders. Fourth Quarter of 2022 – A link to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council's website on Fair Housing was

placed on the City's website and this report is being made to you this month. If you have questions about these activities, please contact me.

Mayor Hall called on Ms. Stultz.

Ms. Stultz said there was a number of requirements the City had to continue to meet to be eligible for grant funding. That was certainly something they wanted to continue to do. Part of that was to prove the City had done a Fair Housing Plan and had done appropriate activities during every quarter of the year. She needed to read them all. She said in the first quarter, the Fair Housing Complaint Procedure was posted on the City's website. In the second quarter, Fair Housing brochures and posters were posted in City Hall on the wall as you enter the building and in the Planning and Community Development Department. In the third quarter of 2022, Fair Housing brochures were mailed to all local lenders. In the fourth quarter of 2022, a link to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council's website on Fair Housing was placed on the City's website and this report is being made to you this month.

Mayor Hall said she and staff had stayed right on task and he appreciated it. He asked City Attorney Erin Gilley if it required any action.

Ms. Gilley advised no.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

- a. Reports from staff.

Mayor Hall called on City Manager Jon Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall said he would be pleased to answer any questions but before he did, he wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He really appreciated being able to work with the Council and employees and he wanted to say Merry Christmas to everyone.

Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Mendenhall. He said there were copies available at the meeting, online and as always, in Eden's Own Journal. He encouraged attendees to get a copy and make note of what had been happening at City Hall.

City Manager's Report
December 2022
City Manager Jon Mendenhall

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Marketing & Communications Office CHRISTMAS PARADE THANK YOUS

We would like to thank the Eden Chamber of Commerce, Leaksville Night-Time Christmas Parade organizer, and O.T. Coleman, Draper Children's Christmas Parade organizer. They work very hard fielding hundreds of phone calls, preparing a line-up and then making sure everything runs smooth the day of the event. AWESOME JOB! We appreciate everything you both do to help create special Christmas memories for all of us. Another very special thanks goes out to Peggy Good. Ms. Good organized the Leaksville Night-Time Christmas Parade for 22 years and just this year passed her wisdom on to Sandra Meadows and the Eden Chamber to carry on a great Eden tradition. Thanks for all those years of hard work and love for the parade!

DRAPER TREE LIGHTNG THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the Draper Merchants Association, Tim & Diana Biggs, Santa and all the volunteers for a very special Draper Tree Lighting on November 29, where Leroy Young had the honor of lighting the new tree. The tree was beautiful, the hot chocolate and other treats were delicious and the Christmas spirit was amongst us. This event always has a sweet hometown Christmas feeling that brings the community together.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Division

Bridge Street: In November, the Bridge Street Recreation Center had 1341 visits by residents. The number of people using our facilities continues to increase. The Meals with Friends has over 20 people attending Mondays through Thursdays each week. The Seniors continue to have exercise classes, walking, pickleball, card games, shuffleboard and other activities several times each week. Meals On Wheels continues to operate out of our Nutrition Center Mondays through Fridays each week. We began our basketball practices and games will begin in December. Our center hours are: Monday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Mill Avenue: We had 2,045 visits to the Mill Avenue Center by residents that participated in our activities. Those attending walked the track, played pickup basketball, pickleball, cornhole or played on the playground. Our morning pickleball begins at 8:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the evening group now play on Wednesday and Sunday evenings when the gym is available. Women's Fall Volleyball is being played on Monday nights with eight teams participating. Basketball practices began for all age groups at Mill Avenue and the younger group moved to Bridge Street due the high number of participants. Our center hours are Monday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Freedom Park: As the weather gets colder and the days shorter, we have less visitors at the park. People are still coming out on the warmer sunny days and they continue walking in all kinds of weather. The dog park is still being utilized unless it's wet and raining. The basketball courts continue to be a popular place for our teenagers and young adults. Our bocce court and volleyball courts are there for anyone who would like to play on them. The batting cage is being used just about every afternoon. The shelters are not rented out during the colder months but we do have people using them for parties and reunions. The Concert in the Park/Cruise In are on hold until next April. We had one softball tournament in November.

Senior Citizens: We had 859 visits during the month of November. We had an average of 29 people per day take advantage of senior center programs. We had 131 people join in for cards and games, 163 in fitness and exercise, 39 in classes/workshops, 8 in nutrition, 8 in off-site excursions, 67 in socializing, 71 in special groups, 339 in sports and a total of 859 in total event sign ins. Bocce and shuffleboard continued through November. Regular scheduled classes continued for our walking group, pickleball though they have moved indoors due to the weather.

Youth Athletics: All three of our Prowlers football teams won their playoff championship game. Thanks go out to our cheerleaders for their support. Our awards will be presented on Sunday, December 11 at the Trinity Wesleyan Church Gym at 3:00 p.m. for those who would like to attend. Basketball practices are being held twice weekly for each age group. We will be playing an interlocking schedule with the Boys and Girls Club and games will begin in December.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

New Staff

We have welcomed two new staff members in November. Chase Lemons is our new Grants Administrator and Ken White is our Main Street Administrator.

Collections

Rockingham County Tax Department collected \$534.38

Permits

Total Inspections: 187

Local Codes Sent: 14

Violations Abated: 13

Boards and Commissions

The Community Appearance Commission met for the month of November and discussed future project ideas.

The Historic Preservation Commission met for the month of November but did not have enough members present to establish a quorum.

The Tree Board met for the month of November but did not have enough members present to establish a quorum.

The Planning Board met for the month of November to review the rezoning case of a 2.8-acre parcel on Main Street in the Draper for Nestle Purina.

General

Our department has continued to advertise and sell the Christmas ornaments which were a project of the Community Appearance Commission and the Tale of Three Cities books that were a project of the Historic Preservation Commission. We plan to have a table at WinterFest sell both items.

Grants

CDBG-Draper: The Piedmont Triad Regional Council and Synterra have been visiting the houses and doing work write-ups for the renovations and radon, asbestos and lead-based paint results. The Fire Station #2 rehab is to be joined with this existing grant.

CDBG-CV: The next round of documentation cannot be filed until the deed is recorded and the City of Eden is the legal owner of this property.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tait radios consistent with the capital plan (\$292,722) have been received by the vendor (RCC) and are currently being programed. The portable units will be delivered and fielded December 7, 2022. The mobile units and the recording units should be installed by mid-January 2023.

Three FORD F-150 Police Responders have been ordered. There is a tentative build window of November 2022 thru February 2023. Two Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicles have been purchased and are in our possession. Brook's Public Safety will be completing the upfitting of these vehicles before the end of 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval and adoption of the (1) November 15, 2022 and (2) December 1, 2022 Council meeting minutes.
- b. Approval of the re-organization of Administration and Police Departments for 2023.

Organization Changes 2023

Request #1 - Create a part-time Assistant City Manager position; Request #2 - On-hold pending further study; Request #3 - dd 1 additional FTE in the Police Department, at the rank of Captain; A promotion process will take place so that functionally this is an added Patrol Officer as more than likely the Captain will be an internal hire allowing officer growth for existing officers. Add part-time Park Rangers to improve park system safety.

2023 Organization Changes

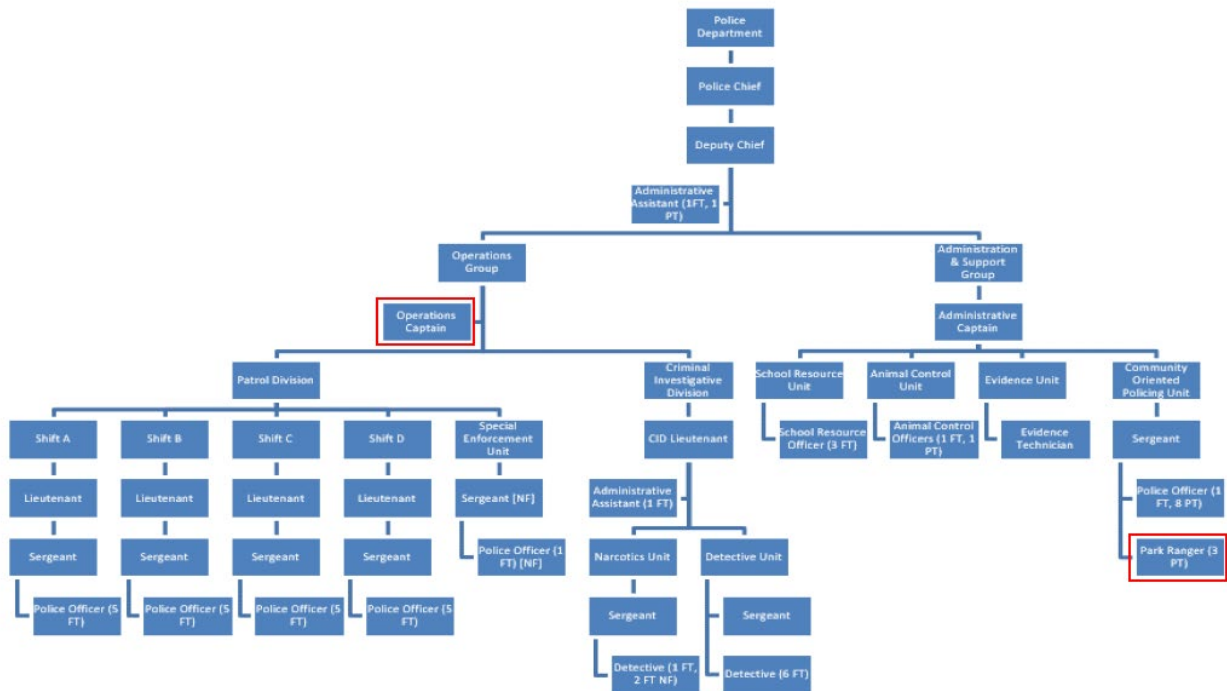
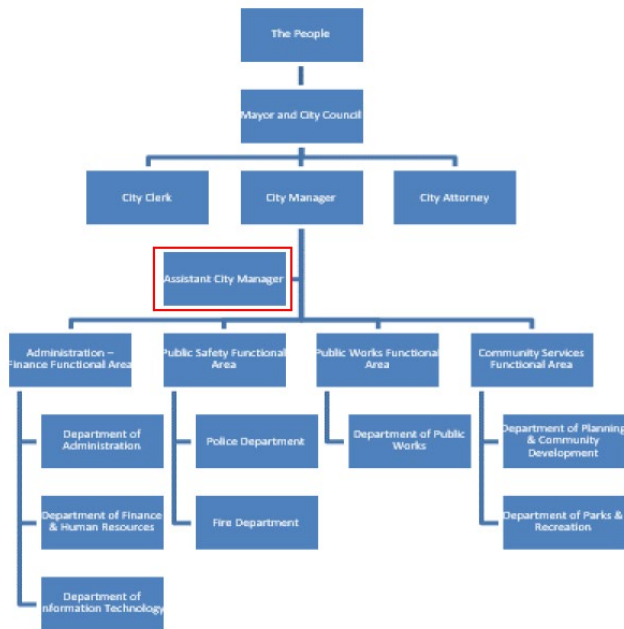
Fire Department Re-organization Cost Estimation	Annualized	6mos Est. Cost
Estimated Net	\$ -	\$ -

Police Department Re-organization Cost Estimation	Annualized	6mos Est. Cost
Promote to Captain	\$ (6,922.50)	\$ (3,461.25)
Promote a Lt	\$ (5,112.00)	\$ (2,556.00)
Promote a Sgt	\$ (4,260.00)	\$ (2,130.00)
Backfill Officer	\$ (64,485.75)	\$ -
Park Rangers	\$ (36,400.00)	\$ (18,200.00)
Estimated Net	\$ (117,180.25)	\$ (26,347.25)

City Administration Re-organization Cost Estimation	Annualized
PT ACM	\$ (50,000.00)
Supplemental ACM Budgeted	\$ 20,000.00
Estimated Net	\$ (30,000.00)

Estimated Total Cost of Re-org and Succession Planning	
Cost Starting July 1, 2023	\$ (147,180.25)

Notes:
 1. If large economic development prospects are realized and continued growth in fire tax revenue sharing with Draper VFD occurs, we'll start filling-out shifts in the Fire Dept., meaning that as fire revenue arrives we'll ask to increase head count.
 We would look to add firefighters to each shift (probably in increments of 3 or 1 per shift).
 2. Since law enforcement new trainees are below retirement replacement level it is doubtful that 100% staffing can be achieved. We are working on developing a workforce pipeline to address this.



c. Approval and adoption of an amendment to the City-County Utilities agreement.

Ms. Gilley wrote in a memo: City and County currently have a sewer contract that has been in place for 25 years. The Agreement provides that the City treats sewer for certain areas in the County. Rates are set forth in the Agreement. The Agreement was amended in 2016 to temporarily hold the rates in place. This Agreement is set to expire January of 2023. The City and County staffs have been negotiating an amendment for the past year and are very close to having the agreement ready for review by the respective Boards. We look forward to having this ready in less than 120 days. As such we are presenting the attached interim agreement that would expire in 120 days or until the agreement is finalized (whichever occurs first). We recommend that you adopt the Interim City County Utilities

Minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

Agreement so that we can proceed with the finalization. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A copy of the agreement is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

d. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #1.

Assistant Finance Director Amy Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment allocates proceeds from a Purina donation. The donation is for the purchase of K9 supplies for the Police Department. This amendment increases the Police Revenue and the Police K-9 line items.

Subject: Budget Amendment # 1				
	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Police Revenue	10-3431-41700	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,000.00	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Police K-9	10-4310-29500	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,500.00	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
Appropriates donation from Purina for Police K-9 expenditures.				
Adopted and effective this 20th day of December, 2022.				
Attest:				
_____ Deanna Hunt, City Clerk		_____ Neville Hall, Mayor		

e. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #2

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment allocates proceeds from a Purina grant. The grant is for the purchase of upgrades to the dog park at Freedom Park to include an agility course, entrance sign, benches, shade trees, and leash post. This amendment increases the Recreation Miscellaneous Revenue and the Recreation C/O Land Improvements line items.

Subject: Budget Amendment # 2				
	Account #	From	To	Amount
General Fund Revenues				
Recreation Miscellaneous Revenue	10-3612-86400	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 38,500.00	<u>\$ 22,500.00</u>
General Fund Expenditures				
Recreation C/O Land Improvements	10-6120-52000	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	<u>\$ 22,500.00</u>
Appropriates grant from Purina for upgrades to the dog park at Freedom Park.				
Adopted and effective this 20th day of December, 2022.				
Attest:				
_____ Deanna Hunt, City Clerk		_____ Neville Hall, Mayor		

f. Approval and adoption of Budget Amendment #3.

Ms. Winn wrote in a memo: The attached budget amendment appropriates Municipal Service District Tax fund balance for projects in the downtown areas. This amendment appropriates \$15,400 to the Leaksville District for Christmas decorations. These expenditures are approved by the merchants in each district.

Minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden:

Subject: Budget Amendment # 3		Account #	From	To	Amount
MSD Tax Fund Revenues					
MSD Tax Fund Balance Appropriated	17-3991-99100	\$	-	\$ 15,400.00	<u>\$ 15,400.00</u>
MSD Tax Fund Expenditures					
MSD Tax Expense - Leaksville	17-4150-29900	\$	8,600.00	\$ 24,000.00	<u>\$ 15,400.00</u>

Appropriates MSD tax fund balance for the purchase of Christmas decorations approved for the Leaksville district.

Adopted and effective this 20th day of December, 2022.

Attest

Deanna Hunt, City Clerk

Neville Hall, Mayor

g. Approval and adoption of an easement for the Draper Volunteer Fire Department.

Ms. Gilley wrote in a memo: City Staff was contacted by the Draper Rural Fire Department to request an easement and encroachment (92' x 20') from the City of Eden with regard to their property on 1422 Front Street which is adjacent to the City Fire Station #2. The property owners have plans to expand their building and need to have the ability to perform maintenance on the proposed expansion. A portion of this requested maintenance area will occur on the unopened right of way under the City's jurisdiction and a portion of it will be located on the actual parcel of Fire Station #2. One will need an encroachment agreement and the other will require an easement. Planning and Community Development staff as well as Public Works staff have been consulted and no downsides for the City have been identified. As such, Staff's recommendation is to authorize the maintenance of the proposed expansion and grant the requested encroachment and easement requests in assistance to the Draper Rural Fire Department. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.



h. Approval to initiate a zoning map amendment to rezone property at 1711 Mill Avenue.

Ms. Stultz wrote in a memo: We are asking the City Council to initiate a zoning map amendment to rezone a property located at 1711 Mill Avenue. For consideration to rezone the property from Open Space to Heavy Industrial.

i. Approval to accept bid for Junction Pump Station rehabilitation.

Special Projects Manager Terry Shelton wrote in a memo: The first bid opening for this project Contract 2b (Rehabilitation and Improvements to the Junction Pump Station) was September 8 and we did not receive three required bids to open the bids. A second bid opening was rescheduled for November 16 to allow additional time for contractors to prepare bids. The November 16 bid opening had two bids submitted and we were able to open bids. The bids submitted were J. Cumby Construction bidding a total of \$5,734,000 and Kiewit Infrastructure South, Co., bidding \$5,771,567. The bids were very close with only \$37,567 of separation. The original engineering estimate that was prepared in early August of this year was for a total cost of \$3,796,479.80. The low bidder was \$1,937,520.20 more than the engineer's estimate. Like all contracts recently bid, this project also came in significantly higher than the estimates had predicted. WK Dickson's engineering staff have reviewed the bids checking for any errors or omissions and also entered into negotiations with the low bidder to see if the price could be reduced by making changes that would not affect the overall performance of the completed project. These bids have been under review for any cost-cutting measures possible and negotiation with the low bidder since November 16. The consulting engineer's recommendation letter for the award of this contract was forwarded to me late on December 15 and had been too late to place it on the agenda. Because this is a pump station, lots of the equipment that will be necessary for the renovation will have long lead times and the sooner we can give the contractor notice to proceed, the better to keep this project within our EPA timeframe. Due to the critical time factor to get this work done by December 2024, we wanted to bring this to Council on December 20, rather than wait until the January meeting. The staff requests that Council approve the low bid from J. Cumby Construction of \$5,734,000 that would be contingent upon the review and approval by the Division of Water Infrastructure. We have the necessary funding available for this project.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Ellis seconded the motion.

Council Member Kirkman recused himself from the vote on item 12g (approval and adoption of an easement for the Draper Volunteer Fire Department) due to a potential conflict of interest.

All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Hall congratulated staff on the events that had taken place throughout the winter. They were a huge success and included the parades and WinterFest at Grogan Park. All the events Ms. Adams organized were always good events. He asked Ms. Adams if she had any announcements.

Ms. Adams said there would be three new events in 2023 in addition to the events already planned.

Council Member Epps thanked everyone for the prayers, condolences and cards after the loss of his brother.

Council Member Underwood wished the citizens a Merry Christmas and a big thank you to the City employees for the jobs they did for the City because they provided the services the citizens received. He would like to go on record that Council needed to reach out to the City's employees and let them know they cared about them.

Council Member Ellis wanted to say Merry Christmas and noted the Morehead High School Band represented the City well across the state. The band was looking to another successful year with the new program the band director had brought to the City. He had brought a number of new students into the program. He wished all a Merry Christmas, including the upstanding community of Rockingham County and to the City's employees. He thanked those employees who had to work during the holiday season and noted he was happy with everything they did for the City as a whole.

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