



CITY OF
ELIZABETH CITY
HARBOR OF HOSPITALITY *North Carolina*

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
REF: City Manager's Weekly FYI ~ May 8, 2020
COPY: Email Distribution

1. As you may have heard, Governor Cooper's Phase I re-opening plan for the State of North Carolina goes into effect at 5:00 p.m. today. City staff has reviewed what's included in the Governor's plan and has determined our existing operations will remain as they have been for the last six weeks. The Senior Citizens' Center will remain closed, along with the Knobbs Creek Recreational facility. Access to City Hall / Midgett Building will remain by appointment only; and the lobby of the Police Station will remain closed. The Griffin Street utility satellite office will also remain closed. All City parks will remain open; however, basketball courts, the skate park, playgrounds / tot lots, and tennis courts must remain closed, pursuant to the Governor's work plan. In addition, Mariners' Wharf docks are closed to boaters; however, you can still launch your boat from Waterfront Park. As was the case with our last few meetings, the May 11th City Council meeting will be closed to the public; however, citizen input is valued. Any public comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at aonley@cityofec.com by 6:45 p.m. on Monday evening. Please be sure to include your name and address. The meeting will stream on Channel 11, as well as the City's website at <http://www.cityofec.com>. The Mayor has determined that all members of the City Council and any staff members present in Council Chambers must wear a mask to ensure safety protocols.
2. The City received our Workers' Compensation proposal from the North Carolina Interlocal Risk Management Agency. The City's proposal was based on a total payroll of \$13,251,800. This year, the good news was that our modifier was lowered from 1.30 to 1.180. The modifier is a three-year running average of claims paid. The reduction in the modifier saved the City \$38,601.70. Since all of our insurances are through the North Carolina League of Municipalities, we received a 5% discount. Our premium for FY 2020-2021 is estimated at \$328,541.45. At the end of the year, the League will audit our payroll numbers and make a final

adjustment to our bill. The City has received a refund from the League for the last three years.

3. Walking in Elizabeth City should always be easy, enjoyable, and safe, and we could use your help to make that happen! City residents are invited to take a short survey about the City's pedestrian infrastructure -- and how to improve it. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/WalkEC> to access the survey and learn more about "WalkEC"; the survey is also accessible through "News & Announcements" at www.cityofec.com. WalkEC is the new name for the City's in-development Pedestrian Master Plan. The plan is a partnership of the NC Department of Transportation, consulting firm Kimley-Horn, and City staff. It will include not only an assessment of the City's sidewalks, crossings and other pedestrian infrastructure, but will also include the projects most-needed to make Elizabeth City fully pedestrian-friendly. We need your survey input to help identify and prioritize those projects. The survey takes only a few minutes; please take it, and be sure to share the link with other City residents!"
4. On March 21, 2020, The Elizabeth City Police Department received an award letter from National PAL to serve 21 youth in the amount of \$18,900 with no match. We are proud to announce this is our 4th year receiving this grant. Through the National PAL Mentoring Grant, we focus on positive youth development activities, social support, and academic achievement with hi-risk youth in our community. The grant period is March 1, 2020-March 1, 2021.
5. On May 6th, the Pasquotank, Camden and Elizabeth City Control Group met. Most of the Control Group's time was spent on the developing situation at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation where a COVID-19 "hot spot" has developed. Based on the most recent information, this facility is responsible for 46 lab confirmed positive cases. These positive cases involve 33 residents and 13 staff members. Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation is working along with Albemarle Regional Health Services in an effort to monitor and contain the situation. We've also been able to determine that two out of the three deaths in Pasquotank County are directly related to that facility.
6. This past Tuesday, our Planning Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting to consider and make recommendations for the proposed text amendment to the Halstead Extension Overlay District. During this meeting, staff read comments into the record that were received from property owners and developers in the Halstead Overlay District. Considering the comments received and staff's recommendation, this case has been tabled until the next regular Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Staff will be notifying all properties owners within this district about the meeting date and

instructions on how to submit comments to the Planning Commission for consideration. A few items that are proposed to be changed in this text amendment include a reduction in the amount of landscaping required; pedestrian walkway requirements in parking lots; and clarity of language and definitions throughout the ordinance. Unless there are major changes with the State's recommendation for social distancing, the next Planning Commission meeting will be closed to the public. Staff will receive public comments electronically until June 1st at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of the proposed text amendment document or have comments that you would like to submit for consideration, please contact our Community Development Department at (252)337-6672 or planneroftheday@cityofec.com.

7. This week our Planning Division received a site plan on behalf of River City Community Development Corporation (RCCDG) for the redevelopment of the old Sonic site located at 307 West Ehringhaus. The proposal is for the construction of a 3,000 square foot building that will be developed into vocational classrooms for the Northeast, North Carolina Trades Training Centre. The Youth Building program provides an opportunity for young adults to reclaim their education, work on skills that are needed for employment, and provides tools on how to be leaders in their communities.

8. On Thursday, members of the Elizabeth City Police Department partnered with IHOP of Elizabeth City to deliver breakfast to area businesses. Meals were delivered to Wal-Mart, Lowes, all Food Lion's within Elizabeth City, all city Dollar General stores, Pasquotank County ABC, Harbor Freight, Hobby Lobby, Tidal



Wave Car Wash, Aldi's, 7-11, Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department, Sentara Family Medicine Physicians, Coastal Pediatrics, Pasquotank County 911/Central Communications Center, North Carolina License Plate Agency, Elizabeth City Fire Department, Camden county Sheriff's Department, Pasquotank County Department of Social Services, and Pasquotank County Emergency Management. Over 600 meals were delivered in our area. It was our honor to serve those who collaborate with us in the community during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City will meet in Regular Session on Monday, May 11, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the municipal building at 306 East Colonial Avenue. Due to the Governor's Executive Order, only the Council will be allowed in Chambers; the meeting will not be open to the public. The meeting will stream on Channel 11 and the City's website. Public comments are welcome – please submit them to the City Clerk at aonley@cityofec.com to be read into the record.

There will be a mini version of the Downtown Market opening up tomorrow Saturday, May 9th at Mariners' Wharf Park. The market will run from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Vendors on hand will have fresh produce, pork, breads, sauces, homemade dog treats, fresh local honey, and treats for Mother's Day. Check out the Downtown Market Facebook page for a complete listing of vendors and products to be sold. Hope to see you there!