



CITY OF  
**ELIZABETH CITY**  
HARBOR OF HOSPITALITY *North Carolina*

**TO:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** City of Elizabeth City  
**REF:** Elizabeth City's Weekly FYI ~ September 11, 2020  
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**Administration**

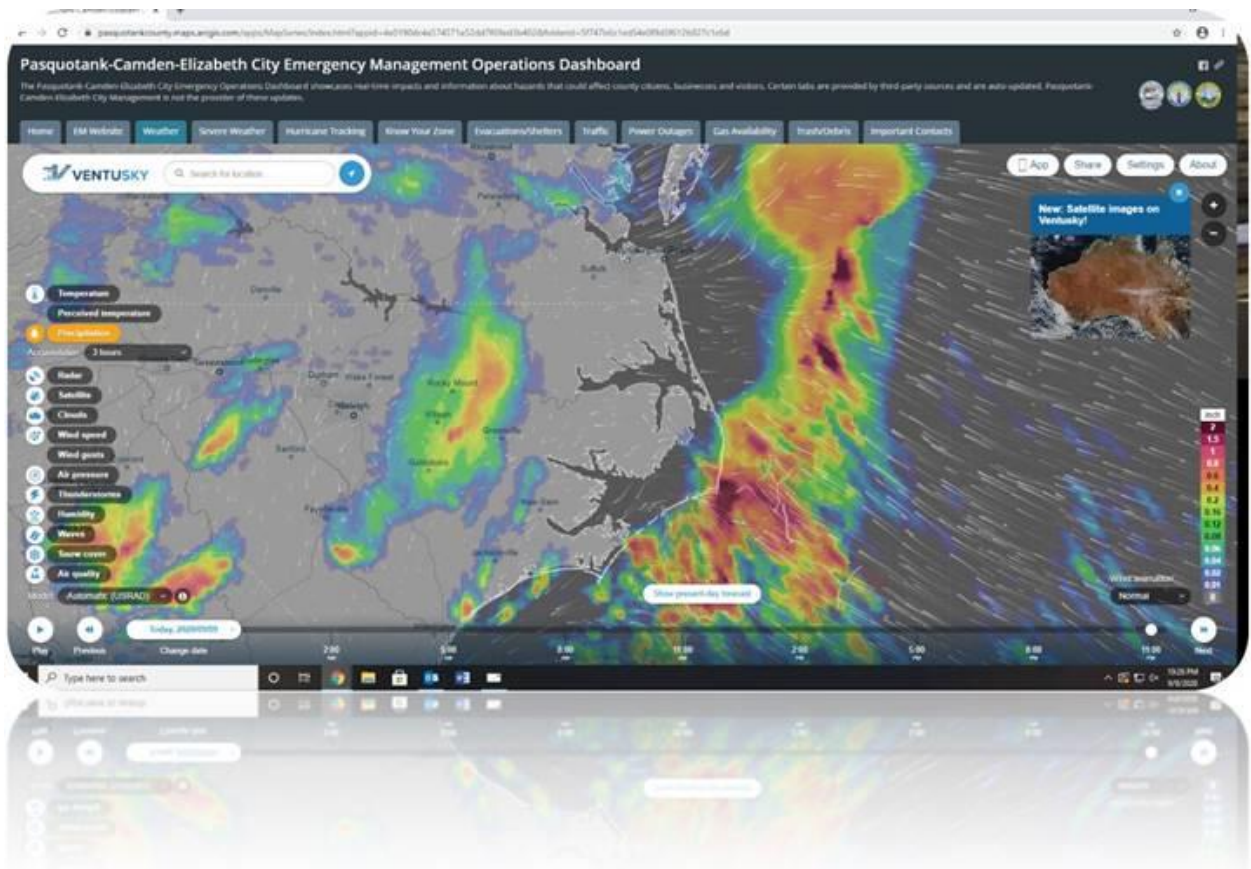
On Wednesday, Assistant City Manager Angela Judge attended the virtual North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) Rate Committee meeting. The Rate Committee reviewed the 2019 Full Requirements Power Purchase Agreement (FRPPA) True-up and preliminary rate path projections. The Committee received recommendation to amend Rider No. 1 allowing the ability to bypass the monthly administration of the charge or credit and instead allow for the option to administer the charge or credit in a single amount to the member utility; and to direct the 2019 FRPPA True-up credit. The Rider No. 1 was established to allow NCEMPA to pass on to member utilities the FRPPA true-up of prior calendar year capacity rates, Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) costs, and energy rates. The rider is traditionally spread out over a 12-month period, from October to September. The recommended revision to the rider includes a provision to allow for suspension and reinstatement at any time. Suspension of the rider was proposed to retain the cash as Agency working capital. Since 2015, the Duke Energy Progress (DEP) FRPPA true-ups have been suspended for three of the past four years, again, reserved as working capital. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the NCEMPA Board of Commissioners the single charge/credit application and to implement Rider No. 1 in a single amount applied in October for the September Wholesale Bill. If supported by the Commissioners and accepted by the Electricities Board of Directors, the Rider No. 1 based on 2019 FRPPA true-up will be a credit to all members. Elizabeth City is projected to receive a monthly credit of \$30,929 or \$371,154 as the annual total; this represents 1.7% of NCEMPA annual charges to be applied to billing period October 2020 through September 2021. The

Committee also received a presentation discussing the preliminary NCEMPA rate path projection. The projections reflect DEP's September FRPPA rate projections, and will serve as the basis for the NCEMPA 2021 Budget. The final projections will be refined at the January 2021 Rate Committee Meeting, reflecting final DEP December 2020 rate projections and actual operation costs. Members will learn the decision of the Rider No. 1 and the FRPPA True-up credit following the late-September Board meeting.

Also this week, Assistant City Manager Judge attended two virtual forums offering information and guidance on topics affecting our city and region. The first session was the North Carolina League of Municipalities Advancing Advocacy Webinar Series, a weekly 30-minute virtual information session hosted by NCLM's Public & Government Affairs team. This week's session reviewed the [2020 End of Session Legislative Overview](#) released at the end of August, which included discussion of the reduced Fiscal Year 2020-21 Powell Bill appropriation, Coronavirus Relief Funds additions and revisions, unified planning and zoning regulations, local regulation for automated delivery devices, and changes to the law dealing with system development fees affecting the timing of some fee payments. The overview is available on the NCLM's website. Technical staff will continue to track and implement City policy changes resulting from the new legislation. The second session publicized by the Albemarle Commission, featured a panel of speakers discussing the impacts of COVID-19 and the influence of the health insurance coverage gap in eastern North Carolina. Panelists included Jason Gray, Senior Fellow with the NC Rural Center and Anna James, Senior Vice President of Sentara Healthcare Public Policy & Government Relations. The hour and a half session advised that a substantial number of citizens in eastern North Carolina find themselves without medical coverage and that the quality of health in rural areas has a direct correlation to the economic vitality of our communities. The panel of experts recommend local government and community leaders support proposed State legislation that would open up affordable health coverage for nearly 750,000 North Carolinians.

Pasquotank-Camden-Elizabeth City Emergency Management is introducing a web-based Operations Dashboard. [Click here](#) to view the dashboard and save to your browser favorites for quick reference. The virtual panel showcases real-time impacts and information about hazards that could affect area citizens, businesses and visitors. Certain data are provided by third-party sources and are auto-updated, but intended to provide information relevant to our community. This Dashboard provides a

direct link to the PCEC Emergency Management website, and also features current and severe weather information, hurricane tracking, Know Your Zone (with address look-up), evacuation and shelter information, traffic and road closure updates, power outage, motor vehicle fuel availability, public sanitation and debris pick-up schedules, and important agency contact information. The website is user friendly to any PC, tablet, or mobile device. Citizens, business owners and employees, and independent servicers to the Elizabeth City area are encouraged to use this site, which will serve as an extension of existing Emergency Management media outlets.



Earlier today, Interim City Manager Eddie Buffaloe, Assistant City Manager Angela Judge, and Parks & Recreation staff met with Mid-Atlantic Christian University President John Maurice and members of the university's athletic staff to discuss future use of the Armory, and potential sites for MACU

athletics events, namely baseball and soccer. Additionally, the group conversation included expansion sites for learning and basketball recreation. The City has maintained a positive relationship with MACU staff and program leadership in recent years, allowing use of the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center facilities, including Holmes Field and the Par 3 Golf Course. The field is used for baseball and has served as the home field for MACU, Elizabeth City State University, and College of the Albemarle baseball teams, as well as, the EICiPaCa 13 & over Little League Baseball teams and Adult Baseball teams. Holmes Field is located behind Center along the Knobbs Creek. The nine-hole golf course has been a long-time gem of the Center, hosting youth and adult golfers, and nighttime "glow ball" games at rates affordable to the entire community. The group has tasked itself with working collectively to improve our existing baseball field, agreeing to begin a community dialogue on regulation-compliant playing fields accessible to the entire community. President Maurice opened the meeting expressing gratitude and accolade to Elizabeth City Fire, Police and Electric department personnel in light of the recent property loss experienced on its campus, the emergency response provided and orchestrated by the City and our partners.

### **Community Development Department**

Director Thompson is implementing a new method of code enforcement routes divided by the days of the week for each code enforcement officer. The intent is to narrow the route areas to encourage a more thorough focus on the officer's parole areas, which will save time and will result in a more detailed focus of violations. The officer will patrol the area by the corresponding day of the week. If the officer receives a complaint, he or she will investigate the complaint on the corresponding day of that address scheduled in the week's route. The same methods will be utilized for re-inspections of active cases, the day that the address or case falls on will be re-inspected for that case. Blue areas represent Officer Rich and orange/red areas represent Officer Williams. The routes have been published on our GIS maps under City Overview and check code the box code enforcement route:

<https://data-ecity.opendata.arcgis.com/app/8d9c1bd7400442c8ab92929fb64d01d7>.

### **Elizabeth City Downtown Inc.**

Nothing to Report

## **Electrical Department**

During the last four weeks, City staff and our team of partners have accomplished a great deal of the progress with the Nexgrid smart meter deployment. Our contractor and Electric employees have surpassed over 4,000 meters successfully swapped among all four billing cycles. Elizabeth City Utility has nearly 11,000 residential customers; almost 37% of this category of customers have the new advanced two-way communication meters. Despite minor setbacks associated with weather conditions, delivery and installation of incorrect meter types, recent model changes by the meter manufacturer, load management switch issues, the need to strengthen device communications to and from outlying neighborhoods, and possible meter and communication equipment order delays, there are noteworthy project milestones. Our contract installer, NexGen, have added to their number of installers assigned to the project, allowing us to stay on course to our December 2020 completion deadline. City Data Processing initiated groundwork with utility billing vendor, Tyler Technologies, Inc., to begin commercial and key account meter swaps. Tyler and Nexgrid have started the customer portal file testing and website development, while ElectriCities project consultants monitor and audit daily installs for possible inaccuracies. Customers exchanged with the new Aclara-Nexgrid smart meter are realizing improved accuracy with their monthly readings, seamless billing and payment posting. For more project or meter information, citizens and customers may contact the Electric Division at (252) 337-3870.

## **Finance Department / Grants**

Nothing to Report

## **Fire Department**

This past Saturday, the Elizabeth City Fire Department responded to a structural collapse at Mid-Atlantic Christian University. Upon arrival, crews were advised that there were possibly two people inside the building at the time of the collapse. Due to the



amount of damage and uncertainty of the stability of the structure, crews called in mutual aid from the Chesapeake Fire Department and Virginia Beach Fire Department's Technical Rescue teams. These crews have special training in

building collapses and would have played a vital role in this incident if those reported missing were not located safely. Fortunately, no one was in the building and no one was injured. We also received assistance from South Camden Volunteer Fire Department, United States Coast Guard Fire Department, Pasquotank-Camden EMS, Elizabeth City Police Department, Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department, Camden Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management. In all, we had approximately 90 first responders on scene ready to go to work. We would like to extend our appreciation to those departments for their quick response and resources that they sent to us in a time of need.

### **Human Resources Department**

On Thursday, September 10th, the Risk Manager received the 2019 Annual NC Department of Labor Safety Awards via mail. The Banquet was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. N.C. Department of Labor's Safety Awards Program recognizes private and public firms throughout the state that achieve and maintain good safety records. This award is an incentive to continue to stimulate interest in accident prevention and to promote safety in the workplace. Annual safety awards are presented during ceremonies that take place each spring at 30 locations across North Carolina. To qualify for an annual safety award, a firm must: have no fatalities during the calendar year at the site or location for which the award was given and; have maintained an incidence rate at least 50% below the average for its particular industry group. The City of Elizabeth City received the Gold awards. The Gold Award is based on the DART rate, which includes cases of 0 days away from work, no restricted activity, or job transfer. Gold Awards Recipients were as follows:

#### ***First Year***

Waste Water Treatment Plant  
Streets  
Fire  
Finance

#### ***Tenth Consecutive Year***

Administration

#### ***Second Consecutive Year***

Parks and Recreation  
Inspections  
Fleet

#### ***Eleventh Consecutive Year***

Energy

#### ***Seventh Consecutive Year***

Human Resources  
Customer Service

#### ***Fifteenth Consecutive Year***

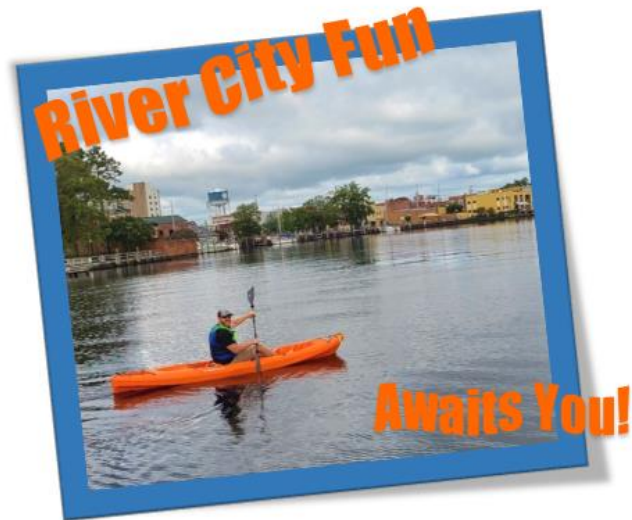
Planning

#### ***Eighth Consecutive Year***

Public Utilities Administration

**Parks & Recreation / Senior Center**

We are pleased to report last week, Interim City Manager Eddie Buffaloe executed a tenant agreement with River City Community Sailing (RCCS). The City initiated this agreement in keeping with the City Council's vision to offer youth, adult and senior living activities to our families, academic institutions, and wellness



partners. The agreement stipulates that RCCS will provide maritime programming to benefit residents of Elizabeth City; will develop the sailing and water safety skills of our youth; and will help to develop a sustainable sailing program for future participants. In the long term, the City and RCCS hope to jointly develop a positive connection with our downtown and our city that we can use for promotion and as a framework for future uses of the park and its facilities. To highlight from the three-month agreement, the will allow RCCS use of the park facility for storage and launch of sailing and rowing vessels and in turn the City will receive eight sailing and rowing scholarships for area youth. During this interim agreement RCCS will compensate the City one hundred dollars monthly. A longer term agreement is planned to be negotiated in January 2021 under the leadership of the permanent Director of Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Department of Parks & Recreation. Individuals interested in participating in fall season maritime programming should contact Recreation staff at (252) 335-1424.

**Police Department**

Nothing to Report

## **Public Utilities Department**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the initial WalkEC survey! WalkEC is the City's in-development Pedestrian Master Plan. This survey ran from May to July and asked the community about their values, obstacles, and ideas as they relate to walkability in Elizabeth City. With over 350 participants, the WalkEC team received 4,100+ data points and 650+ comments. This



data will help City staff develop recommendations for future projects and policies to make walking safe and fun for everyone. Go to [tinyurl.com/WalkEC](https://tinyurl.com/WalkEC) for a more detailed look at the public engagement results and learn what is next.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City will meet in Regular Session on Monday, September 14, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Due to the Governor's Executive Orders and the ongoing pandemic, this meeting will not be open to the public; however, it will be live streamed on the City's website at <http://www.cityofec.com> as well as on Channel 11. Any member of the public who wishes to have their comments heard by the Council may submit them to the City Clerk at <mailto:aonley@cityofec.com> to have them read into the record. The Clerk will accept comments until 6:45 p.m. on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to include your name and address.