

CITY OF EDEN, N.C.

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Monday, June 5, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 338 W. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:	Philip K. Price
Mayor Pro Tem:	John E. Grogan
Council Members:	Ronald H. Reynolds
	Ronald L. Janney
	Christine H. Myott
	Garry W. Tudor
	William W. Rorrer
	C. H. Gover, Sr.
City Manager:	Radford L. Thomas
City Attorney:	Charles J. Nooe
City Clerk:	Kim J. Scott
Representative from New Media:	Reid Baer, <u>The Daily News</u> , Leslie Brown, <u>Greensboro News &amp; Record</u>

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Price called the special meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He explained that the first of order of business was the consideration of an amendment to the May 16, 2000 minutes to adopt a Resolution Regarding a Lease Agreement for the Purpose of Procuring Breathing Equipment.

Consideration of an amendment to the May 16, 2000 minutes to adopt a Resolution Regarding a Lease Agreement for the Purpose of Procuring Breathing Equipment:

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Reynolds to approve the amendment to the May 16, 2000 minutes to adopt a Resolution Regarding a Lease Agreement for the Purpose of Procuring Breathing Equipment. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

Consideration of a request to replace a patrol car:

Mayor Price explained that they have the information and he asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Janney stated that he had a big question. He stated that he saw the information, but first of all, he had never received any information or been covered on any patrol car being wrecked. He stated that what little he had heard was through other people's conversations and he did not think that was the way they did business. He asked that if any of them could tell him more about that situation and explain it to him, and if there was more information that someone had that he did not have, then he wanted to know why they had it. He pointed out that the Council had not received anything on this vehicle except that they want to buy another one. He asked the other members of Council if they had received anything.

Council Member Reynolds commented that he did not have anything and Council Member Gover added that he had read about the accident in the local paper.

Council Member Janney stated that until they had more information about it, he thought they should wait.

Mayor Price agreed that they should have had the information in front of them, but they have a situation where they needed a patrol car.

Council Member Janney replied that he did not know if it they needed it.

Mayor Price stated that it would be for the Council to decide as they had an opportunity to buy one. He then opened up the floor for some additional discussion.

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Council Member Tudor asked if they had a patrol car that they did not need that they were using. He asked if when they wrecked that patrol car, was there a patrol car that they were using on daily basis that they did not need in the first place.

Mayor Price replied that it was used every day.

Council Member Tudor stated that now it was a total loss and they no longer had use of it. He pointed out that they either did need it or they did not need it before it was wrecked. He stated that if it was being used every day, he would assume as a Council Member or citizen, it was needed.

Mayor Price asked Chief Benthin to come forward.

Chief Benthin explained to Council Member Tudor that it was needed.

Council Member Gover commented that he had a copy of a computer readout where there were 62 vehicles charged to the Police Department and only 55 were being utilized.

Chief Benthin replied that they were four people short at the present time. They have two vacancies and two people out on long term disability injuries.

Council Member Gover questioned the 55 vehicles.

Chief Benthin replied that some of the vehicles were not assigned to people. They were special use vehicles and were not driven every day. He stated that they were vehicles such as the green truck that was only used for certain circumstances and the drug van, which was used for drug cover operations.

Council Member Gover pointed out that those vehicles were listed. The van and his other special vehicles were listed.

Chief Benthin stated that if he could tell him specifically which vehicles he was referring to, he could answer it.

Council Member Gover replied that he was going by numbers and he just had the opportunity to correct the numbers. He stated that of course it was showing two generators and if they knocked those off it would be a total of 60 vehicles and they were utilizing 55.

Chief Benthin explained that they have given up their spare vehicle. He stated that they have certain vehicles that were used for by the narcotics people, certain special use vehicles.

Council Member Gover asked the Chief how many vehicles they had.

Chief Benthin replied that he would have to go look at his list because he did not have it with him.

Mayor Price asked Chief Benthin, in his opinion, since he made this request if they did need it for normal patrol duties to which Chief Benthin replied they did.

Council Member Reynolds asked if the officer had been assigned another car since he wrecked this one or was he walking.

Chief Benthin replied that since they currently had four people out, that person was using another car, but actually that officer was out until just a few days ago.

Council Member Janney explained that his number one concern was some how or another they had to get the whole city to understand that they have procedures to go by. One of those procedures was that when something happens the Council needed to be covered on it, on the investigation and everything that happened. If the car was taken out of service, they needed to know when it was taken out of service and why. He stated that even when they got new vehicles

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they did not get covered on that. He stated that he had no idea where those other cars were. He stated that there was a lot to be said about what was going on there with lack of communication. He stated that his point was, if they want their equipment and they want to do their job; they better communicate. They better let him know what was going on because he was not up there making decisions in the blind. He stated that if he was the only one sitting up there voting against anything he was still going to vote, he was not going to make decisions in the blind. He stated that they should know that by now, and he added that he did not have a beef with the Chief, at all.

Mayor Price agreed with what he was saying, but when the Chief of Police stands before him and tells him he needed a car and had found a car, he would think that he had perfect justification for the car and he had in his memorandum to them that there were not many of those cars left at that price range. He stated that if they were going to make a decision tonight, by not making a decision, which was done if they did not make a decision, they may very well be walking themselves into a price increase.

Council Member Janney disagreed. He stated that he looked back several years ago on some of the information he had and this cars price was the same as those cars were priced back then.

Mayor Price stated that it was speculation but obviously they all...to which Council Member Janney stated it was a pretty good indication. Mayor Price continued by stating that they would have a higher price down the road.

Council Member Gover asked if the 1996 Ford totaled out on April 23, 2000 was numbered 83 to which Chief Benthin replied that he believed it was.

Chief Benthin explained that the three cars that they just received were cars that were ordered from last year's budget and they just got them a few months ago. The reason he was asking for it now was because if they wait; it would be next March before they could get another car to replace it. There was one left, a white one, left in the state of North Carolina.

Council Member Rorrer commented that if they received some information before they leave tonight, they could come back and vote. He stated that it might change his mind on voting for it, but he would not vote until he got some information. He stated that the only way he knew to get information was to shut the door.

Mayor Price asked what specific type of information was he was looking for.

Council Member Rorrer replied that he wanted the information that Council Member Janney was talking about. He wanted follow up on that car. He stated that he was not asking whether it was good or bad, he wanted to know what happened.

Mayor Price asked if that was all to which Council Member Rorrer replied that it was and it was not much. He added that he had already told him he wanted somewhere along the line.

Mayor Price asked Chief Benthin if he thought he could provide the information before the end of the night.

Council Member Rorrer commented that it was not the Chief's responsibility.

Mayor Price pointed out that he was the only one who would have time to do it.

Council Member Janney stated that he would make a motion, as he did not have a problem and Council Member Rorrer stated that he did not have a problem with getting it.

Council Member Myott asked if the Chief could not just tell them what happened to the car and what was the big secret.

Council Member Janney stated that there should have been an investigation into the whole thing and that should come with it. He stated that he did not know what they did before they got there,

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but that was the procedure when he was on the Council before, and he did not think it had changed.

Mayor Price asked what type of investigation.

Council Member Janney replied the investigation into the whole situation and everything that happened around this car being totaled.

Mayor Price asked if the Police Chief wanted to make a comment to the Council.

Chief Benthin explained that the accident was investigated by the State Highway Patrol and the officer was at fault. He stated that he had been written a letter of warning, failure in performance of duty. He added that as far as he knew the letter was forwarded to the accident committee and he did not know what happened to it after that.

Fire Chief Overby, chairman of the Accident & Safety Committee, commented that they still have not interviewed him. He stated that it would be reviewed at the next accident committee meeting.

Council Member Janney stated that he was not going to buy a car based on that.

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan seconded by Council Member Myott to approve the request for the patrol car.

Council Member Gover commented that the insurance was going to be \$12,000.

Mr. Thomas replied that was what they have already collected on the insurance.

Council Member Reynolds asked if it was going to cost the city \$8,000 more.

Mr. Thomas replied that it would, and they should be able to find that within the department budget and within the General Fund budget. He added that it would be about \$9,000.

Council Member Rorrer asked if the city wound up with the car or the insurance company to which Mr. Thomas replied the insurance company.

Action on the motion was as follows: Council Members Grogan, Myott and Tudor voted in favor of the request. Council Members Janney, Rorrer, Reynolds and Gover voted in opposition. This motion failed.

Consideration of paving the back of Fire Station 100:

Mayor Price explained that they have the information there as well as the bid that was submitted. He stated that the City Manager had indicated that by approving this they could take out this much from next year's budget, which had been approved, and carried over to next year.

Council Member Rorrer commented that it was a mess and needed fixing. He added that the request should have come in while they were doing street stuff.

Mr. Thomas explained that the low bidder was also the contractor doing their street work and they were probably able to get a better price because of that. He stated that it did present itself an opportunity to take this project out of next year's budget, not knowing whether they could get it approved this year or not, so that it would go ahead and encumber the money. It was included in the proposed budget so that it would give them an opportunity to cut about \$9,000 and probably more than that, closer to \$15,000 out of the proposed budget.

Council Member Janney stated that he noticed that Thompson-Arthur quoted \$6,530. He stated that the way it was put out, they added \$2,325 to the price above if they want an 8" thickness. He asked if that was what that was telling him to which Mr. Thomas replied in the affirmative.

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Council Member Janney continued in that the other bid was a light duty traffic using 6" of abc stone and 2" of asphalt topping for \$6,000. He asked the difference in those two bids. Why was the bid from Thompson-Arthur a better bid if they were ending up with basically the same thing.

Mayor Price asked Fire Chief Ronnie Overby to come forward for an explanation.

Chief Overby explained that he was going by Clark's bid of \$11,000 for the heavy duty.

Council Member Janney agreed, but if he read it right, it was reading about the same thing as what Thompson-Arthur had up there, for this \$6,000. She was going to \$8,000 and they were going to \$6,000, the bids were confusing.

Chief Overby replied that if Clark could do the same thing for \$6,000, then he would just as soon go with them. He stated that he did not care which one they get, he was just looking for the heavy duty...

Council Member Janney agreed, but he did not want to pay \$530 more. He asked if somebody could explain paving, he did not understand paving...

Mr. Nooe commented that based upon what Clark was asking for what was brought, that was not what he was asking them to approve so it was irrelevant.

Mr. Thomas explained that based on what was being recommended was the heavy duty pavement and when they consider that, one bid was \$11,000 and the other total bid was \$8,855. That would put APAC about 2,500 less than what the other bidder had submitted for the heavy duty asphalt. He stated that they were recommending that they go with the heavy duty asphalt because of the weight of the trucks and so forth when their tanks were full with water the heavy duty should hold up.

Council Member Janney replied that was okay, he just could not understand...to which Mr. Thomas explained that if they were going with the base bid, he was correct. APAC was \$530 more.

Mr. Nooe added that they were not bidding the same thing on heavy duty and the City Engineer should tell the Council that the lower price was as good as far as serviceability as the higher price. He stated that if they would look at what was bid on the Alton heavy duty design, they were not the same.

Mr. Stanley, the City's Engineer, commented that he had not seen the proposals.

Mr. Nooe pointed out that what each one was bidding on; they were not bidding on the same thing.

Council Member Rorrer asked if the City Engineer could look it over and bring it back tomorrow to which Mayor Price agreed that was a good idea.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Stanley to look at it and tomorrow give the Council some ideas to which he agreed.

Capital Outlay Requests:

Mayor Price continued in that they have allocated this time to talk about the capital outlay requests. He then opened the floor for comments about the capital outlay.

Mr. Nooe asked to be excused from the meeting to which he was.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Thomas if he had any preliminary comments to make on this.

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Mr. Thomas explained that what they had done as staff, in working on the budget, at their staff meeting they had discussed the need to try to make some changes in their Capital Outlay Requests to generate enough additional or surplus revenue so they could apply it towards implementing the Pay and Classification Study. He stated that he gave everyone the opportunity to provide him a list of things they felt could wait a year and were not at the top of their priority list. He stated that he had been compiling that and having some conversation with a few folks and the results of doing that was, the total in the budget was \$203,300 of savings; in the General Fund it was \$193,300. He stated that put them in pretty good shape and he still did not have the final numbers on it as he was continuing to have some review with Matt Reece on the Pay and Classification Study trying to work out some discrepancies that he found in a couple of places. He stated that got them in pretty good shape as far as being able to find some money that would work towards funding this Pay and Classification Study. He stated that he would like to go through the list and tell them what those items were that have already been taken out.

Council Member Rorrer asked if it was different from what he had.

Mr. Thomas explained that nothing that they have removed or cut had been taken off of that list. He just made numbers in the notations in the columns so he would know what they were.

Council Member Grogan asked if he could take \$203,000 off of that \$745,000 or \$602,000.

Mr. Thomas replied that the \$203,300 would come off the \$907,200. The \$602,700 he would take \$193,300 off of that. He added that might be give or take because he ran that total pretty quick, but he thought it was correct. He stated that he could tell them what those changes were and it might save some questions.

Administration:

He noted that first of all, under Administration, a replacement computer was removed.

Council Member Myott questioned what the computer was for.

Mr. Thomas replied that it was for his office. He stated that he was not talking about a new monitor or the whole thing, just a computer. He stated that it was one of the oldest and slowest in City Hall and would need to be upgraded at some point and time.

Finance Department:

He stated that the next item removed would be the \$15,000 for the small pickup truck for the meter readers. He added that they would leave in the regular size pickup truck for meter maintenance. He explained that their two vehicles were quite old and had been through a lot of repairs. He stated that they were basically rebuilt at about the time that he came to work for the city. He stated that they would like to go ahead and replace one of them this year and one next year.

He stated that the next item was the printer, in the Finance Department, for \$900 and that would come out. He continued that the next item on the list was the hand-held meter reading devices which were in the current year's budget; they have requested that those be replaced and have brought that to the Council. He stated that if that were to be approved in the current year, there would be an additional \$8,400 that they could take out for the 2000-2001 year. He asked that they take in mind that those devices were only so big about half the size of a regular shoe box. In a sense, those devices represent their cash register and they would want them to be accurate and up-to-date because the data that was entered into those things and how it handled that data, and how it was downloaded into the city's billing system, determine how accurate their bills were when they were generated. Those devices are ten years old and technology has continued to change. He stated that they have been improved and they have made some software changes in them, but they were showing some wear and age. He stated that again, they were in the current 1999-2000 budget, and if they go ahead and make that purchase out of this fiscal year, they could remove that \$8,400 if not it would need to stay in there so that they could be replaced next year.

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Council Member Rorrer asked if his total figure was showing it in or out to which Mr. Thomas replied that it was still in there.

Mr. Thomas continued with the next item to be removed and that was the toolboxes for the new truck, which would be \$500.

Police Department:

He stated that the next item removed was in the Police Department, which was the first item, the lighting for the pistol range, and that would be \$1000.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he did not want that taken out as he thought it was important to the training.

Mr. Thomas agreed that he could certainly leave it in there.

Council Member Rorrer asked if anyone else wanted to say something.

Council Member Grogan suggested that Mr. Thomas finish and then they could go back over it to which Council Member Rorrer agreed that he could do that too.

Mr. Thomas continued in that the next items would be \$800 to increase the pistol lanes.

Council Member Janney asked for an explanation and Mr. Thomas explained that it would be adding more lanes to make them longer.

Council Member Janney questioned if it was so more people could get on the line at one time.

Chief Benthin explained that they wanted to put more targets in the same area.

Council Member Janney asked if he wanted to take that out to which Mr. Thomas replied that he did.

Mr. Thomas continued with the next item, which would be the Suppressor-SMG, which was \$1500.

Council Member Myott questioned what that was to which Mr. Thomas replied that he thought it was a gun and Chief Benthin added that it was silencer for their SRT rifle.

Council Member Myott asked if that was for the SWAT team to which Mr. Thomas replied in the affirmative, it was the Special Response Team. Council Member Myott asked if they usually used silencers when they were on top of a building or something to take out targets to which someone responded just on TV.

Council Member Rorrer asked Chief Benthin why he would use a silencer.

Chief Benthin replied that there could be instances they would have to fire a shot and they did not want the people they were assaulting to know it.

Council Member Reynolds asked Mr. Thomas what 4310, 4745 and 49 were.

Mr. Thomas replied that it was continued replacement of their patrol cars. They have budgeted for five this year because of the extended life that we were getting out of the cars by having them individually assigned. He asked the Chief specifically why it was only three and not five as they had planned and it was that the cars were staying in such good shape that they only had to replace three in the coming year. He stated that they were trying to get on a cycle to where they replace three or five or so every year and that way they did not have to make a large purchase all at once, when they end up with cars that have a lot of high mileage and needing a lot of maintenance. He added that it was a good program if and if they could leave it worked into the

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budget from year to year, they would know they would always have a certain number of their fleet being cycled out and replaced. Those cars were now lasting six to eight years and where before they were getting about half of that life out of them.

Council Member Rorrer asked if they were not getting double the mileage.

Mr. Thomas replied that they were getting the same mileage but they were putting only half as many miles on the car in a year's time. Before, the cars were being run essentially 24 hours a day and now they only run 12 hours a day when they were operating. When the officers were on their four day break or whatever number day break that is; that car was sitting idle and it could get its maintenance performed on it at that time, but it was sitting and not getting any mileage at all.

Council Member Rorrer asked if the mileage was basically the same and Council Member Reynolds asked how many miles they patrolled a day and if they patrolled the areas they were in.

Mr. Thomas replied that unless they were called to assist in another zone, they were assigned to zones and that was the zone they patrol during the course of the day.

Council Member Reynolds asked if they stayed in that zone.

Mr. Thomas replied, not for the entire period, as he had said sometimes they were...to which Council Member Reynolds pointed out that in his neighborhood, he never saw a police car and that was why he was asking. He asked where they stayed and if they needed those three cars if they were not going to be in that area.

Mr. Thomas replied that he thought they needed the cars and as he had said earlier, there were times when they were requested to assist in other zones, it might be a traffic stop or some other incident, and they respond as they were requested or directed. He stated that in a 12 hour shift, they would not spend an entire 12 hours in that zone.

Council Member Reynolds questioned what if he got a call in his zone, and everybody was down on the east end of town, was that car not supposed to be in that zone, same thing with the east end or west end. And the dispatcher says "you go help so and so in zone D."

Mr. Thomas replied that he was not sure he fully understood what his concern was. If they have not been requested or told to respond to an incident in another zone then they should be in their zone during that time. If there was no reason for them to be assigned or respond to a call in another zone then that was where they should be, within that zone.

Council Member Reynolds noted that he needed to look into that to which Mr. Thomas replied that the Chief would look into it.

Chief Benthin commented that he could answer that right then. He explained that it was not at all reasonable. They have a certain number of cars, they have one assigned to every one of the four zones, and they have other cars they call roving cars. He explained that they sometimes get calls where they need three and four cars. They had to take them out of that zone for a while. He pointed out that just because a car was not in a zone did not mean a crime was going to occur. He stated that being in a zone had nothing to do with the crime rate, whatsoever. He stated that if they had more cars and more police officers; yes, they could keep someone in a zone all the time, but it was impossible and nobody did that in this country.

Council Member Reynolds asked him not to tell him that.

Chief Benthin replied that it was true. It is impossible...Council Member Reynolds insisted that he was getting complaints right now in his neighborhood where people have been broken into and he sat on his front porch and he never saw a police car go down Price Street.

Chief Benthin replied that people tell him that all the time. He stated that he had a man to tell him that and he saw two go behind him as he was talking over a five minute period. There were

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certain places that they know there was a lot crime and they concentrate their efforts where they know they were going to find that crime. He stated that if there was not going to be much crime, there was no need to have a car there, it was wasted.

Council Member Reynolds disagreed and stated that people were paying for that car to be in their neighborhood.

Chief Benthin replied that then they needed twice as many cops and cars.

Mayor Price interjected that they were trying to discuss the budget and should concentrate on the ideas of the budget and dollars and cents. He stated that they certainly feel like they could come back to this, but they needed to carry on until they get through this meeting.

Council Member Janney asked Council Member Reynolds if he wanted to come back to it to which Council Member Reynolds replied that he did.

Mr. Thomas continued with the police in car video camera, which would remain in the budget.

Council Member Janney asked how many of those they now had to which Mr. Thomas asked the Police Chief if they were at one or two per shift.

Chief Benthin replied that they have at least two per squad.

Council Member Gover asked if he had 15 cars with cameras on them and Council Member Rorrer commented that was what was showing on the paper. Council Member Gover asked how many they recommended buying at the beginning, at the start of this program.

Council Member Janney questioned if Mr. Thomas was going to leave them in or take them out to which Mr. Thomas replied they would stay in.

Council Member Gover asked how many more they needed to buy as they already had 15 assigned to 15 cars.

Chief Benthin replied that they would eventually need 32. He added that the city did not pay for all those, a lot of those they got through grants.

Council Member Gover asked if that goal was 32 to which Chief Benthin replied that was correct.

Mr. Thomas stated that the next item was the hand held crime scene video camera. He stated that cost would come out at \$600. The next item was a 35mm camera and would be \$500. He stated that the next item was a 35mm point and shot camera at a cost of \$100.

Mayor Price asked if he meant to leave the digital camera in there to which Mr. Thomas replied that he did.

He continued with the next item, which were radio speaker microphones at a cost of \$800, they would come out.

Council Member Janney asked if that was for the cars or the building to which Chief Benthin replied that it was for the hand-held radio attached to the collar so the officer could key his mike and talk with one hand.

Mr. Thomas stated that the next item to come out would be the Bearcat Programmable Scanner for \$1,100. The next item was a computer desk for the secretary, it was a replacement and he thought they could do that through their renovation project because they would need to acquire some new furniture. He stated that he had that same idea with the office and dispatch chairs.

Mr. Thomas stated that the next three items were listed as communications and were items that would be available with the purchase of the 911-surcharge money and the wireless money. He

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stated that if they took those items out of the budget, it did not free up any money that they could use for another purpose, so he had not taken those items out of the budget. He added that this was some communications equipment that they needed.

Council Member Rorrer asked if it would be put in the new station to which Mr. Thomas replied that was correct.

Council Member Janney stated that he thought that money was going to be set aside for everything pertaining to that building. He stated that if they did not do this with that money, the other money that was coming in, why would it not go under that \$1.6 million that they were going to do that building with.

Council Member Rorrer commented that it needed to go under this money, as that was all that money could be used for.

Council Member Janney agreed that they could not use that money for anything else.

Mr. Thomas stated that it had to be 911 communication related and Council Member Janney asked if he was taking this out.

Mr. Thomas replied no, and explained that again, his reason for that was even if they took that out; it did not free up money to use for other purposes in the General Fund.

Council Member Janney asked, for clarification, they had to keep a separate fund for that money.

Mr. Thomas explained that was why it was listed as communications and not under the Police Department.

Council Member Janney stated it was a different line item and everything but it was still in the General Fund to which Mr. Thomas replied in the affirmative. He explained that it showed as a department. The money was received and accounted for separately.

Council Member Gover asked if it was just the money on the surcharge or the state allocated money that went with that. Did that have anything to do with it.

Mr. Thomas replied that there was no grant money from the state or anything like that. This was just what the city collected through the surcharge and what was received from the wireless 911 money that was collected by the state and sent to them.

Council Member Gover stated that he thought the surcharge money was only the realm of \$50,000 to \$60,000 and not \$80,000.

Mr. Thomas replied that what the city would receive out of that would be about \$60,000 per year, but they also have the wireless money, which would be in addition to the regular 911 surcharge money. He explained that there was a fund for wireless 911 service, like being able to use their cell phone and dialing 911 and have someone able to respond to it, there was a fund set up and some charges that were placed on their cellular phone bills that goes into that statewide fund; and then it was allocated out on a per capita basis.

Council Member Gover asked in the statewide fund, if this money was coming in with this communication money to which Mr. Thomas replied that it was a combination of the 911 surcharge money, which was on their regular telephone bill and the money collected by the state for the wireless. That was where they got the total.

Fire Department:

He stated that the next items, under the Fire Department, if they could go ahead and pave the parking lot, they could remove the \$15,000, and the vinyl siding could be taken out for a year, so there was \$15,000.

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Council Member Rorrer asked if he was showing that as out to which Mr. Thomas replied that it was showing out at this point and time. He stated that the next item was listed under Engine Diagnostic AED Unit/Lawnmower and so forth. He explained that the Fire Chief had informed him of that \$20,000 that was in there; another \$10,000 could be taken from that \$20,000. He then asked Chief Overby what items he had left.

Chief Overby replied that the only two items that he wanted and thought they needed were; the AD to put on the fire truck for their firemen, which was \$3,800, and the maintenance man had requested the diagnostic for the fire truck.

Council Member Janney questioned why they needed another one as he thought the shop had one.

Chief Overby replied that what he was asking for was basic, when he said diagnostic, and what he assumed that he meant was different types of tools for working on the engine to do maintenance work. He stated that he had a price of \$2,000 for an assortment of tools. They do all of their maintenance work on fire trucks and the shop does emergency operations, but as far as overall maintenance, the Fire Department's maintenance man does all the maintenance work. They do a lot of in house work during the day on the trucks, minor things that they would have to call and make an appointment, and actually take the truck out of service (if they did not do it in house).

Mayor Price asked if the diagnostic machine was the same thing that the city garage had.

Chief Overby replied that he did not think he was asking for one of those big electronic machines to which Council Member Janney added that he was not for \$2,000.

Mayor Price asked if he was talking about a hand-held to which Chief Overby explained that it was only \$2,000 for an assortment of things he needed for example, a timing light and things like that.

There was some discussion regarding the total to which Mr. Thomas replied it was \$10,000. Council Member Janney pointed out that when he added those two together, \$3,800 and \$2,000 it was \$5,800.

Chief Overby stated that he would be happy if they would give him \$6,000.

Council Member Janney replied that they would give him \$5,800 because that was all he asked for.

Mayor Price noted that he did not have anything listed for sirens and if that was the emergency items.

Chief Overby replied that he had talked to the gentleman and they were in the process getting together how many sirens they would need. He stated that he would know something by Tuesday or Wednesday. He stated that South Boston had theirs done for about \$8,000 a siren.

Mayor Price commented that the county was no where near that expensive were they and Council Member Gover stated that it was about \$1,800 were they not.

Chief Overby replied that he was just going back what it would be for the works, new sirens, new pole, putting in new electrical work, South Boston put up 3 and they spent approximately \$1,600 to \$1,800.

Mayor Price asked if they thought that they needed to add this to...he stated that they have talked several times about emergency storm sirens, and he knew that it was premature, but he would certainly like for him to call Steve Hale (County Fire Marshall) to see what they were talking about, installation-wise so that Chief Overby could come back to the Council with a cost.

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Council Member Janney suggested that they talk with the County Manager. He asked that if they had a disaster in Rockingham County, who was going to head up that disaster. He asked if the County would be the people who were going to be the biggest part of that disaster program. He stated that he did not understand why they did not go to the County and ask for part of that money.

Mayor Price stated that was County General Fund money...to which Chief Overby replied that he did not know where it came from. He stated that he just knew that at the Fire Chief's meeting, he announced that it was going to be county placed sirens, not covering Eden, Madison-Mayodan, Stoneville...any municipality was not on the list.

Council Member Grogan stated that according to the newspaper there was not anything in the budget and the County asked for it and the Commissioners looked into it and put it in there.

Chief Overby stated that it was brought up to Council last year. They brought a guy in from Georgia and he said they would need five sirens. He stated that the gentleman had a heart attack and no longer worked there, and no one ever got back in touch. He stated that when he called, no one knew what he had done. He stated that at that time, someone had stated that the Council would look at funding it when they knew where it was going to be.

Council Member Janney and Council Member Rorrer both agreed that he was correct.

Council Member Gover stated that if he got in on what the County bought, they would get it cheaper.

Mayor Price asked the Chief if he would check into that with the County to which he agreed.

Mr. Thomas commented that the last item in the Fire Department, the Chief had informed him that he could wait a year before replacing the walkie-talkies that he had requested. That would be an additional \$4,000 that would come out.

Chief Overby added that the reason for that were the new radios. Whatever communications they end up going to at the Police Department may determine what they had to do next year.

Street Department:

Mr. Thomas continued with page 2, under the Street Department. He stated that they would try to do what they could to make it year with the motor grader that they have. He asked if they did get them up and running to which Mr. Sexton replied that they did have one running and the other was still broke down.

Mr. Thomas stated that one option would be, instead of budgeting the full \$100,000, would be to look at purchasing it over a three year period of time. They could do a lease purchase and budget about \$25,000 this year as a down payment and then finance it for three years and pay it off. He stated that they were not talking about a new motor grader for that price as a new one would be about \$200,000.

Council Member Gover commented that the two they have were a '65 and '67 so there was not much he would be able to do with those two motor graders, according to what was listed.

Council Member Myott asked Mr. Thomas if he was leaving in \$25,000.

Mr. Thomas replied that he took the full \$100,000 out. He explained that another approach to that would be to leave \$25,000 in as a down payment at this point and time.

Mayor Price referred to what Council Member Gover said, they were working with 30 year old equipment and the maintenance time, down time had to be higher in terms of not only in down time and not getting the job done but personnel time had to be high. He asked Council Member Gover for his thoughts on it from his experience.

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Council Member Gover replied that there was not anything they could do with a '65 and a '67, as they were not going to be able to get parts for it. He stated that if they were in dire need of a motor grader, they would have to scrap around and find more than \$25,000.

Mr. Thomas explained that he was saying that \$25,000 would be a down payment on a lease purchase.

Council Member Rorrer noted that currently he was showing it as out, to which Mr. Thomas replied that right now, he was showing the full amount as out.

Mayor Price suggested that they mark it and come back to it later.

Mr. Thomas stated that he had made some additional changes as well that, if they left \$25,000 in there, it would leave them pretty close or little less to the number that he gave them to start with. He added that with the changes the Fire Chief had presented their total would be up to \$211,500 in the General Fund alone.

Council Member Rorrer commented that there would be a lot more changes with it before it was over with anyway.

Council Member Janney asked Mr. Thomas if he was finished to which Mr. Thomas replied no.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he could not believe all of them was going to sit there and agree to all of that.

Council Member Grogan pointed out that Mr. Thomas was not finished and there was another page.

Council Member Gover asked about the replacement of the '77 street flusher and why they were not replacing that.

Mr. Sexton replied that the reason why they were not replacing it was because they have not run it in the last two, three or maybe four years. There had not been any indications that it was needed out there so he did not budget to replace it. He stated that they would continue with the sweeper and did away with the flushing program altogether.

Council Member Rorrer added that in the long run he would get just as many complaints on the flusher as he did compliments, especially when the weather changed and he had to decide whether to use it or not.

Mayor Price stated that he knew the problems they were having and they had talked about it, but on the East End they have had several requests for the flusher. He stated that just this past weekend he had somebody requesting it, regarding the truck work on Meadow Road.

Council Member Rorrer pointed out that was the contractors' responsibility, to clean that dirt off Meadow Road.

Mayor Price continued by asking Mr. Sexton if in his opinion had any other area of town asked for it.

Mr. Sexton replied yes, he had numerous requests for it in the downtown areas because debris and trash just did not have anywhere to go. It blows on the sidewalks; it blows back in the gutter and in the streets. He stated that a lot of the time streets did need flushing and sweeping and it had worked and was a good program. He stated that when they had the flusher; it would run ahead of the sweeper. He stated that they flushed everything off the road to the gutter and the sweeper would sweep it out of the gutter. He added that at the present time, they also did not have an operator. He stated that they just did not have the money in the budget for it, but if the Council wished, he could put it back, but they would definitely need an operator.

Mayor Price asked if the money would be better spent for the sweeper.

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Mr. Sexton replied that they were going to have to have a new sweeper next year. He stated that he had told the Council a couple of years ago that it would last about three or four years. He stated that they continue to have problems with it and parts were quickly wearing out. He stated that they were going to need a new sweeper within the next year or two and the money would be best spent on the sweeper.

Council Member Tudor commented that the merchants on Washington Street had requested that Washington Street be swept. He stated that the streets looked bad and they were concerned about the appearance of their area. He stated that he would hope there would be one for them to get that service done for them.

Mr. Sexton replied that he thought the money would be best spent on a sweeper in the next year's budget.

Council Member Gover stated he would like to ask Mr. Sexton to update his equipment sheet. He stated that from the sheet he received, it looked like they have a lot of obsolete equipment and if they were not using that equipment they need to do something with it. He noted that they have 88 pieces of equipment, which just says "vehicles".

Mr. Sexton agreed and stated that they need to have an auction. He stated that they have a lot of surplus and old worn out equipment and they need to get rid of it.

Council Member Gover stated that what he was really confused about was that they just approved \$160,000 to finance a sewer vac. He stated that when they got the new sewer vac they parked the other one. He stated that he was told that they needed two and they would keep the new one and the old one running to alleviate some of those problems with the floater that he said they would have.

Mr. Thomas explained that the additional person that they had was running the new one. Since a lot of that had taken place they have had two fewer employees in Collections and Distribution as a means of trying to cut cost and that had some effect on being able to run two similar pieces at the same time.

Council Member Gover stated that he told him that on the new one, he could run one man with it.

Mr. Sexton stated that he ran one man with it, but it was not a safe practice to do and they try to teach ...to which Council Member Gover stated he was not asking him to do something unsafe but he was going by what the City Manager was telling him.

Mr. Sexton replied that to answer his question about the sewer vac, he never in any way said they would run the two sewer vacs. He stated that he did not know where that came from but he did not have enough personnel to run the one full-time. He stated that he was only hitting the high spots. He added that it was like all other equipment, he had some dump trucks that have been on the dead line since they bought the new ones. He explained that they deadline them and did not use them and that was at the Council's wish. He stated that he had heard everyone of them say that when they get a new piece of equipment, they want the others taken off line and that was what they did.

Council Member Rorrer agreed that he would hear him "holler" first.

Mr. Sexton continued in that they take it off line and did not use that pieces of equipment until they have an auction or come up with a way of selling it.

Council Member Gover replied that he would not have asked that question if he had not been told different.

Mr. Sexton apologized and stated that he was pretty sure he did not hear that from him. He added that he would not have asked to buy the new piece of equipment if the other one would

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have done the job. He stated that the other was worn and would not do the job that the new one did.

Mr. Thomas stated that the next item was the snow plow. He stated that he was going to take that out for the year and hope they did not have snow. He stated that one thing they were leaving in under the Street Department was the structure or rack, etc., for salt spreaders and bins. He stated that the thought that was something they really needed and he wanted to make sure that stayed in there.

Council Member Janney asked if that was the item where he could load and unload those bins...to which Mr. Thomas replied that they just back under it.

Planning Department:

Mr. Thomas continued with Planning and stated that under computer equipment for GIS, they would take \$2,000. He stated that would leave \$3,000 in.

Recreation Department:

He stated that in Recreation, the John Deere 935 Mower, \$11,000 would be removed. Also, the platform lift for \$7,200 and the water fountains for the two ballparks at \$4,000.

Council Member Myott commented that they needed those water fountains. She asked if they had water fountains at those places.

Mr. Thomas replied that there was some assembly of a water fountain was already there.

Mr. Conner, Recreation Director, added that it was a pipe coming up through it. The ones would also be for handicapped capability. The ones already there have been there for about 20 years.

Council Member Rorrer commented that they must be good ones if they lasted 20 years.

Council Member Janney asked what he was going to use a goose neck trailer for.

Mr. Conner replied that it would be used for the new John Deere Tractor. He stated that they actually have one now that could carry two of their John Deere 935's on and one was completely worn out and not worth using.

Council Member Janney stated he thought he saw that trailer pulling some tractors this week to which Mr. Conner replied that he might have.

Council Member Rorrer stated that they pull them all the time and Council Member Gover asked what they pulled the gooseneck with.

Mr. Conner replied that they pulled it with the one ton flatbed.

Council Member Janney stated that he thought that they had a flatbed truck but he thought a trailer was hooked behind that truck.

Mr. Conner replied that it was, but it carried the John Deere tractors. He stated that this would be a gooseneck. The one they currently had, the turning radius was poor. It carried the tractors, so if they need the mowers taken one place and the 4600 taken some place; they would have to take one and leave the mowers off and come back and get it.

Mr. Thomas stated that would complete the General Fund.

Fleet Maintenance:

He asked them to turn to page 3, under Fleet Maintenance. He noted where it said upgrade fuel card reader and install the canopy, they could reduce that by \$10,000 to \$40,000, rather than the

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\$50,000 that was on the sheet. Mr. Thomas stated that was based upon what was provided to him by the Department Heads so they have a total change there of a little better than \$200,000.

Council Member Gover asked how many workbenches they were purchasing for \$1,500 to which Mr. Thomas replied four.

Council Member Janney asked when they would be finished putting up fences to which Mr. Thomas replied that they were through and there was no money there. They finished that last year and they put some money together and completed that job.

Council Member Janney questioned the new tire truck. He stated that he had not seen any information on it in his package and it might be in there, he stated that he would like to have all the information on it before they take it out of service and any other vehicle.

Council Member Rorrer stated that had been a standard policy for years.

Council Member Janney replied that it had not been followed lately, so if they need a piece of equipment that they were replacing then they needed to.

Mr. Thomas stated that in the General Fund, they were still considering the \$100,000 for the motor grader. It comes up to \$205,800, when they make the changes that they have made going along.

Water & Sewer:

He stated that there were no changes in Water & Sewer that he had recommended at this point and time. That included the chlorine pacing units, transfer pumps, polymer feed systems, new water lines, new sewer lines and a large number of the items that were necessary for the proper treatment of Water and Waste Water. They did wear out and have problems because of the corrosiveness of chlorine and some of the other chemicals that they use. They need to be properly maintained and replaced at the proper time.

Questions and Discussions from Council:

Council Member Gover questioned the chipping hammer and small mower and hydraulic jacks. He asked if one department did not borrow from one another. He noted that they have jackhammers and a '95 model saw in the Street Maintenance.

Mr. Thomas explained that the major item there was an apparatus that would mount on the back of a backhoe. This was a spike more or less and would be used to break up pavement. He noted that there were places where under the asphalt...to which Council Member Gover responded that he was familiar with that jack hammer rig, that was not what was said...

Mr. Sexton explained that what he was talking about was a small hammer that they used when they worked in the manholes to cut holes through the manholes to make taps into. It was not a jackhammer like they used on the road. It was an air driven, small pneumatic hammer. He stated that every time they use it they rent it and pay approximately \$60 per hour. He stated that they found they were using it a lot and it would be cheaper to buy one than to rent.

Council Member Gover explained that he noticed a lot of small tools and needed to know what was obsolete and what was not. He asked Mr. Sexton if he knew that a hydraulic jackhammer was terrible on a backhoe.

Mr. Sexton replied that it would be put on one of their oldest backhoes.

Council Member Gover continued in that they could not stand the impact that those hammers put out. He stated that he would have more repair work on his backhoe due to that, if they were not operated properly.

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Mr. Sexton explained that the main purpose for buying it was for the leak on Highway 14 a couple of months ago. He stated that the pavement on Highway 14 and Washington Street and the main thoroughfares was 12" to 16" deep. He stated that they spend 8 to 10 hours jack hammering. He stated that he had seen this since he had been back over at Public Works. He stated that he asked the State to bring their hammer, they came up and within 30 minutes time had it jack hammered out.

Council Member Gover pointed out that he was game for buying something that makes them efficient.

Mr. Sexton stated that he decided it would save the City money to buy one. He looked at the cost and the time spent jack hammering on the pavement and he felt it could save a lot of money.

Council Member Janney questioned the replacement of M-4. He stated that he was sure it was a vehicle in Wastewater and he asked Mr. Asbury which vehicle that was.

Mr. Asbury, Treatment Plants Director, replied that it was a pickup truck, a 1989 Chevy 4X4 and had about 200,000 miles on it. He stated that the original purchase was in 1989 and they have paid for it twice in labor and parts.

Council Member Janney asked what kind of truck he was going to get for \$19,000. He asked if he was looking for a four-wheel drive to which Mr. Asbury replied he did not think so.

Council Member Janney asked if the old truck was a four-wheel drive to which Mr. Asbury replied that it was.

Council Member Rorrer questioned why he needed to replace it and if it was a real work truck or to go to the...to which Mr. Asbury replied that it had worn out.

Council Member Rorrer stated that was not what he was asking. He stated that Mr. Asbury did not think he was going to get a four-wheel, which was a real work truck. He asked if he was thinking about getting a regular pickup in its place, or a three-quarter or one ton.

Mr. Asbury replied that the money that they were seeing there was to replace the truck, as it was, a four-wheel drive and the idea was to replace it for its current use. He stated that the chief thing was, they needed a new vehicle and if he had to back down off the four-wheel drive, then he could do that.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he was understanding that he was wanting to and that was why he had asked the question.

Council Member Gover asked if that M-6 was a 1991 Ford 250 to which Council Member Janney stated he was not replacing that.

Mr. Asbury stated that it was a 1991 Ford 250.

Council Member Gover noted that he was charged with 14 vehicles to which Mr. Asbury replied that he did not know. Council Member Gover questioned why he did not know.

Mr. Asbury replied they had trailers, pumps and they have to sit down and go through the list.

Council Member Gover asked Mr. Asbury if he was not familiar with the computer readout. He questioned why he was given that if it was not worth a hoot.

Mr. Asbury replied that he did not have that list with him. He stated that he was only asking for one vehicle. He stated that he had asked for two and was trying to justify that (one vehicle).

Mayor Price asked if the four-wheel drive was the one that had to go, even when they have inclement weather. He asked if he had something to take its place.

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Mr. Asbury replied that they operate 24-7, 365 days (a year) to which Mayor Price explained that if it had to go, the one he wanted to replace...to which Council Member Rorrer asked if that was the one with the snow blade.

Mr. Asbury replied that he thought it was and asked Mr. Carter, Shop Superintendent, if that was correct to which he replied that it was.

Mayor Price, Council Members Rorrer and Janney all agreed he would need four-wheel drive.

Council Member Janney explained that he only asked the question because it said replace M-4 and he was not familiar with that vehicle. He stated that he was not directing this at Mr. Asbury, but what they might want to do, when they, as a City, buy vehicles, buy the same type of vehicles, if they could get them. He stated that for instance, if Mr. Asbury was going to get a Dodge, Chevrolet, Ford or whatever and he gets that; and they buy those type vehicles all through the departments, whether it was a four-wheel, two-wheel or work truck, they did not need some of those things they have, but they make good work trucks and that was what they needed. He stated that at some point they end up getting rid of stuff that they have in inventory and they lose money, because they give it away. He suggested that they try to buy the same make so they could interchange those parts as much as possible.

Council Member Rorrer stated it was a shame that some companies did not do something similar to UPS for work truck and vans to which Council Member Janney stated agreed.

Council Member Gover asked if that M-4 was a 1989 model with 192,846 miles on it.

Mr. Asbury replied that it had probably rolled over to 200,000 by now and asked if the report had a date on the report.

Council Member Gover replied no, and stated that it was a shame to ask for information and they have all their modern computers and get sheets like he had. He stated that it was embarrassing to him to ask intelligent people for reports. He stated that he was not trying to put Mr. Asbury on the spot, he just wanted to have an updated list of vehicles assigned to his department if he was going to be a Council Member for four years.

Mr. Asbury noted that he did not produce that sheet.

Council Member Gover noted that Mr. Asbury had the vehicles under his command to which Mayor Price asked Mr. Sharp if he could get that sheet.

Mr. Sharp stated that he thought the sheet that Council Member Gover had was from Mr. Tommy Carter.

Mr. Asbury stated that if that was going to change and he only wanted the department heads to do that then he needed to know that from the City Manager.

Council Member Gover explained that he was asking because he did not know the system and was trying to learn.

Mr. Asbury stated that the answer was, it came from the Shop and they have all the records.

Council Member Janney noted that he had a similar sheet. He stated that he had a problem with the generators. He stated that if that list was correct, he did not know where they were, or what they were doing, but they had enough generators to light up Greensboro. He stated that he did not know whether they had them or where they were or what was going on, but they needed to give an account for generators.

Mr. Thomas explained that there might be several generators on that list that were approved by the Council, they got a good buy on them from State Surplus and they installed those generators at the Fire Stations.

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Council Member Janney stated that he knew where those were.

Mr. Thomas stated that if there were any portable generators there that could be used by various departments, they would be smaller units. He stated that he knew they bought about five generators that they installed at the fire stations and one at Public Works.

Mayor Price asked that they go back to the motor grader as they had some discussion about that.

Council Member Rorrer asked if they were going to go through the whole list to which Mayor Price stated that they had some pinpointed and they were working backward on it.

Mayor Price asked Council Member Gover asked if he had some comments on the motor grader.

Council Member Gover stated that the City Manager said he had \$25,000 for a down payment.

Mr. Thomas corrected him by saying that it was an option that they could do instead of taking the full \$100,000 out.

Council Member Gover stated that if they were in need of a motor grader, he needed to say whether they needed it or not. He stated that if that backhoe would suffice for a motor grader then that was fine.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Sexton to justify whether they needed it. He stated that if there was another piece of equipment doing the job, fine, but now was the time to make the decision because they have two that were worn out.

Council Member Gover stated that if they could hold off on it, then hold off on it, but if this would make them more efficient then they should look at it.

Mr. Sexton stated that there was a lot of ditch work and things of that nature that they did. He stated that the motor grader did more than just push snow. They used it for ditch work and they were not able to use it for ditch work at the present time because they had one with the rear end out. The other one was big and bulky and the levers jump. He stated that they could not use it and they did need it to pull ditches for snow removal and for maintenance of the gravel road. He agreed that they did need that piece of equipment, but they have made out so far with the one they had. He stated that they would continue to do that if the Council wished, but they definitely needed a motor grader.

Mayor Price asked Council Member Gover for his thoughts on that.

Council Member Gover stated that it was hard for a city to do without a motor grader, but he needed an operator. He stated that if he did not have an operator, there was no need in buying it.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Sexton if the steering wheel was shaking when it was driven.

Mr. Sexton replied that it was not the steering wheel, but the lever that they operate with. He stated that it would vibrate and they had to grab it in order to stop them and it would pop their knuckles.

Council Member Gover suggested that they leave some money in the budget for payment on a motor grader.

Mayor Price wanted to get the information for the record, \$25,000 for a down payment to which Council Member Gover stated that was fine, if that was the amount they set.

Council Member Rorrer wanted to know how much they owed on leased purchases and what they were obligated to. He stated that it was easy to say "let's spend \$25,000 or \$50,000 now" and pay for it in four or five years. He questioned that they would be getting in trouble.

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Mayor Price asked Mr. Sharp to give the Council an updated report on their leased purchases to which Mr. Sharp replied that he would.

Council Member Myott asked if they left \$25,000 in the budget for the motor grader.

Mayor Price replied that they did. He then stated that there was a question about the lighting for the pistol range.

Council Member Janney commented that they should not change anything on the motor grader until they find out how much was owed. He asked why not leave that \$100,000 in there and when they get their information tomorrow, they could decide.

Mayor Price named the next item for discussion, which was the lighting for the pistol range. He stated that it had been taken that out and he thought they were having some complaints about shooting at night down there. He stated that in fact he knew that they were getting some complaints down there and there has been several problems.

Council Member Rorrer stated that there was nobody that the pistol range could hurt when it was built and everybody that had come down there since then that could be complaining about it, and it was put down there for that purpose and those people need to train.

Mayor Price explained that when they get into the training part of that, they had people from out of town coming to use the firing range.

Council Member Rorrer agreed that they were.

Mayor Price asked if that was fair to the people who have moved down there and built all around there to which Council Member Rorrer replied that it was for them (Council) to control. Mayor Price stated that was why they were discussing it now.

Mr. Thomas questioned that if they lived out of town, they would pay a fee.

Council Member Grogan stated that was not the issue during the day. He stated that he was talking about the training, like the guards, etc.

Mayor Price stated that they were allowed there at night and the people in the area were complaining, particularly after 9 p.m.

Council Member Rorrer stated that there was an ordinance against it after 9 p.m.

Mr. Thomas stated that unless something had changed, there was a certain amount of training an officer had to do at night. They have to fire at night, they have to have the blue lights flashing, and so forth. There would also be some occasions where what was required under the certifications for firearm qualification they would have to shoot at night.

Council Member Janney stated that was what he did not understand about all of that. He stated that he did not have any idea who trained at that site but he did know that they have to train day and night and Mr. Thomas was right. He stated that as far as the noise, he did not know how he could control it if he had to have people to qualify.

Council Member Rorrer stated that it was put off in the boondocks when it was first built. He stated that it was put as far away as they could get it.

Council Member Janney agreed and stated that he did not know what he wanted to do with it. He asked Chief Benthin what was the purpose of the lights at night, other than for him to see to get to the range.

Chief Benthin stated that it was true that they have to fire in darkness or with lights from cars, but they have to load their magazines and find the equipment, so that they would not trip over things.

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Council Member Janney asked how late they trained.

Chief Benthin replied that they did not use the range after 10 p.m., as a rule.

Mayor Price asked if there was any lighting there to which Chief Benthin replied, no.

Council Member Janney asked who's rule was that about the 10 p.m.

Chief Benthin explained that this came up several years ago when someone was out there until 12 o'clock (at night) and the Council commented on it at that time. After that, he made it a rule that nobody shoots after 10:00 p.m. and the Council informally agreed to it.

Council Member Janney asked if that met the requirements.

Chief Benthin stated that as long as they could get everybody in during the hours of darkness and if necessary, they would go back on a second day to complete.

Council Member Janney asked if everybody had to qualify every year or every so often.

Chief Benthin replied that they did, and they not only have to qualify but they have to practice.

Council Member Grogan suggested that they leave the \$1,000 in there for the lighting on the pistol range and it would not be every night or every month.

Council Member Rorrer stated it would not be any different if they were doing it with headlights if they did not have the lights.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Thomas if he had any more comments on the things he had taken out to which Mr. Thomas replied not at this point.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he wanted to leave those pistol lanes in there.

Mayor Price asked what they were for.

Council Member Rorrer replied that the Chief explained that it was to add three more lanes for getting three more people up there at a time. He went on to say he remembered when it got started. There was not even a place for them to practice in the County except in Wentworth. He stated that the building was in poor shape and the bathrooms did not work and now they had something to be proud of.

Mayor Price stated that he thought there was some conversation about the police cars. He asked Council Member Reynolds if he had some questions.

Council Member Reynolds referred the question to Council Member Janney.

Council Member Janney stated that he hated to keep replacing cars when he went around town and saw them sitting in the same place all the time. He stated that he was sure everybody had heard him say this before, but he would try to say it differently. He stated that he agreed with Council Member Reynolds. The place for their people was in the neighborhood. He pointed out that they have the State Highway Patrol to patrol the State highways; County officers patrol all over the county and he saw a number of them over this way. He stated that if they were buying cars for them then they need to patrol the neighborhood. He agreed with what Council Member Reynolds because he had heard complaints about everything that was going on in the neighborhoods and if they read the paper they would see all kinds of vandalism. They would have to put some miles on those cars in the neighborhoods and he did not understand why it was done, but he received a lot of complaints about them sitting in the same place all the time. He stated that if they were not going to drive them then they did not need them.

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Council Member Reynolds stated that he agreed. He saw them sitting around and he received complaints that they were not patrolling. He stated they should put them off again. He noted that the Police Department just gave Engineering a fairly new car and they just spent \$90 to have it cleaned.

Council Member Rorrer commented that they should not have because the Council did not authorize it.

Mayor Price explained that he was listening to his scanner on a Saturday night around 8 o'clock and there was a big scrimmage in Council Member Reynolds' neighborhood on Manley Street. He stated that from what he understood, it required perhaps two cars. He stated that they were not able to get it straightened out, but while they were there, there was another significant scrimmage involving a weapon in Council Member Tudor's area. He stated that it required two or three cars and some of the people from the investigator's office. He stated that he was glad that they had adequate transportation for those people. He stated that he was glad that they had good equipment. There were some weapons involved in one of the cases and this was nothing more than the role of a police officer. He stated that Eden was a big community and was spread out more so than any community of its size. He stated that he did not like the idea of having so many police cars and he did not like them being right on the Virginia line with all the things going on back and forth and not adequately put protection in for their citizens. He agreed yes, it was money and in his opinion, they have to keep their roaming stock employed, it had to be in good shape and ready to respond to emergencies.

Council Member Tudor commented that he was a public employee, the same as the police officers. He stated that when one was a public employee, they were there, sort of a fishbowl work life. People see what they do and it was easy to be criticized. He stated that he really appreciated what their police officers did and he did not want anything to happen to one of their police officers trying to protect their community, because of inadequate equipment. He stated that they should go with the police car. The Chief had asked for it and he had not heard an adequate argument to not purchase the police car.

Council Member Reynolds commented that he had heard that those would not make it another year.

Mr. Thomas asked about the mileage and year model.

Chief Benthin explained that the information that the Council was given not too long ago was no longer accurate. He stated that the mileage on the cars they want to replace, Unit 45 right now had 98,300 miles, Unit 47 had 101,000 miles, and Unit 49 had 93,700 miles. He stated that by the time they get those cars and once again, if the Council approved them in this budget; they would not have them running until next May or June. The projected mileage next May or June would be 110,000, 110,000 and 110,000. He asked that they please keep in mind that things break on police cars that could not be predicted and if they were traveling at 60 or 70 miles per hour and they break; they would have a serious problem.

Council Member Gover asked if the three he was asking to change, if they were '94 models to which Chief Benthin replied that they were. He stated that those were the last of the cars they had when they ran 24 hours a day.

Council Member Reynolds questioned the 24 hours a day.

Chief Benthin clarified that he had said when they were running 24 hours a day and those were the last of the cars that were part of that 24 hour a day group. He stated that all of the cars that have come after this have been driven 12 hours a day.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he thought they needed to replace those cars, if they were going to keep the policy that they have concerning the cars. If they were not going to keep the policy, then that was a different ball game. He stated that they needed to sit down and work on the policy or either replace the cars.

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Council Member Janney asked what he meant by policy.

Council Member Rorrer explained that they had a policy that they would replace a car when everybody got their own individual car. He stated that they were replacing so many per year so they either need to change the policy or buy the cars.

Mayor Price asked Council Member Rorrer if he was saying that if they stayed with the policy they currently have, then they need to buy the cars.

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan seconded by Council Member Myott that it be approved (to purchase the police cars).

Council Member Grogan explained that his reasoning was for what the Chief had said. They have three cars that were the last three that was used 24 hours per day. If they want to change the policy they could talk about that later. He stated that they probably should go ahead and replace those vehicles because it was going to be a year before they get them.

Council Member Gover questioned if it was going to be a year before they get them.

Mr. Thomas explained that they purchase them off State contract. He stated that how that worked, about October, they would award the contract to a particular dealership in the State. Once they do that, they take orders, they place the order and it was usually a February or March time frame before those cars were delivered and they were able to go pick them up. He stated that by the time they pick them up it was about three weeks longer, by the time they get them all serviced and striped and on the road.

Action on the motion was as follows: Council Members Rorrer, Grogan, Myott, Tudor and Gover voted in favor of this motion. Council Members Janney and Reynolds voted in opposition. This motion carried.

Council Member Rorrer asked Chief Benthin how many silencers were involved to which he replied that he had asked for just one in this request.

Mayor Price noted that it was taken out to which Mr. Thomas replied in the affirmative.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he wanted that put back in (Suppressor SMG).

Mr. Thomas asked if he wanted it put back in.

A motion was made by Council Member Rorrer seconded by Council Member Grogan to put the Suppressor SMG back in the budget. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

Council Member Tudor asked if there was going to be any additional information given to them tonight about the car that was requested that they replace.

Council Member Janney stated that they needed information on every car and that was what he did not understand about this vote.

Council Member Tudor stated that they just voted to buy those, but he wanted to go back to the car that...to which Council Member Rorrer asked if he meant the one car, to which Council Member Tudor replied in the affirmative.

Council Member Rorrer pointed out that it was voted down.

Council Member Tudor replied that he knew that, but did they not say that if some information was brought back tonight they would reconsider it. He asked if he had not said that.

Council Member Rorrer said not in his information and Council Member Janney added that he was not going to reconsider it.

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Council Member Rorrer stated that he had agreed initially to hear some information and come back and somebody wanted to vote on it, so they voted.

Mayor Price commented that they had the report and he suggested that they read it and discuss it tomorrow.

Council Member Tudor explained his reasoning for bringing it up, he just thought that they could buy two new cars and buy that one car instead of buying three new cars and keep one of those old cars.

Council Member Rorrer stated that in his personal opinion, and his vote concerning it, it was not the one car, it was how it was handled and it was not handled complete.

Council Member Janney pointed out that he did not handle the others completely either. He bought three and did not handle those complete.

Council Member Rorrer replied that in reality they did because they have not bought them yet.

Council Member Janney stated that he knew some of those items were taken out. He stated that he had taken them out based on the fact that he was trying to get enough money out of the budget to do the pay increase and he thought that was wrong.

Council Member Rorrer commented that he wondered what they were going to do next year.

Council Member Janney stated that his reasoning was that they did not know about the pay increase. The other thing was, if he could take them out now, why did he not take them out before. He asked why he gave them a budget like that, if he could go ahead and take them out.

Mr. Thomas explained that they did not know the impact of what was being recommended in the Pay and Classification Study at the time. He stated that he had tried to build some funds into this budget that would help fund that and it came up short. He stated that he was under the impression that after they had the presentation and some discussion about the study, the Council's desire or what they would like to see, if there would be a way to generate enough money by making some changes to be able to fully implement that into the budget. He stated that he had even suggested at one of the last work sessions that they could go through and make some changes in capital outlay requests. He stated that he felt that some of the department heads would be willing to give up some things for one year in order to address the pay issue that have before them. He stated that was why there was a change...it was not saying that those items were not needed. It was saying, given a choice, the department heads and himself would rather try to address the pay issue and come back to those things next year. He stated that they were going to do what they could to try to get by without replacing those items in the current year. He stated that next year, some of those items were going to be right back. As an example, he stated that at least one of the pickup trucks being requested by the Finance Department, this was about the third or fourth year it had been requested. He stated that it did not mean that it was not needed four years ago. They just made repairs and spent a lot of additional money making repairs.

Council Member Tudor stated that he appreciated what the City Manager was saying. He stated that buying new equipment was not going to do them any good if all of their employees quit because they could not afford to work for the city. He stated that they needed a raise and he appreciated it that he pulled it out so they could give them a raise.

Council Member Rorrer asked Council Member Tudor if he knew how much he was going to give them.

Council Member Tudor replied that he did not, but he hoped that they could give a good one, as they needed it.

Council Member Rorrer stated that it did not have anything to do with what they had to work with.

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Council Member Tudor disagreed and stated that they had not done anything for them in years.

Council Member Janney commented that Council Member Tudor was wrong there.

Council Member Tudor replied that it was a shame the way they were compared with cities around them.

Council Member Rorrer commented that Council Member Tudor may be ashamed of it, but he was not.

Council Member Janney commented that Council Member Tudor had been there (on Council) for just a short period of time. He stated that the Council had done a lot for this city over the years. He stated that he should not think he could come in there with a magic wand. He stated that they had not been bad to the city employees, but they have been bad to the lower paid group of city employees and he would agree to that. He stated that they have changed the pay plan two or three times. They had state retirement and they have done several things to help the city employees. He stated that he was not saying stop it, but what he was saying was, if he was ashamed of it, then he needed to take a look at what had been going on before he arrived.

Council Member Tudor stated that he took a look at it. He stated that he thought he was elected by over 500 of the voting majority and all of those people took a look at it. He stated that those people were not real happy with what had gone on with this Council for the last two years. He stated that a whole lot of people in town were not happy about it. He stated, yes, he took a look at it and that was why he was there. He pointed out that a whole lot of people take a look at what they did every meeting and they appeared to not be real happy about that.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan seconded by Council Member Reynolds to go into closed session under GS 143-318.11(a)(6). All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

OPEN SESSION:

A motion was made by Council Member Janney seconded by Council Member Rorrer to return to Open Session. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan seconded by Council Member Reynolds to adjourn. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim J. Scott  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Philip K. Price  
Mayor