

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 338 West 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
		William R. Rorrer
		C. H. Gover, Sr
		Garry Tudor
City Manager:		Radford L. Thomas
City Attorney:	(absent)	Charles J. Nooe
City Clerk:		Kim J. Scott

Representatives from Departments
Representatives from News Media:

Leslie Brown, Greensboro News & Record, Ronda Cranford, The Daily News

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Philip K. Price called the special meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He explained that the first order of business was to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2000 budget meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Janney seconded by Council Member Tudor to approve the May 23, 2000 minutes. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

After the minutes were approved, Mayor Price announced that they were to be distributed to the Public Works Department.

REPORT FROM CHIEF OVERBY:

Mayor Price explained that the next order of business was to receive a report from the Fire Chief, Ronnie Overby.

Chief Overby explained that he contacted Mr. Robert Cardwell, Assistant Rockingham County Fire Marshall, who indicated that it was his understanding that the County Commissioners voted this year to strategically replace sirens throughout the county, including cities. He stated that it may be good, but he needed to talk with the Fire Marshall, Steve Hale, who was currently on vacation. He stated that they were going to meet next Tuesday and he should have the complete information. He added that they did have in their favor two sirens, one in the west end and one in the east end, that could be adapted to the point of just putting the box on it that they would be able to go through the controls from 911.

Mayor Price asked if it was their 911 to which Chief Overby replied that it was his understanding that all those sirens were going to be controlled from the county 911 to the point that they would be monitoring all the weather.

Many of the Council Members thought this sounded good and Mayor Price noted that they would receive more information on it next week.

NEXT BUDGET MEETING PLANNED:

It was decided that the next budget session would be held on Tuesday, June 13th, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

INFORMATION PRESENTED BY FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Mayor Price asked Mr. Ray Sharp, Finance Director, to come forward to give the Council a brief explanation of the information they have received.

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Mr. Sharp explained that when he presented the balances due on the notes yesterday, Council Member Grogan had asked for some additional information. He stated that he had carried that request a step further. He explained that Council Member Grogan had asked for the interest rates and the amount of payments. Mr. Sharp stated that he had also included whether or not they were monthly and yearly payments and the date of the last payment. He noted that the first two, the truck containers and the computer, would be paid out by the end of this budget year (2000-2001). The fire truck would be paid off in the 2003-2004 budget year and the sewer vac would be paid off in the budget year ending in 2005. He stated that the governmental capital was the lease that Council Member Rorrer had mentioned. He explained that this was for the air compressor and some equipment for the Fire Department that would be paid off in the budget year ending in 2004, as it was a yearly payment. He stated that if it were all going through a full year, the city's budget would require \$231,574.76 to support this level of indebtedness that would be their total payments for the year.

Council Member Janney asked if this was just General Fund to which Mr. Sharp replied that the sewer vac was Water Fund.

Council Member Grogan commented that it included everything but the bonds to which Mr. Sharp agreed.

BUDGET REVIEW BY CITY MANAGER:

Mayor Price explained that the City Manager had analyzed this budget several times and looked at some of the numbers and they have had a lot of continued discussions. He stated that he would like to give the Council a review of what he had included into the budget thus far for salary increases and give them an idea where they were.

Mr. Thomas explained that he had mentioned several times that he had tried to build in some leeway, knowing that the Pay & Classification Study was being done. He stated that they knew pretty much where they were with what had been recommended at this point by the consultant. He stated that with what was proposed in the budget, just for salaries alone, it did not include anything that he had worked into this, there was roughly \$297,500 that was built into this budget that would help fund the Pay & Classification Study above what the current present salaries were, not what was currently budgeted per se, but what the actual salaries were by department. He stated that he was trying to get a breakdown on that by fund at this point so that they would know what was available to each fund.

He explained that they were dollars that could be applied towards implementing the recommendations out of the Pay & Classification Study, whichever way they would choose to go. He noted that Mr. Matt Reece would be there next Tuesday at the 4:00 p.m. meeting and he would cover with them further, some of those recommendations and some things that he had spent some time working out. He stated that they have raised questions and found some quirks in it that they felt needed to be addressed, but that was kind of what was already there.

He stated that he had also mentioned that in the General Fund he had included an extra \$100,000 in the Contingency that could also be used to help the General Fund implement this program. This \$297,000, he was not sure how that would break out between the funds and that was what he was trying to get worked out right now so he could let them know what that was.

He stated that a part of his point was that they might be a lot closer to being able to implement this in some manner than what they may actually realize. With some of the changes that were made in Capital Outlay, for example, the Capital Outlay changes benefited the General Fund in the amount of \$122,500. He stated that alone, plus the \$100,000 that was already built in there sitting in Contingency was \$222,500 and whatever portion of this \$297,000 that belongs to the General Fund, they were getting real close.

Council Member Rorrer asked if that included the money that they took out for the Water & Sewer Superintendent.

Mr. Thomas replied that he was talking about just the General Fund right now.

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Council Member Rorrer stated that he was also talking about the Planner and did that include this money.

Mr. Thomas replied that it did, the Planner being taken out was a part of the \$122,500.

Council Member Rorrer asked if he would not have more than that if he had 5% put in there to start with and then took those two salaries and thrown them in there too.

Mr. Thomas agreed that it should be, but when she was working on that for him, she did not include that in her calculations and he did not have time to make those adjustments. He stated that it might be more like \$350,000.

Mayor Price commented that they had to account for payroll taxes and other things.

Council Member Rorrer agreed and stated, but they also have some more people they have to talk about too.

Mr. Thomas continued in that was where they were and they were real close to being able to implement it in some manner or another or at least have the dollars available to implement it in whatever manner the Council chose. He stated that he felt there should be additional monies to take care of the social security, retirement and those types of benefits that were based on a percentage of their payroll.

Council Member Janney stated that he had been wrestling with this pay increase and he was glad the City Manager had given those numbers. He stated that this was a big step and it was going to take a while. He stated that he would say up front, he had some concerns and some things to say about it. There were some advantages; it was not all bad. He suggested as an interim step in the whole process, so that they get all the information from Mr. Reece, they give every city employee a \$600 raise, who was on roll 7/1/99. That would make everybody on an even-kill and it would not screw up anything for this pay plan if they go to the pay plan, because it was not a percentage thing. He stated that if they did that, all the approximate 180 employees would get that \$600, then they could add in about two more hundred for benefits, it would end up about 25% to 30%, and they would have \$800. He stated that it would total \$144,000 so that was well within the money that was already in the budget.

He stated that if they look at the pay in lieu of annexation for any of it, they were going to have more money next year in pay in lieu of annexation, but his concern for this whole process was, as they take things out of this year's capital items, and he had sat there and wanted to take some out, but some of the things, they knew full well if they take them out this year they would be back next year, plus whatever they needed, it was just like a snowball effect. He stated that was a concern. Council Member Janney continued, by having to pay attention to this thing, if they went to the maximum, next year they would have the increase on top of the pay increase, plus all this other and it would just keep snowballing. He stated that they said they may have to take some out of the Contingency or Revenue to make up the difference, (but) they did not know yet because they did not know which program they were going with.

He stated that by doing something similar to that, if they did not bother the grade levels, it gave them more time to think on this thing of pay increases with all this other stuff out of the way and they could think about one thing, not ten things at one time. He stated that he believed they would come out of this thing a whole lot better than they would if they tried to "jab" all this in there with all the rest of those budget items. He stated that he had never sat on the Board and city employees not got a raise. He stated that they got a raise every year that he had sat there, it may not have been much of one, but they got a raise and he did not want this one to be any different.

Mayor Price commented that he had a valid point and it was open for discussion.

Council Member Gover stated that was on the realm of what he was trying to say yesterday, if they could adopt the budget, that sounded better than what he was thinking about.

Council Member Grogan suggested that they wait and hear Mr. Reece and have all his numbers and then have this discussion.

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Mayor Price noted that it tied them both in to what Council Member Janney had said and what Mr. Reece had recommended and also, what Mr. Thomas had recommended was to perhaps wait until later in the fiscal year and probably reach both goals. He added that he would also like to see what Mr. Reece had to say.

Council Member Janney agreed that he wanted to hear what he had to say, but he thought maybe if they washed all this behind them, went ahead and said, "we are going to give everybody a raise", (then) listen to the man and done all their process...he stated that it was a lot to think about, this was a tough budget.

Council Member Tudor asked Council Member Janney if he understand correctly, he was talking about possibly July 1st, that they, everybody, say \$50 plus benefits...to which Council Member Janney replied no, \$600 to which Council Member Tudor explained that he meant \$50 a month with the possibility of around October or November, they might be able to put a portion of the study...to which Council Member Janney agreed that was exactly what he was saying.

Council Member Gover added that it would give them more time.

Council Member Rorrer pointed out that there would not be any reason for it to drag out that far to which Council Member Janney agreed, when they did not have anything else on the table.

Mr. Thomas commented that he did not remember if he had said it, but that was one more advantage of looking at an October 1st implementation date because it gives three additional months to consider it and figure out how they would put that in place.

Mayor Price commented that he thought that it was something they should think about as they go along.

Discussion regarding phones, radios and beepers:

Mayor Price explained that there had been a request for discussion of a list of phones, radios, and beepers among those who were not in a position related to safety. He stated that the City Manager did not have a complete list, but he had some brief ideas that he could give them.

Mr. Thomas stated that as far as cellular phones went, they were looking at excluding anything with the Police Department, as far as their pagers and cellular phones and radios. He stated that as for cell phones, there were 15 cellular phones, excluding the Police Department. If the Fire Chief was excluded, it would be 14. He stated that generally there were about one or two per department, depending on the nature of work that they were doing. He stated that some of the need for the cell phones was safety related, getting out onto a site if they find an emergency, being able to make some contact with the Police Department, or whomever to call out additional crews. There were about four among the Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants. At Public Works there were phones used by the supervisors and the director. They each have a phone, with the exception of the Garage Superintendent. He stated that the Building Inspectors have telephones; one of the reasons was for safety, as much as anything else. He explained that they go under houses and sometimes need to deal with contractors to get additional information. He thought that the ones that they have there spread out among divisions and the functions that they were serving, he did not think they have an extensive amount of cellular phones.

Mayor Price asked if there were any questions or comments.

Council Member Grogan stated that if he understood correctly there were 15 phones primarily used by people for safety reasons and people in water & sewer if they go on outfall lines and Building Inspectors because they were by themselves.

Mr. Thomas replied that was correct. There were also a good variety of reasons, it was also a good tool to make them more efficient and there were areas around town where there was not good radio transmission but the cell phones would work.

Council Member Gover asked how they were with side radios, the walkie talkie type that the firemen use.

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Mr. Thomas replied that not every employee had a radio as they were assigned more to crew leaders or supervisors. However; there were a number of mobile radios that were mounted in vehicles.

Council Member Janney asked that he give an emphasis of where they would have all three, a cell phone, a radio or a beeper.

Mr. Thomas agreed that there was a possibility someone could have all three to which Council Member Janney replied that he would like to know why they would have all three.

Mr. Thomas replied that he was not certain. He asked Mr. Adams, Solid Waste Superintendent, if he did not carry a mobile radio. He stated that he just carried a cell phone with no pager to which Mr. Adams replied that he had a mobile radio on the truck and a cell phone.

Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Sexton, Public Works Director, if he could think of any instance where any of his folks (would have all three).

Mr. Sexton replied that there were none that he knew of but their telephones did have beeper capabilities and voice mail. He added that he carried a Fire Department beeper and he wore a pager and a cell phone. He noted that they did have a man on-call in the Street Department who looked after the stoplights and things like that and he carried a beeper, but he did not have a cell phone. He also noted that there were three people in Water & Sewer who were also on-call and have beepers. He added that a lot of them have their own personal cell phones, but they were not paid for by the city.

Mayor Price questioned Mr. Joey Conner, Parks and Recreation Director, as to the use of radios, cell phones and beepers for his department.

Mr. Conner replied that his Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Dishmon, had a cell phone, a beeper, and a mobile unit in his vehicle. He added that they also had several beepers throughout the department, but most of them were paid for by that individual.

Mr. Thomas explained that they have a number of employees who bring their personal cell phones with them to work, for whatever reasons. He added that they have had some discussions about limiting the use of those, however it did not distract from getting their job done.

Council Member Janney commented that Mr. Dishmon was a volunteer fireman. He noted that he was loaded down and he would not want all that strapped on him. He asked why Mr. Dishmon would need all that.

Mr. Conner replied that he was definitely a man on the go. He explained that he could probably assure them that if they tried him on the mobile radio, 10 times a day they would be lucky to get him once. He stated that the beeper was fine, but if he was out at the Blue Creek Park, where there was no phone, then he had to leave there and get to a phone somewhere.

Council Member Janney stated that he must have misunderstood Mr. Sexton. He asked how that phone worked.

Mr. Thomas explained that not all of them have functions that some of the phones in Public Works had. He stated that Mr. Sexton's was a digital system and it also had provisions that it could act as a pager and it also allowed voice mail messages, but the cost of that service would be a little more than using the regular pager and the cell phone that he already had. He stated that he did not know that they have ever really compared the cost. The situation with the digital phones, once they get outside of certain areas they did not have the coverage they would have with cellular service. He explained that the digital service was limited in the area and the antenna did not have the range.

Mrs. Stultz commented that the phones that their Building Inspectors have were designed so that their computers could be live and in their trucks. She explained that they also had four beepers so that they could get in touch with them if they were not in their truck. She explained that she was also carrying one because if she was not at work or was out in the field somewhere,

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sometimes they needed her to answer questions and it was just a simple matter of keeping business moving. There was also a phone that stayed in the Planning car and that was because, from time to time, she was out and in places where she would need to call the office. She stated that she felt like the ones they had were as much for anything for efficiency to get questions answered and information moving because their staff was out of the office quite a bit.

Council Member Janney suggested that they should keep monitoring them as phone bills could get to be expensive.

Receptionist Position:

Mayor Price explained that Council Member Rorrer had requested discussion on the Receptionist position; however Council Member Rorrer indicated that he had changed his mind.

Boards and Commissions:

Mayor Price explained that there was a question yesterday about communications that Council Members had received about the Board and Commissions Meetings. He explained that about two or three years ago, several people wanted to attend some of the meetings and did not know when they were and at that time there was a decision made and a request by the Council for the Planning Department to notify when those meetings were going to be held and what the agenda was going to be.

Mrs. Stultz added that she thought there was as much interest in what their agendas were, as to know what issues they would be dealing with as Council Members attended. She stated that Council Members have attended meetings over the years at various times just to have a discussion with board members.

Council Member Rorrer commented that he appreciated this information because he could look at it and know what was coming up, and also he could tell if he wanted to go or not.

Mrs. Stultz explained that the Planning Board had issues that the Council knew would (eventually) come to them or the Board of Adjustment would see the same issues repeatedly, (so) they would want to have an ordinance amendment made. She added that the Council also received a lot of questions.

Mayor Price stated that personally, he liked to know what the commissions were doing and it just kept them apprised of everything particularly with the agenda.

Council Member Janney explained that the reason he brought it up was because he had a calendar with all the meetings on it (that the Planning Department gives out) and he could look at that. He also normally received calls, a key issue. He stated that it was a way to cut cost, as there was a piece of paper, a stamp, and an envelope.

Council Member Rorrer agreed that they did get calls, but by getting that information he would know it before getting those calls.

Mayor Price commented that they knew when the meetings were, but did not know what was on the agenda to which Council Member Janney replied that he understood.

Mrs. Stultz suggested that they could put them in the boxes (at City Hall) but, she added that she was aware that some Council Members did not come to City Hall as often.

Discussion of vehicle replacement policy:

Mayor Price explained that there had been some discussion on vehicle replacement policies. He added that he thought they were resolved yesterday.

Council Member Janney disagreed and Council Member Gover stated that he would like to know more about the policy.

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Mayor Price suggested that they take a few minutes for ideas and asked Mr. Carter, Fleet Maintenance Superintendent or Mr. Sexton, Public Works Director, if they had any comments on vehicles or construction equipment. He stated that a question was also brought up about the sewer vac and why the other one was not being used at all when they had a new one.

Mr. Carter replied that it was not being used at all because the new one replaced it and as it was a replacement item, and not an additional item, it was parked.

Mayor Price stated that there was some discussion about it continuing to be used as a backup to the one that was purchased. He asked if he was made aware of that and if it was functional and could be used.

Mr. Carter replied that he was not aware of it. He explained that it was running when it was backed up under the shed, but they have a tendency to forget to turn the radios off, the battery may be dead and may need to be started, but as far as he knew it could be used.

Mayor Price stated that their discussion was that they would be reverting to a backup piece of equipment to use when there was a time pinch or something of that nature to which Mr. Carter stated that they could get that up and running.

Council Member Rorrer stated that it was his understanding that they were going to use both pieces of equipment in that particular case. He stated that most all of the cases that get deadlined could not be moved unless the Council moved it, but not in this case as he recalled.

Council Member Tudor stated that he was at the garage this afternoon and in a conversation with Mr. Bob Johnson, he had asked that question. He stated that he (Tudor) had also understood that and Mr. Johnson said no. He stated that somehow or another he (Tudor) had understood what Council Member Rorrer had understood.

Mr. Carter stated again that he was not aware of it being used to which Mayor Price stated that there was some apparent confusion. He asked Mr. Sexton if he had some comments.

Mr. Sexton replied that when they talked about purchasing the new sewer vac, there was some discussion that they could use it as a backup. He stated that of course, policy as Council has told them, was that they were supposed to deadline them and they deadlined them. He added that if something was to happen to the other one and it was out of service, he would go to the City Manager and ask permission to put it back in service and use it. He stated that was primarily what it was for.

He stated that sometimes they have to take it to the Water Plant or Wastewater Plant, just to haul water. He stated that they have discussed asking the City Manager for permission to move it down there to use for hauling water and they have talked about using it several ways, but no decision was made so they put it on deadline. He stated that if he needed it, yes he would ask the City Manager's permission to be able to use it.

Council Member Rorrer asked if that piece of equipment would bring a good price at an auction to which Mr. Sexton replied that it should. Council Member Rorrer noted that it could be used in smaller towns.

Mr. Sexton agreed and stated that he would suggest that they advertise it in the paper as some smaller city could utilize it, it just did not have the water pressure capacity that the new one had, but it did have the suction.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he would like to see them sell everything they have over there that they were not using and it would free up some of those sheds.

Council Member Gover asked what the vehicle's year was to which Mr. Carter replied it was about a 1984-1985 model.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Sexton if they were in a position that they needed to get rid of some of that equipment.

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Mr. Sexton replied that they were and in fact at their staff meeting the other morning he had asked the City Manager if he would have all the department heads get the same list that Council Member Gover had from Mr. Carter and go through and pick out all of the equipment that was not being used to put on an auction list, because they were getting crowded. He stated that they had a bunch of deadlined vehicles such as police cars, dump trucks, old trash trucks, the old flusher, that just took up room. He stated that they could advertise it for sale to get rid of it.

Mayor Price asked if that was reasonable to go ahead and do that to which Council Member Janney replied that it was reasonable, but he thought that in conjunction with that, each department should know what they have and what they were responsible for. He referred to the list that Council Member Gover had and stated that if someone did not tell Mr. Carter what was happening, he was going to keep that on his list. He stated that although Mr. Carter had a list, that was nothing to go by.

Council Member Rorrer asked if they had a central place where they could put all this stuff they have gathered.

Mr. Sexton replied that they have already started in the field behind the sheds where they usually have the auction. He stated that there was some old fencing material, the old 545 rubber tire loader, and all of that had been placed in that field back there and it was just a matter of getting everything together and doing the formal bid for the auctioneer and so forth.

Council Member Gover stated that he had two lists there, of police cars. He stated that he had one operating utilizing 55 and they were showing about 60 charged to that department. He stated that he was told that this sheet was no good and he wished he had never asked for it. He stated that he wished it was of some value and he did not know why he would even have it if it was all that out of order.

Mr. Carter explained that it was not really out of order. As long as the city had that piece of equipment and it was still an asset, it was on there. He stated that it might have a "i" beside of it showing it was inactive or showing that there was either something wrong with it or it was surplus. He stated that it still belonged to the city and he could not take it off until after it was auctioned or moved out. He explained that for the police cars, the Police Department had taken some off line and replaced them with new ones. He stated that two of those cars have been repainted and one was sent to Recreation and the other to Engineering. He explained that the cars that they had were about 1988 or 1990 models, and the transmission had come out of them. The cars were not worth putting the money into them to repair them.

Council Member Gover asked how many of those police cars would he say he had over there to which Mr. Carter replied, as far as the old police cars that they have just taken off line, they turned in five.

Mr. Sexton added that those vehicles that were taken from Engineering and Recreation were deadlined and were not being used by anyone. Mr. Carter added that the transmission was out of them and they would be auctioned.

Council Member Rorrer stated that those old patrol cars, they were considered worn out and were deadlined or whatever, and they did wind up, as Mr. Carter had said, with them in the other departments, they should look a little closer and see if they would be better off doing as they had with the Planning Department, rather than putting those cars out there with problems for somebody else, breaking down and spending money on them (*this department received a new vehicle in 1999-2000 budget*). He stated that they might want to buy more intermediate size cars and come out ahead. He added that he knew they could not do it in every place, but as long as they were assigned to a real responsible driver, they could get a whole lot of years out of it.

Council Member Tudor commented that in his observation, the garage could use some updating. He stated that he would like to see the garage facility updated in the future to be able to better service the vehicles they did have. They could service them quicker with better equipment and they might get some additional service out of some (older) equipment or at least be able to auction it off a little quicker. He stated that he knew that it was expensive, but there came a time when everything needed to be updated.

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Mayor Price stated that there was some discussion about how they arrived at budgeting for repairs and he assumed that Mr. Carter used past information to which Council Member Janney questioned that.

Mayor Price explained that there was information based on what they have used on cars for the previous years and he was sure he adjusted for mileage. He stated that he thought that most of them adjust for mileage as to repairs that were needed, and that was an indicator of services that were going to be required. He added that with their older types of machines, they could pretty well expect some significant things were going to happen at certain mileage levels and he was sure that was where he accounted for that.

Mr. Thomas commented that he thought one of the things that they were trying to do more on a preventive basis, before something happened that created a more expensive problem, and they have been successful in doing that, things like belts, hoses and those types of things, if they could catch them soon enough they could head off a more severe problem.

Council Member Janney stated that he was not talking about the garage. He explained that he was talking about how he, as a department head, could say he was going to have so much maintenance cost if he did not even know what he was responsible for.

Council Member Grogan pointed out that it was because the fellow running the garage was going to tell him.

Council Member Janney replied, no he did not, his list was for a different reason. His list was for the things that were listed on there that may or may not be in service.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Carter to explain how he did that. He explained that the question was how would a department head know what to put in their budget for maintenance and repair for a vehicle and if that would come from him.

Mr. Carter replied that a lot of the departments call him and ask the price of gas, and an estimate of what the repair cost was, and he printed out what it cost them for the year before and then they try to agree on percentage, due to price increase, age of the vehicle, mileage, and try to adjust it that way so they could come up with a presentable figure.

Council Member Janney supposed that he got a whole new fleet and last year his budget was \$5,000. He stated that he had three cars and his maintenance because he had old vehicles. Next year his budget was going to be \$5,500 and he was sitting there with cars he was probably not going to need...that was what he was saying, they keep inflating it.

Mr. Carter used as an example, when the Police Department got the new vehicles, the first three years, other than tires or oil changes, it was pretty much maintenance free. They would not see a considerable increase because it was under warranty. After three years they had to go in and try to give the best estimate they could to adjust for that because that was coming into play as total repair cost.

Mr. Thomas added that if a department had three older vehicles and they have been spending in the neighborhood of \$5,000 a year to keep them maintained, if they had been replaced with three new vehicles, that number would be significantly reduced, because the repairs would be under warranty and they did make those adjustments. He stated that it was not just automatically bumped up. He used as an example, the Planning Department, now having a newer car, it may have changed a little but they still had two relatively new pickup trucks that were beginning to require a little more maintenance and Planning's may not have changed much, but considering the older car that they had versus the Malibu, there was going to be some change in that dollar amount and they have made those changes.

Discussion of Police Department Policy:

Council Member Janney commented about an incident involving an investigation of an accident involving a police vehicle. He stated that he had read the police report, but he did not know if it told him everything he needed to know...

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Council Member Grogan asked if that was in regard to replacing the police car.

Council Member Janney replied yes, but this had nothing to do with replacing the police car, it was another issue. He noted on the second page of the report, where the review of the pursuit of the driving incident, where three people have signed, there was a comment down there that really concerned him. He stated that he thought that they, as a Board, needed to really look at the way they were doing it. Referring to the report, it said they should adopt some change to their policy concerning pursuit of motorcycles. Rarely could they be caught and that was a no truer statement ever written. He stated that he thought they needed to address this issue and if they needed to change the policy they needed to change it as soon as they could to eliminate possible deaths.

Mr. Thomas commented that the Police Chief had already addressed that in their SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures). He stated that he thought they had some discussion along that line.

Chief Benthin explained that their SOP did not forbid pursuit of motor vehicles because there were some instances where it may become necessary. He added that he was against pursuing motor vehicles for exactly those reasons stated there. It was very difficult to catch and very likely to result in someone getting hurt. He explained that their SOP listed things that people should take into consideration before initiating any pursuit. They were trained that chasing motorcycles, particularly for minor incidents, was something that should not be done. He stated that he had made it perfectly clear to all supervisors that he did not want motorcycles chased.

He agreed that they did need to fine tune that policy and he wished they would let him do that. He stated that he had all sorts of model policies from the Attorney General's office, from the International Association of the Chiefs of Police and other departments and that was his field of expertise. He stated that he planned on changing that policy, adjusting it, it was a very good policy as written, but it did need some clarifications as far as motorcycles were concerned.

Council Member Janney stated that he did not care who changed it. He stated that it surprised him that they ran this motorcycle. He stated that he was on the Board when they had a State Highway Patrolman killed chasing a motorcycle. It was out of site and there was no way he could have caught it. He stated from what he understood, he was told not to and he lost his life. Whether that was true or not (as to if he was told), they as a Board at that time, said they did not want their police officers chasing motorcycles. He stated that might be where that policy came into place, but if it was not real clear then yes, please make it clear.

Council Member Rorrer suggested that he put it like he wanted it and bring it back before the Council for approval.

Chief Benthin agreed one hundred percent. He stated that he frowned upon chasing motorcycles unless it was for an extremely important reason.

Council Member Janney stated that it would really have to be and to him, he really appreciated that captain writing that statement on there.

Chief Benthin stated that he would appreciate it if the Council would allow him several months to do this as it was not as simple as it sounded, it was very complicated.

Council Member Janney replied that as long as they stop chasing motorcycles, until he got that written, he was okay with it.

Chief Benthin stated that he would not say that they would not chase them but if they did, Council would agree that it was necessary.

Consideration of strategic planning:

Mayor Price explained that they have heard the county talk about their strategic plan over the last two years. They came up with a good plan of what they needed to do in Rockingham County, as a whole, to get back on the mainstream, particularly with the closing of Fieldcrest and American Tobacco. He stated that as they began to do that study, they found out that of the thirteen

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counties, some years ago Rockingham County had the fastest growing percentage of wealth creation of any of those counties. The study in the last few years found out that Rockingham County had the slowest growth. He stated that he did not think they would have found that out unless they had taken a dedicated group of people and put them together and looked at what needed to be done in the county and they were beginning to see some things that they have initiated that came directly out of that program.

He explained that he was saying that to the Council as a preamble because he thought that Eden needed to do the same thing. He suggested that they assemble a group of citizens who could give a good cross section of this community, analyze it as to where it was, what the strengths were, and come up with a plan of action that their city could implement, not only through government, but also private enterprise, that could put them in a position that they would be healthy in years to come. He suggested that they could call it 2005 Eden Program, Eden 2010 or whatever, but it was something that they needed to look at and have further discussion on. He stated that cost wise, it would not be great, they could probably get by with printing costs, but he thought they could find some talented individuals who would agree to serve on this program. He stated that he did not think it would be a long range plan but it would need to be one that would certainly be a minimum of a year time period before they could implement it. He asked the City Council for approval on a project like this, to continue discussion on it and he opened the floor for their thoughts.

Council Member Gover agreed that he was right on line, as they needed to get out of this rut that they were in.

Council Member Rorrer agreed and stated that they needed to be careful of how they put the committee together, as they needed a cross section and not a one-sided view.

Council Member Tudor also agreed that they needed to do it.

Mayor Price stated that he appreciated the consideration and they would talk further about it as they go along.

Discussion involving downtown areas:

Mayor Price explained that he knew it was controversial, but they have all heard comments about their downtown areas. They were beginning to see severe deterioration in a couple of areas of commercial buildings and also in certain areas there was severe deterioration of privately owned houses. He proposed that they begin to have conversation about a tax abatement program for some of those areas. He explained that it would be for some of those areas where owners could come in and if they would like to make significant improvements that they could give them an abatement on taxes or whatever for a five or six year time, that they could encourage some growth in those areas.

Council Member Rorrer stated that he had no problems in looking at that at all. He pointed out that if they get a new industry in they would give them the moon if that was what it takes, but yet they did not do anything to help their existing, small businesses. He agreed that they needed to look in that direction and try to help them.

Council Member Tudor asked if they were talking about residences.

Mayor Price replied that they needed to look at residences and commercial. He stated that they needed to primarily on commercial because they all knew some areas that were having problems and needed some help.

Council Member Rorrer added that if they did it commercial (then) they had to do for residential to which Council Member Tudor agreed.

Council Member Grogan recalled that about ten years ago, the city went on record and said that any business person in any area in town, who wanted to spend money on their property, getting it up to date and so forth, that the city would contribute up to \$500, once that was done. He stated that if he remembered correctly they had one taker and that was Mabe's up on Washington Street.

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Council Member Rorrer stated that there were several that just would not even touch it.

Council Member Grogan agreed and he thought that type of program, as they look at it, he thought they could go back and see how that was done and do something similar, whether it be tax abatement or cash payment or whatever, and hopefully something would happen.

Council Member Rorrer added that the best he could remember, for no more than they were offering it was too much red tape.

Mayor Price commented that they recently had a young lady in their community who owned some property. He stated that she went through the analyzing of the building. He explained that she currently had a business going and wanted to expand it. He noted that as their building laws were now, just in the last several years, she had to scrap her investment ideas and she could not afford to do what she was being asked to do. He indicated that perhaps a program such as this would help her.

Discussion on the industrial park:

Mayor Price commented that he knew that they have not arrived at where they want to be with an industrial park, but he had a meeting recently with a guy who was from the Triangle, and of course the Raleigh area was just absolutely booming. He stated that they could not find enough people to participate. He explained that they were talking about where Rockingham County and Eden fit into this spectrum of growing areas of the Triangle and Triad. He stated that Rockingham County was 73rd and where they needed to be with their capabilities, and he said to be frank with the whole operation, what they have and their ability to attract some of the engineers who participate in some of those high growth businesses, one growth area that they all have sitting in front of them was manufacturing and distribution from an area.

He explained that he tied that into what he was going to say because they have not made their mind up to where they were going to put the industrial park. He stated that he would press this again by saying that they have the shell building. They would go off the rotation when they sell the shell building and it would be two years before they get one and they had to keep this thing going.

He stated that for Eden to be different, now they talk about water and sewer and sewer was perhaps more important than water sometimes, but he would like to see them, when they open the industrial park, to have a public, private ownership of a shell building and to devote that building to some micro electric enterprise, to encourage that type of business to come to Eden. He stated that it was going to take the city to push something like that for it to be different. It was going out on a long range and it would have to have private investors to help capitalize some of the interest. It would also be a long sell, but it would certainly be a shot in the arm for this community to be able to attract a micro electric enterprise.

Mayor Price stated that he knew it was a fairy tale, but it could happen. It had happened where people have put their interest and money behind it. He stated that he would like for them to have some discussion about it and there were a lot of private people who would be interested in making an investment like that. He stated that any discussion about the future had discussion about the computer generation, electronics and Eden needed to be in it.

Council Member Tudor stated that it was a great idea. He pointed out that the Research Triangle was born under the guidelines of a Governor that was from Eden, Luther Hodges and it was his idea. He stated that he was sure a lot of people thought it was a fairy tale. The first Research Triangle Park that was built in the United States was built right there in North Carolina and North Carolina was a leader in the South and the East for a good while because of Luther Hodges' foresight. He stated that he was impressed by the Mayor's foresight and leadership. They had to be progressive in the idea that they had to make Eden attractive and they had to have something that other people did not have. He stated that he would be on board with the Mayor.

Council Member Gover stated that was why they were trying to come up with a map to show the outlined acreage that they have since they did not have the building, they could offer them the

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acreage, because as they wait for a building, it takes so long, but if they could take the acreage, that was available.

Mayor Price explained that it was going to take a building. It was a long-term sale and realistically they wait 18 to 24 months on a shell building, and they would have to have private investors to help capitalize the interest on it.

Council Member Gover noted that they have waited 3 years on the other building.

Mayor Price agreed and that was what he was saying, it was a longer sale. He explained that people did not want to wait, they did not want us to say, "here is the land". They want to see something like this shell building. He stated that it was 80,000 square feet, modified like they wanted it, the water was in, the zoning was done, the sewage was in, the gas was in, and the electricity was in. He stated that when their industrial park was done, they wanted to be able to do the same thing. He stated that they would show them that all that stuff was in and they would not have to wait. He stated that they would find, as they deal with those people, that they were already behind time. Everybody was in a hurry and either they have had a long term wait or they see a window of opportunity or their financiers have told them they were willing to go if they could get this accomplished in 12 months, but whatever the reason they want to see a building. He agreed that he was right, they have to have the land, but they need to have a facility.

Council Member Gover asked that if they would come up with that committee and put them on that shell building then they could get that in.

Council Member Myott asked why not market the shell building they have.

Mayor Price replied that he was not talking about going around the Committee of 100 as that committee was one of the most valuable enterprises in this county, but they were devoted to any type of enterprise, and they should have that and it was being marketed right now. He added that it should not be a substitute for the committee.

He stated that people were coming into this city at least twice a month to look at that shell building. He stated that he would not want to exclude any other types of businesses because there were some wonderful businesses coming in and looking at it, but he was talking about having something that they could market separately. He noted that they also had the Pluma building which was marketed. By then, they would have to move along with their industrial park as they did not have anything to sell, and they were going to have to move on.

Council Member Myott stated that it looked like they were going to have to make a decision about an industrial park, but first they would have to decide where.

Mayor Price agreed and they were talking 24 to 36 months out on decisions they were making right now, as it just would not move fast.

He stated that they also needed to talk about the downtowns. He stated that for the water and sewer capabilities, for a town of Eden's size, they were not head and shoulders, they were waist high because of the foresight of people on Council years ago. They started and founded the water and sewer capabilities. He stated that a lot of folks have water but very few have sewer. Eden was a very spread out town, but it had three or four downtowns. He stated that it just needed a little jolt and all of those downtowns wanted to see something happen and the people in the community want to see them cleaned up and be proud of them. He closed in saying that he appreciated their consideration.

Discussion regarding the Highway 14 sewer line:

Council Member Janney asked if they have all of the easements for the Highway 14 sewer line.

Mr. Thomas replied that he did not think they had all of them. They have contacted the owners but have not received a response back from all of them.

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Mr. Stanley added that he had probably half of them back on the Harris Place portion, but he had not obtained the easements to get out to the property owners on Mebane Bridge, which was on the southern part leg, and he was currently working on the pump station upgrade.

Council Member Janney asked if they had started anything on that yet to which he replied that they had.

Council Member Rorrer questioned if it was without easements.

Mr. Stanley replied that they have issued the notice to proceed to the contractor to allow him to work on the city property and in the state right of ways, which was over 60% of the project on the Mebane Bridge portion. He explained that as part of that notice to proceed, there was an agreement made that he would hop from section to section as need be, to accommodate the city getting those easements. The city would not hold him for damages due to not having the easements on a time basis to get the project in and he would not hold the city for claims for delays if they did not get an easement between a section to help finish something up. He stated that the contractor was fully aware of the situation, as well as the City Manager and Mayor Price. He added that he was doing his best to get what he could with what he had in hand at this time.

Council Member Janney asked, so if they did not get an easement it would hold up the project to which Mr. Thomas replied that they could condemn if they had to.

Mr. Stanley stated that he had contacted everyone. He had sent multiple certified letters, but he was on a standstill at this point on the Mebane Bridge, because he did not have the easements to send out. He stated that he had people asking for them and he did not have them in hand to get them signed. He stated that he was working with other ones on the Harris Place, and mainly the ones who were out of town were the ones he was waiting on, and he actually just got two signed today.

Mayor Price stated that he had said the easements were out and asked if the owners have the easements in their hands.

Mr. Stanley replied that on Harris Place, there was one property owner in Atlanta (the shopping center), and he had about four different revisions to make on that one. The Sonic (owner) was in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Venture Properties was in Wilkesboro. He stated that they have reviewed it at the animal hospital and he was waiting on a phone call. That should not be any trouble and should be coming back. He noted that the bank seemed to have no problem and the attorney was still reviewing the documents. He stated that he received those easements on about May 4th, and from that point he had to start getting them out the door. He added that there were nine easements on that section.

Mayor Price asked if all the landowners or representatives have the easements in their hands so they could get them back to him to which Mr. Stanley replied that they did on the Harris Place section. He stated that as he had said, three or four were returned and signed and there was probably four or five outstanding. All those were the actual easements and were in their hands. He was now waiting to see if they wanted revisions made or different language involved, some were in the middle of a transaction and were out of town. He stated he was trying to push them along the best he could, the ones in town to call him back, get back with them and get it signed and done.

Council Member Janney stated that they had said they would give a tap per 100'. He asked if they were specifying that as he got them back.

Mr. Stanley replied that he was. He stated that he was just getting the easements back and he told them he would be glad to sit down with them and take the plans and mark it down. He stated that he had already requested from the contractor a price to include that in the project and they could add them on a unit price basis.

Mayor Price asked about the west side and if the Attorney was still getting the legal work done for the ones on...to which Mr. Stanley replied yes, the Mebane Bridge on the south end.

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Mr. Stanley explained that there were less property owners involved there, all of them he had received a verbal okay, of course Mr. Glasscock (veterinarian) he thought he would sign if they present the easement or the city would have to condemn the property.

Mayor Price stated that they were just waiting for the legal work to come from the Attorney at this point to which Mr. Stanley replied yes the actual deed of easement documents. Mayor Price thanked him for the work on the project.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kim J. Scott
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Philip K. Price
Mayor