

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. 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
	Billy Vestal
	Christine H. Myott
	Jerry Epps
	C. H. Gover, Sr.
	Garry Tudor
City Manager:	S. Brad Corcoran
City Attorney:	Tom Medlin, Jr.
City Clerk:	Kim J. Scott
Deputy City Clerk:	Sheralene Thompson
Representatives from City Departments:	
Representatives from News Media:	Lisa Doss, Eden's Own Journal, Leslie Brown, News and Record, Steve Lawson, Eden Daily News

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Price called the regular meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He explained that the Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and works from a prepared agenda; however, time would be set aside for business not on the printed agenda.

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Price declared that he had a proclamation to make regarding the tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and that the City Council would not meet again until after that anniversary.

911 ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, those who attacked our country unprovoked on September 11, 2001, have since attempted to silence our patriotism in an effort to thwart the international alliance against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, those affected by the attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, in the United States and abroad, vow never to forget the shock and sorrow felt that day and everyday since; and

WHEREAS, it is our obligation as a united people to continuously remember those who perished on the day of the attacks and do so by maintaining and returning to our everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, as a show of continued support for our United States of America, join with the rest of the world in remembering the tragedy by commemorating the one year anniversary; and

WHEREAS, a call is being made to the churches of our community to ring bells or chimes at 8:46 a.m. the time of the attacks on the World Trade Center, so that patriotism continues to triumph over fear.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip K. Price, Mayor of Eden, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002, as "A DAY OF REMBRANCE" and urge all citizens to commemorate this day with appropriate events remembering all those who gave their lives for our freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of Eden, North Carolina this twentieth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and two.

s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
s/Kim J. Scott  
Kim J. Scott  
City Clerk

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INVOCATION:

Mr. Ben Rose, Pastor, Draper Pentecostal Holiness Church, was present to give the invocation. Fire Chief Ronnie Overby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTIONS:

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF EDEN  
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 14-21, 2002 AS  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BIG SWEEP WEEK

WHEREAS, Rockingham County is rich in natural resources and beauty; and

WHEREAS, water is a basic and essential need for all life; and

WHEREAS, trash fouls our waterways as well as our landscapes; and

WHEREAS, every citizen should contribute to keeping our environment clean and healthy by working together to preserve clean water and the natural beauty of our surroundings; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Big Sweep is a statewide community effort to retrieve trash from North Carolina's waterways and landscapes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Eden, North Carolina, meeting on August 20, 2002, does hereby declare September 14-21, 2002 as ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BIG SWEEP WEEK in Eden, and does further hereby urge every citizen to do his or her part to restore the beauty and function of our lakes and streams by volunteering to participate in the Big Sweep event.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Eden to be affixed.

s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
s/Kim J. Scott  
Kim J. Scott  
City Clerk

PROCLAMATIONS:

LITTER SWEEP FALL 2002

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation annually organizes a statewide fall roadside cleanup to assure clean and beautiful roads across our state and to preserve a sound environment for the generations to come; and

WHEREAS, a fall "Litter Sweep" roadside cleanup has been planned for September 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002, to give government agencies, civic and professional organizations, churches, schools, businesses, families and concerned citizens the opportunity to partner with the Department of Transportation in its goal of clean and beautiful roadsides by organizing community cleanups in all 100 counties across the state; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Department of Transportation employees, local government officials and workers, community and civic organizations, churches, schools, businesses, Department of Correction inmates and community service workers, and environmentally concerned citizens annual conduct fall community roadside cleanups during "Litter Sweep" and may receive certificates of appreciation for their effort; and

WHEREAS, the grand natural beauty of our state and clean environment are sources of great pride for all North Carolinians, attracting tourists and aiding in recruiting new industries; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 fall cleanup will celebrate the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway program and the thousands of volunteers who contribute their labor and time year round to keep our roadsides clean; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip K. Price, Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim September 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002 as

"LITTER SWEEP"

in the City of Eden, and urge all citizens to take an active role in making their communities cleaner and more beautiful.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Eden, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002.

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s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
s/Kim J. Scott  
Kim J. Scott

COMMENDATION:

Mayor Price advised that it was an honor to have a young man and his family at the meeting due to heroism. He then asked Mr. Jerry Ellis, his wife Deborah, and their children to come forward, along with Police Chief Gary Benthin.

He noted that Mr. Ellis had served the community very well, was a native of Eden, and was heavily involved as a teacher and as a coach and most importantly, was a friend to the youth of the community.

Mayor Price explained that Mr. Ellis and his family would be receiving a commendation and he stated that he would read it as it adequately described what he had done for the city.

“To Mr. Gerald Ellis, 1904 East Stadium Drive in Eden:

Dear Mr. Ellis, On December 29, 2001 you were sitting in your vehicle in the Winn Dixie parking lot when you heard a lady screaming. The lady had just been robbed of her handbag. Disregarding your safety, you began a foot chase of the suspect. In the process the suspect dropped the lady’s handbag but you continued the chase and returned the handbag. This subject was a dangerous criminal who had committed previous crimes like this one. As a result of your quick thinking and unselfishness, the subject was apprehended, arrested, and convicted of robbery. The City of Eden is proud of its citizens like you who do not think of themselves, but others. On behalf of the City of Eden, I would like to thank you for your actions and commend you for being an outstanding citizen of the City of Eden.”

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

*The following comments were transcribed verbatim at the request of Mayor Price – Note: there were approximately 200 citizens at this meeting.*

(a) Raymond Wilson request to address Council.

Mr. Raymond Wilson: Mr. Mayor, first of all I’ve got a petition here that I would like one of ya’ll to accept if you would. Pass it around and let them look at it, if you don’t mind. Thank you sir. I’m sure that all of ya’ll know what this right here is. The King James Version of the Bible ... the Holy Bible. How many of you up there read this Bible and understand it? Or any of it? I’m sure that [Council Member] Mr. Reynolds does too. So does [Council Member] C.H., [Council Member] Mr. Vestal, [City Attorney] Medlin I’m sure you do. Well, I know that the last meeting, you had a lady speaker up here, minister. The Bible speaks against that. In this Holy Bible ... King James Version. That is one thing that I didn’t agree with at the other meeting but that’s done and over with so we won’t go into that right now. This right here is what I’m with ya’ll on tonight. The City of Eden Councilmen, well some of you, are still wasting money. I’m sure some of you have been against it. I know you have. Alright, first, let me congratulate you on using some of the old schemes ... holding a special meeting last Thursday night and doing it behind closed doors ... trying to, whatever, quite a few people here as I understand. I was sick and couldn’t be here myself but would’ve like to have been. Okay, you didn’t fix the problem. Only you done is make the problem fester because you robbed Peter to pay Paul and you don’t do that. Either you’re going to rob one and forget the other or you’re going

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to do both and that's exactly what you've done. I don't think the City of Eden should hire a man and pay him \$90,000 a year. I'd love to see that \$90,000 a year man, where is he? [City Manager] Mr. Corcoran? I don't see where it'd be worth \$90,000 a year.

Mayor Price: Ladies and gentlemen I asked if you would to come to order. We're trying to have a business meeting here. Everybody wants to hear your concerns. But if you would, direct your hearing to Mr. Wilson. We'd like to hear what he has to say but let him finish what he has to say please.

Mr. Wilson: I think if you paid him say \$50,000 a year all of us could cope with that because that would be \$40,000 we could use on this water and sewage thing that you're all up in the air about ... we are too. Okay, and another thing is the city workers. The police department, all of them drive their cars home. Back and forth to work. When they leave their job here at this station, that car should stay here at this station. Let them drive their own cars to and from work. That's what I had to do. The company that I worked for when I was able to work didn't furnish me any way to go. I had to get there the best way I could. If they want the job, that's the way they should work. That should be cut out. So is a bunch of the other city employees driving the trucks and other automobiles from their jobs and anywhere else they want to go. There are many more items I could talk about but at this time we'll forget it and wait for another time. Citizens, you have bled them dry by making liberal decisions. If you stop all this, the City will save money. We'll not have to raise water, sewage, and solid waste rates. We don't think its right for the City Council to buy swamp land, such as that ya'll bought on Harrington Highway up there, that is going to take \$2 or \$3 million to build it above flood level ... to make an industrial park. What's it going to be called? City of Eden Industrial Park or Price Park? Can't you answer that?

Mayor Price: No sir, the park has not been named.

Mr. Wilson: That's what I figured. Okay. Another thing, it would take about a million dollars or more to run water and sewage up there. So there's \$4 million. That's why you upped the rates on our taxes is to pay for that land and that \$4 million, isn't it?

Mayor Price: Are you asking me a question Mr. Wilson?

Mr. Wilson: Yes sir.

Mayor Price: No sir. I'm sure part of that money will go into the engineering to that park but the majority of that money is going to go into taking care of that situation of the property that we have here in the City of Eden now. Which I can tell you, a lot of it will go into engineering and repair, of needed repairs, in that water and sewer system.

Mr. Wilson: Okay, we'll forget that. Okay, it's nothing but swampland anyway so we don't need it. I think what you should have done was put around a petition to start with to every citizen in Eden, send them one in the mail, and let them vote on it, yes or no, before it was even bought. I mean that's the way it should have been done. And I'm sure, everybody that agrees with me stand up. I have dozens of more outside there, probably another hundred or so outside that feel the same way and it should be more here but a lot of them couldn't make it. Okay, if you do this to us now, you'll do it again and we're sure of it. We, the taxpaying people, are asking for the people to give their resignations at once and these is the one's we're asking for. If ya'll agree with me, stand up when I call their name. The first one is Mayor Phil Price. Nobody don't want him to leave? [Council Members] Chris Myott, Garry Tudor, Jerry Epps, John Grogan, and that almighty \$90,000 a year man, [City Manager] Mr. Corcoran. Because I don't think it's worth it. I don't see where he's done a thing in the world to help the city, no way no how, except to get it deeper in a hole. So at this time I'll close to let somebody else have a chance to say their peace. Thank you for listening to me and if you would, I'd like to be on the agenda again next time.

Mayor Price: Thank you again Mr. Wilson. I'd like the [City] Clerk to record please that we received a petition from Mr. Wilson. For the public record, using the totals provided here of 254, 176, 190, 199, 331, 141, 79, and 86. *A copy of these petitions is on file in the City Clerk's office.*

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Mr. Wilson: We had about 4,000 that was took up. Some lady took them up and we don't know who it was.

Mayor Price: Thank you very much. Next person who would like to come forward please, again if you would give your name and address.

Someone in audience asked what the petition was for.

Mayor Price: Excuse me, I'm sorry. I'll read the petition. "This petition is for all citizens of Eden to sign if you agree" and all of them say the same thing ... "we need representatives of City Hall to respond to our concerns. Rates on water, sewer, solid waste, and police patrolling the neighborhoods ... more emphasis on drug control." That statement is reflected on all the petitions presented.

(b) Daryl Law, 318 The Boulevard addressed the Council.

Mr. Daryl Law: Honorable Mayor, City Council, and City Manager of Eden. The action you took Thursday August 15 of reducing the water and sewer increases was definitely a step in the right direction; however, more steps in the same direction need to be taken. And need to be taken quickly. I've tried to live and pastor by a principle that a dear old black preacher gave me when I first started the ministry. He said, "Reverend, if your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall." That principle is not only true for a church, but for a home, a business, an industry, a city, a state, and even a nation. And the outgo of the City of Eden needs to be drastically reduced.

There were several comments in the July 16 City Council meeting by the Mayor and City Council Members regarding stopping the "bleeding" of the city finances. I have to agree. They were correct and the bleeding has to stop. The problem, though, is with the placing of the tourniquet. In basic first aid, you learn to put the tourniquet on the limb where the bleeding is taking place. The attempt to put the tourniquet around the necks of the fine citizens of Eden will not stop the bleeding. The tourniquet needs to go around the hands of the Mayor, the City Council, the City Manager, and the City Employees. The citizens are not spending the money and therefore they're not responsible for the bleeding.

A number of hours of research and preparation have gone into this presentation and I hope that you'll give it some real serious consideration. There are basically three things that I want to address. First of all, the last time I was here in July I gave you some examples of excessive spending and I told you on that night that I'd not had a chance to do some research. Well, I've had that chance. And it really bothers me, what I have found.

I have heard, I don't know how many times, about the \$400,000 for the new City Park. Well, I found out through some research that the \$400,000 that I thought was to build City Park, is actually to build three ball fields in the city park. When I was growing up in Leaksville, there were three ballparks available to me ... Leaksville, Spray, and Draper. As far as I know, they're still in operation. And in addition to that, we built a city park up on Highway 14, it's not the newest addition to the parks, but at that rate we have four city parks, four ball fields. I just have a problem, and I think the citizens have a problem paying \$400,000 to develop three ball fields when we've already got four. My personal opinion is, if they were good enough for me when I was growing up, they're good enough for the youth of today. Like I said, I thought that \$400,000 was to build the entire park, the new park facility. But I found out today that it's going to take an estimated \$4.3 million to complete the new city park facility and this estimate is three to four years old. Now that information came from the Director of Parks and Recreation at City Hall. I think somebody needs to take a look at where the bleeding is taking place.

Then some more excessive spending, \$1.7 million to purchase City Hall and related property. \$1.4 million to renovate City Hall and over \$1 million to renovate the police department. I wish I had \$4.1 million dollars to build a church. I'd build it big enough to set this building and three like it inside of it. And then we come to the four automated garbage trucks. We're really progressing. I did a comparison with Martinsville, VA and Eden, NC. The population of Martinsville is 15,416. The population of Eden is 15,800,

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approximately 384 more people in Eden than Martinsville. There are 6,498 households in Martinsville, 6,644 in Eden, NC. The City of Martinsville has 8 sanitation department workers...Eden has 13. Martinsville has 2 manual loaded garbage trucks; no automated garbage trucks. Eden has no manual loaded garbage trucks but 4 automated garbage trucks. I think that the garbage can be handled when we stop and think about it. The truck that we now have that's automated has to do twice the work because it has to go up one side of the road to pick up this side of the trash and then come down the same road again to pick up the other side. That's excessive spending.

I'll have to admit that the City Manager's package is excessive: \$90,000 salary and \$8,000 bonus in 2001, \$300 monthly housing that was recently rescinded I understand. I have no idea how much his benefit package costs. But in doing some research, I found that the average citizen of Eden has to work 7 years to make what the City Manager makes in 1 year. The filling of the new administrative positions, when we should have been downsizing, \$45,000 for a city business developer, \$35,000 for a city planner, \$29,500 for a city information service technician. These are just a few but they really bother me. I think if you have a heart for the people who put you in as City Council and Mayor, it should bother you. It should really concern you.

The City Manager made the statement in his memorandum dated August 20<sup>th</sup>. "The financial crisis developed over a period of several years and has now been exasperated due to current economical conditions and weakening economy." I agree 100 percent. Couldn't have said it better myself. When you consider the fact that in 1995, so I'm advised, that the City of Eden received a letter of concern from the state of North Carolina for using over \$3 million of water and sewer funds for other projects. They received a second letter in 1999, so I'm advised, again from the state of North Carolina concerned about a second violation of an undisclosed amount of money. Then the failure to properly bill industrial users for water from 1991 to the year 2000, resulting in a total loss of \$10,525,000 of revenue. The improper billing would have most likely gone unnoticed had it not been for the bankruptcy of Pluma, Inc. Only \$7,525,000 I understand, actually showed up on the books since \$3 million of left over funds from a bond issue at that time was applied to the deficit.

In his memo of August 13, the City Manager referred to the fact that there were over 600 late fees listed and I think maybe the reason for that is because of the timing of the bills. The bills fall due on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month. I sat in the home of a lady, a senior citizen, who has 1 income ... her social security. She had gotten her water bill and as she sat there she began to cry and she said, "Pastor, I can't pay this. I've got to wait 'til my check comes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to pay this. And now, I'm going to have a late fee attached to it." I think maybe you really need to look at what date the water bill is due on. I think it needs to be changed to take into consideration that the vast majority of the citizens of Eden live on a social security check that comes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month and you penalize them by putting a late fee on a bill that you could move to be due on another date than the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month. I understand that in May of 1999 the late fee was instituted but nobody ever followed up on it. Who's running the City? Who's running the City? Who's supposed to keep a handle on these? We had some scapegoats for the \$10 million of unbilled water. Who's going to be the scapegoat for the late fees not collected? I think it's time we quit trying to shove the blame somewhere, took some responsibility, and realized we've got some accountability as leaders of this community.

I've always been taught that if you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem so I want to give you some recommendations for reducing city expenditures. Based on the show of people here tonight, I think you'd do well to really give some serious consideration to these. Number 1 ... table the new City Park and ballparks indefinitely until the economy recovers. The City Park's not even finished and we've already had one citizen robbed at the City Park. Of course, I find it interesting that there's been nothing in the news media about that and I wonder if we're not trying to suppress anything negative about the City Park. \$4.3 million is negative enough for me.

The second recommendation is to downsize the city staff for real. On pages 3 and 6 of the August 13 memorandum to the Mayor and City Council from the City Manager, references made to staffing down timed between resignations and rehires. But nothing is mentioned about the 3 new hires, with an annual salary totaling over \$109,500. It is noted

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there that we have lost 3 employees. I wonder if the salaries of the ones that we lost come anywhere near \$109,000. Consider these facts about city staff, there is a department in the city which has 1 full-time employee and 1 full-time supervisor or chief. That poor employee must be some kind of sorry to need a dedicated supervisor to take care of him. Instead of changing an employee's job title so it will look like a position has been cut or vacated, as was recently done, we need to eliminate the position and the person. When an employee leaves the city's employment, realign the duties of the department to eliminate the need for a replacement, permanently, not temporarily. Initiate an incentive plan for supervisors to work more effectively and efficiently with fewer employees. I'm only human ... you promise me that if I can justify more employees you'll give me a 5 or 6 percent increase in my salary, I'm going to do my best to justify it. We're asking for the problems and we're getting them.

An employee was recently asked out in the field about a job that he was doing and his reply was, " I don't care. I'm not going to do it anyway. They just had to find something for me to do."

Third recommendation ... eliminate the hiring of so many consultants. The heads of most departments are paid the salary of experts to begin with. If they require consultants to make their decision and run their departments, then hire the consultants and terminate the department head.

Number 4 ... phase in, even delay if possible, the \$475,000 pump that the water and sewer department adopted in the 2002-2003 budget, thereby delaying the \$160,000 cost of dredging the basin which is 1/3 full after 35 years of use.

Number 5 ... reduce the number of days rubbish and large solid waste items are collected. Change the manner in which they're collected. Instead of having a truck running all over the city looking for something to pick up, designate certain days for certain areas of the city and have the citizens call in the day before, develop an economical route, and then have the items picked up. You don't have to have trucks running all over the city. I see on the agenda there's something about consideration of truck traffic on residential streets. The most trucks I see are garbage trucks and rubbish pick-up trucks.

Number 6 ... get out of the commercial waste business, as many of our neighboring municipalities have, thereby eliminating the over \$26,000 annual deficit.

Number 7 ... when replacement of police patrol cars is necessary, do so with the police equipped Impala instead of the Crown Victoria. The up front savings is over \$2,000 per vehicle and it's been found to break down less times than the Crown Victoria.

Number 8 ... when replacement of city cars, other than the police patrol cars, is necessary, do so with a medium-sized Malibu or even smaller cars.

Number 9 ... implement an incentive plan for city employees, not just department heads, but regular staff, to reward those who do not use all the funds allocated to them in the budget. Also, an incentive for employees, who better than for the employees who deal with it day to day, institute a program where the employees who come up with feasible ways of saving money are rewarded. Every city employee must get out of the spend mode of operation and into the save mode of operation. It's interesting to note that if every city employee would save the city \$5 a day, that would be a savings of \$237,000 a year.

I'm not picking on the City Manager but here's a perfect example of what I'm talking about. If this document had come out of the Eden Baptist Church, it would have been 7 pages thinner because we print on both sides. That's because we're in the save, not spend mode. I can't raise the tithes. During this time of recession, we need to realize that every penny counts. Not just the thousands and thousands of dollars, every penny. You save a penny, you've earned a penny. That's what I've always been taught and I think City Hall and city employees need to be reminded of that truth.

Number 10 ... and I'm almost through with recommendations, eliminate all decorative lighting at City Hall. Rely on the security lighting from Duke Power. Four sodium floodlights would provide more than sufficient lighting and would cost the city less than

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\$50 a month. I've got a feeling that all this decorative stuff around here is a whole lot more expensive than \$50 a month, unless you know somebody at Duke Power.

A recent visitor, now we all like to think that, man, City Hall, everybody thinks it's great, a recent visitor to the city after passing City Hall one night made the comment, "Ya'll must have more money than you do good sense."

There's a financial drain on the tennis courts at Bridge Street Recreation Center and here again, I know this is not thousands and thousands of dollars, but I remind you we've got to start saving pennies because pennies turn into dollars and dollars turn into hundreds and hundreds into thousands and thousands into hundreds of thousands. There is a financial drain on the tennis courts at Bridge Street Recreation Center. Many mornings at about 1:00 or 2:00, a lot of times I'm out when everyone else is sleeping because somebody's gone to the hospital or somebody's died or somebody has a crisis in their family. But many mornings between 1:00 and 2:00 I pass by the tennis courts, lights on, I mean that place looks like Christmas. And not a soul in sight. I hope it stops after tonight. Reservations should be required for using the tennis courts after dark and lights should be on a timer that can be activated by the Parks and Recreation Department at the time of reservation. No reservations, no lights. Another option to that problem could be the installation of a coin-operated timer, this would require the tennis court users to pay for the use of the lights. Other cities, even larger ones than Eden, utilize that program.

Number 12 ... reduce Internet access to individuals whose job requires it. Internet use should be limited strictly to city business. Even when an employee is on break or before or after work, they should not be using city access to the Internet. Employees who violate this policy should receive disciplinary action for the first offense and terminated for the second. Employees are paid to work for the city. They are not paid to surf the Internet, chat online, send and receive personal e-mails, play computer games, or even view pornography. I think if consideration would be given to these recommendations you would find that they are feasible and they could help the situation we're in.

The third thing I want to address very briefly is attracting industry to the city. At the present time, Eden's need is not somewhere to spend money. The major need is not the façade renovations recently suggested in the Main Street project, which will cost up front \$4,000 for and I quote "a technical analysis to be done of the city and the four areas to be included in the program." If you don't have it, it don't matter how beautiful the building is, you're not going to spend it. From our viewpoint as citizens of Eden, the great need is somewhere to earn money and if people have money, they'll spend it. The City Business Developer's time would be better spent trying to attract new or even re-attract former industry to the City.

Now attraction of industry will require concessions on the part of the City. We understand that. But unless they are completely outlandish, the City Council would do well to make the necessary concessions and get industry into Eden where citizens can work and earn a living. The fine citizens of Eden who want to work will drive from east Eden to the Loop Road and those who live in west Eden will drive to east Eden to work.

It's time for politics to stop and the serious business of attracting new industry be addressed. In conclusion, and don't get your hopes up ... I am still a pastor, the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager have all stated the financial integrity of the City must be protected and their responsibilities as elected and appointed officials must be met. The citizens of Eden agree with this; however, we do not feel that an increase in any amount for any service is justified until every operating expense of the City is cut to the bone. A moratorium must be put on every non-essential project, which includes the park and the ballparks or non-essential service regardless of the matching grants. I'm reminded when I think of matching grants of the lady who goes to Wal-Mart and she goes wild and she comes home and shows her husband what she all she's got at Wal-Mart. He says you don't even know what all of that is, what did you get it for and she said it was on special. We can get a matching grant so let's get it. That's not good economics. That moratorium must remain in effect until such time the economy recovers and the projects or services can be completed without breaking the backs or pocketbooks of the citizens of Eden. We are in a recession. We are anyway. These are desperate days and desperate measures must be taken if we are to survive them. The outgo of the City funds must be greatly reduced.



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Now, we've just agreed to a proclamation. We're not going to forget 9-11. Well, I think probably there's another proclamation that's represented here tonight that you would do well to listen to. We're not going to forget the water and sewer rates. Oh, I know. In time they'll forget it all. You're forgetting something. Every 2 months you send us a reminder.

As Mayor and City Council, you are elected by the citizens. As City Manager, you are appointed by the City Council. In reality all of you work for the citizens of Eden. They're your bosses. You're not here to serve your self interests. You're here to serve the citizens and to do what is in their best interests. Now, I don't like to get personal but these next 2 points are kind of personal. You're not here to serve as rubber stamps for the Mayor or for the City Manager. You're here to do what's best for these people out here. If you choose to be a rubber stamp, like there are some of you, and it didn't take me long to figure it out, but if you want to choose to be rubber stamp, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

And in closing, if I ever call a City Council person and they're not home and I leave a message on their answering machine and instead of that council person calling me back, I get a call from the City Manager, we're going to have a prayer meeting. And if I ever call one of you and you hang up on me, we're going to have a prayer meeting. And the guilty party knows who I'm talking about. I hope you'll give this careful consideration. And it is, regardless of what you may think otherwise, it is my prayer that God will help you to govern for the people of Eden and in their best interests because that's who you serve. [Mr. Law presented the Council with the items from which he had read.] I noticed that I had your undivided attention and you didn't take notes and I figured that's what would happen so there it is in printing.

Mayor Price: Ladies and gentlemen let's come to order please. The next gentlemen, please sir if you would give your name and address.

(c) Lonnie Silvers, 716 Summit Road, addressed the Council.

Mr. Lonnie Silvers: There are a couple of items I wanted to mention. One is senior citizens should have the orange sticker on their trash cans or the yellow ones and another thing is why do they pick up trash every week when sometimes you don't have a gallon and you have to set it out for pick-up? Because I've called a couple of times about that and most of the time I'd set mine out maybe once a month and it'd be 1/2 full or 3/4 full. I called and they said you was supposed to put every week and I was wondering why that because that's costing to stop and pick up a gallon of papers or something.

Mayor Price: Mr. Silvers that's a very good point. A lot of people had mentioned that and I'm sure that's something that, as these ideas come in, management will take a look at. I can tell you just from some knowledge of it, it could be some logistical problem but the point is well taken. We've heard it so many times I'm sure it will be looked at and studied.

Mr. Silvers: Well before they started inspections, I just put my trash can out maybe every 2 or 3 weeks, sometimes once a month. I'd wait until it would get almost full. But then after they started the inspections, I called and asked that and they said I should put it out every week. You know, if you gotta handful, put it out. That costs money for the truck to come by.

Mayor Price: It does and I'm sure that it is a policy that will be evaluated.

Mr. Silvers: Okay. Hope ya'll think about it.

Mayor Price: Okay. Thank you very much Mr. Silvers. Next person who would like to come forward please.

(d) Albert Emerson, 316 S. Byrd Street addressed the Council.

Mr. Albert Emerson: I've heard everybody talk about everything else. One thing these people that's out of work, they need their money back. Some of them paid over \$300 water bills and they need that money for their drugs, groceries, or whatever. They made a

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mistake. They should go back over it and give the people free water now, reimburse their money now, whatever they need to do to help these people. Some of them done without groceries. These people lived here all their life, worked here, made this city back when they made 65, 75 cents an hour. Now they draw less than \$400 a month, quite a few of them, they can't live like this. Ya'll think about it.

Okay, I'm going to be real short here because we've been here ... I've gotta go somewhere else. I wanted to stay here longer but I can't. Anyway, one thing that hadn't been mentioned, all the companies they closed down around here, nobody has mentioned all these folks that is put out of work. They have been out of work since Pluma closed. No jobs around here. Martinsville, everywhere, is in the same shape. Their unemployment has ran out. They don't have no money coming in. How can they pay these big bills around here? So, I'm going to say this ... I've got to go. I've got to be in Kentucky early in the morning but anyway just go down, look under the bridge, all the bridges in town, tell all them people to be moving over, tightening up, make room for some more to move in there because that's what it's coming to. Thank you.

(e) Terry Adams, 315 Meadow View Lane addressed the Council.

Mr. Terry Adams: 315 Meadow View Lane, other side of Eden, right down below the mall. Mayor, City Councilmans, what I want to present here I want to talk about is that school bus transportation. Okay, I live in a new development right down below the Eden Mall ... it's on the left, it's called The Meadows. I don't know if any of you are familiar with it.

Actually, I have an eleven-year-old daughter that attends Holmes Middle School. Okay, I went into the school system on the first day of school and said "I need my daughter picked up, I live at 315 Meadow View Lane, and she's going to need transportation to school every morning and afternoon." Okay, I'm standing before you here tonight and that problem hasn't been resolved yet. Actually, I'm still taking my daughter to school every morning. My wife and I we both work so therefore it's been an undue hardship. Okay, for me to be standing here I've talked to just about everyone from the Department of Transportation. I spoke with Frankie Woods, Mr. Gauldin, Mr. Holcomb.

Okay, Mr. Holcomb sent me a faxed copy of the State of North Carolina rules and regulations and it's saying that a bus does not stop within 1/2 mile to pick up kids, so in so many words buses stop every 1/2 mile. My concern is that they said they would pick up my daughter on Meadow Road. If any of you are familiar with Meadow Road, you have at least seven major industries on that road. You have Miller Brewing, Gildan Distribution Center, two major trucking companies (Swift and Fleet), the lumber yard, and one other company. The speed limit is 45 mph down Meadow Road and my daughter is eleven years old. And my thing is that, we, the City of Eden, should not want an eleven-year-old daughter on the side of Meadow Road waiting on a school bus.

Okay, if you read in the papers I'm sure you all do, missing child. We hear it all the time. Okay, when I spoke to Mr. Holcomb I was very disappointed. One of the responses he told me, he reverted the question back to me. Who is responsible for your child's safety? That's what he asked me. There you go. My answer to that was yes, I am responsible for my child's safety. But I do hold this city, the school system, the school bus drivers accountable because once my child is on the school bus, I rely on the school bus driver. Once my child gets at Holmes Middle School, I rely on Colonel Adkins and below to take care of my child. If I did not rely on those individuals, I would stay at Holmes Middle School with her all day, but you know that's impossible. So therefore, they were saying that this did not happen.

Of course, I did some homework. On Bridge Street, Kings Highway I watch as buses go down that road everyday. Okay, my father drives a school bus, what a coincidence. I drove here in Rockingham County also for two years. I drove for four years when I was in college in Forsyth County. I know the things that we do for children to get on that school bus to make sure that it's safe. He sent me the state laws and rules and regulations but in each comment, it always said, unless safety is an issue. At 45 mph down Meadow Road, to me, safety is an issue.

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Okay, my father drives a school bus right now. Every morning he goes right down Kings Highway. He makes a left right by the fruit stand. He goes to pick up a child that is 14-½ years old. He lives in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house on the right. He's 14-½ years old ... 1 child. He goes down, picks the child up, and backs the bus up into that dirt road, which is Duke Power Road if I'm not mistaken, and he comes back out to Kings Highway. The logic for that, he was told the first day of school that we do not want school buses to stop on four lane highways if it can be avoided.

In my particular case, I think it can be avoided. If that child is 14-½ years old and it's only one child, why can't that bus come into Meadow View in The Meadows, come right on in, make a circle, come right back out, and go to the school system? I really don't understand it and I'm very disappointed and I'm here tonight to even discuss the matter.

Our school board, once again, we pay the school board transportation department's salaries as taxpayers. Okay, I went into the school system the first day of school. Keep in mind, the children are going into their 3<sup>rd</sup> week. I got my first call a week afterwards and he left on my voice mail, "Bus 194 will pick up your child on Meadow Road." It didn't give me a time, so I didn't know whether to have my daughter out there at 5:30 a.m., 6:30 a.m., or 8:00 a.m. I had no idea. It was very agitating because I talked to Carl, Mr. Bromenschenkel. He's supposed to be the big man over there. He has yet to call me back.

I've made approximately 30 calls concerning this matter. I just wanted to bring it to you all because maybe you're not aware of it. I think it's a safety issue. I'm very disappointed that the City of Eden wanted an eleven-year-old daughter on the side of the road at 6:00 a.m. in the morning on a 4-lane highway. I don't understand and don't see what the problem is. I see cars turn around, I see buses turn around in the old Fieldcrest Credit Union. They come off Kings Highway and they turn it there, I watch them everyday. They made a circle there. They drop off one kid, two kids. And they're telling me since it's not ten kids or more, they refuse to come down to my development. I live about 1-½ miles from school. I really don't understand. It's very bothersome to me.

Once again, I talked to Frankie Woods, Mr. Gauldin, Mr. Holcomb. His recommendation was to write a memo to Mr. Bromenschenkel, since he won't call me back. I think it's absolutely ridiculous. Cause I've gotta go home and get on the typewriter and start memoing everybody in the school system. I think that's absolutely ridiculous.

Bus 223 goes down into the Draper section. That's where I was born and raised. The whole bus route is one 2/10 mile so if we are abiding by the ½ mile rule, it would be one stop in Draper, at the intersection of New Street and Stadium Drive or Gracie Street and Charlie Street, which was called the dirt road when I was growing up. It's been annexed into the city. The bus now goes down in that development and makes a circle. If we are applying the same rules and regulations throughout the Eden City area, the bus would not be going down in there.

I personally feel the bus should be going down in there. I'm not fighting the fact that it's making unnecessary stops because it's very dangerous out here being a school bus driver. I drove for 6-8 years in Forsyth County, which is one of the roughest counties around as far as school bus transportation. I did whatever it took for the safety of each and every child in Forsyth County. I went down dirt roads. I backed up dirt roads. They assigned bus monitors to my bus. They paid an individual to ride my bus to make sure that I could execute safety in picking up one child. These are the measures that Forsyth County went through for the safety of a child and I'm sure everyone here would agree that that's what we need to do for the safety of the children that goes and attends our public schools.

Mayor Price: Terry, thank you very much. Our City Manager has gotten this information and he, I'm sure, will be involved with some people who are involved in the decision making on this. As far as it has to do with the city, it's a point well taken. We certainly want to guarantee the safety of our students. Obviously, the City of Eden in essence has little control with regard to the decision that the school board makes. On the other hand, we're all in this package together and I know that as you say, we want to insure the safety of our children and he will be in contact with them. They set their policy but on the other hand, he'll have an opportunity to talk to some people and explain the situation and make

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sure that the appropriate people are involved in it and respond to it. I know that's what you want.

Mr. Adams: With three weeks into school sir and I was hoping to get this resolved before Christmas possibly. It's an undue hardship, okay?

Mayor Price: I know you do. I can assure you he will be involved with it and somebody will call you back. Thank you very much.

(f) Janet Joyce, 422 S. Center Street addressed the Council.

Ms. Janet Joyce: What I'm asking for and what I've been asking for since 1995 is an eight inch sewage line down my road. In 1995, the City of Eden decided that my road was going to become private and they were no longer going to maintain my sewage. I've lived there since 1990 so from 1990 until 1995 they maintained it. It stopped when another house was built in my area or on my street and they said "you have a four inch line ... no one else can get on this line" and they didn't let her, which is fine. At that point they come to the manhole and marked it private. So, Lettie Fay Kirks and myself, who live on that road, now have a sewage line that will not be maintained and it runs down the middle of the road, which we can't dig up and do anything about. It's about to collapse. Ms. Kirks has already had to replace hers. It cost her about \$5,000. The city told her, I think it was Mr. Corcoran, that she was going to have to have it done or he was going to condemn her home. He was going to make her leave her home because she had sewage coming up in her yard and the city refused to do anything about it. This is down the city road. We've already replaced it from our house to the road and she had done likewise. But they wouldn't fix what runs down the city road. They would not come in and put in the eight inch line, which they said was mandatory for us to have for them to maintain it. Also, when they come to pave last spring, they come up to that manhole, which runs down Stegall Street and Center, and stopped. They wouldn't pave our road. They won't give us city sewage. We get the water but we get no maintenance. And again we have a collapsing line. We can't dig up the road because it's a city road. We've been told we can't touch it. So basically, we've got to put up with sewage running up in our yard.

What my problem is, is like people before me have mentioned, so many things are being wasted, so much money is being put into city parks. Many, many things that I don't feel, to me, my sewage, and I think everybody here will agree, sewage is a necessity. You have to have it. We no longer have outhouses. We now have to have sewage. And no, I don't have \$30,000 to dig up the road and put in an eight inch line, but if I did, I couldn't do it anyway because the city's told me "you couldn't dig up that road." But I've gotta have sewage and this has been going on since 1995. I've talked to you [Mayor] Mr. Price, I've talked to you on several occasions about it. [Council Member] C.H. Gover, I've talked to him and I know he has made every effort to help me. He has really tried. I know he come and was with Ms. Kirks when she had her problem. But at that point, she had already paid somebody else to do it because she had been told they were going to condemn her home. This is an elderly lady whose husband had died of cancer. It scared her and she was not going to be moved out of her home because of sewage coming up in her yard so she took what little money she saved and paid for her own sewage. Paying city taxes, my last water bill was \$112.00 [and] \$59.00 of that was sewage. And I don't get it. I mean I get no maintenance at all so I asked if they would take the sewer part off of my bill and they said no. I asked them "do I get a discount on my city taxes?" and they said no. I pay just like everybody else but I don't get what everybody else gets.

Mayor Price: Excuse me just a second. Could I ask for the group to please come to order please? This young lady has the floor. Janet, if you would go ahead please.

Ms. Joyce: What I'm asking is that I get a new sewage line, out on South Center Street where it starts the manhole and goes out. We are in the city. We would like to have an eight inch line. We would like to have a city paved road. It was paved years and years ago, but once they paved all the roads in the area, when they got to our manhole or the manhole at Stegall Street, they stopped and refused to pave our road. They won't give us sewage, they won't repave our road. But yet we have to pay city taxes and we have to pay the sewage. Ms. Kirks, she still has to pay sewage, even though she had her own thing

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done. So, I'm just asking that we get a new sewage line and that you pave our road. We've got Merriman Street, who was annexed, into the city a few years ago, probably 4 or 5 years ago, and they've only been paying taxes for 4 or 5 years and they've already got their new sewage line. We have the street out behind me and they were just annexed...I can't even think of the name of it now ... Hopkins Court. They were just recently annexed in the last few years and they got new sewage and they got curbing, you know. Again, there's a lot of spending going on that is unnecessary, especially with the city park that again, ball parks are not something that we have to have to live. Sewage is something that I need, that my family needs to live. Thank you.

(g) Alice McBride, 244 Fairway Street, addressed the Council.

Ms. Alice McBride: Good evening. I've been up a long time today so I'm going to make mine quick. First of all, these people behind me are going to throw daggers because they're not going to like what I have to say. The city park is important to me because when they were building Gildan and getting ready for the city park, they did \$51,000 worth of damage to my house as they blasted, to which my homeowner's policy did pay, to which they went up. So I'm having to pay for that so I don't want to endure that damage for nothing. This is Eden. I'm sorry ya'll. It's not Leaksville, Spray, and Draper anymore and we can't have a Leaksville, Spray, and Draper City Park, just like we can't have a Leaksville, Spray, and Draper downtown. We've got to have an Eden. We've got to be united. We've got to stop this 3 towns into 1. I don't know how you going to do it. I was born in Rocky Mount but I was raised in Draper. And I love Draper just as much as I love Leaksville but we all got to come together somewhere and become Eden. Now Mr. Corcoran, I appreciate you being our city manager. We've got to have a leader somewhere. No, I don't appreciate your salary either but we can pay your \$96,000 if we get rid of our Assistant Recreation Director. He makes somewhere in the tune of \$50,000 a year. So you know, we could afford you if we didn't have all these assistants we had to pay. I appreciate you finding that \$1.3 million. I don't know where it was lost at but I'm glad you found it. I thought when you did the budget ya'll would have known what kind of money we had that came into this city and where it came from. We're talking about where money's coming from ... I understand National Textiles pays the city multiple thousands of dollars every other month for water. Now where do we spend that money? If we don't put it back into the system ...

Mayor Price: It goes into the system.

Ms. McBride: So we are using many, many thousands. What is it Mayor, almost \$50,000 every 2 months?

Mayor Price: I really can't tell you. They are a big customer of the City of Eden.

Ms. McBride: And that's just one textile. Then on the other hand, my water bill was \$119 for 2 months. NPC, that's a company that takes care of the yeast for Miller Brewery, they're out on 770, they pay a flat rate every 2 months of \$168. We don't even know how many gallons of water they use. It is \$168 flat rate every 2 months. Now that came straight from the City of Eden Water Department. Now that upsets me. Greensboro ... we can't compare with Greensboro. The cost of living in Greensboro is astronomical. But let me tell you something. We pay more for sewer in this city than the people in Greensboro pay. They pay \$2.06 per thousand gallons. Now the waters a little bit higher, I admit, it's \$1.93 per thousand, but their meter rates, they charge their people \$1.23 a month, meter rate. Our water meter rate is \$5.52 a month, isn't that correct? Five times more than Greensboro. And where is our sewer meter? We're charged a sewer meter rate every month. Where is it? Are we being charged for something that we don't even have?

We need to think about this stuff. Back up here. I had a curb and guttering done, cost me \$300. City had to do it. I couldn't do it myself. No, wasn't allowed to. Four city workers came out. One ran a backhoe. Three stood there. Finally, one of the three got out a shovel and started shoveling and two of them came to my house on my front porch, and I worked on his eye, he had something in his eye. And I didn't charge the city for that. So you know, what did we pay those two people to do? Stand there.

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City of Eden, N. C.

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Talk about new businesses coming into town. I haven't seen anywhere when you're discussing it, reading about it in the paper, no where do those contracts (say) we're going to give them \$98,000 to fix the building like they want. Where does it say in the contract that eighty percent of your employees needs to be from Rockingham County? If we're going to give you the money, then put it back in the community. You know and that's not an unreasonable asking. I'm sorry and I feel sorry for the people in Ridgeway and the people across the Virginia line but they're not donating any money into this tax system. They're not giving any money to get those industries into our neighborhood and so we need to make that stipulation that eighty percent of your employees must come from this county or this city.

One other thing that we need to look at is our cell phones for our city employees. How many of them actually need it? You know, we could still use the two-way radios. How many of those cell phones have personal phone calls on them? Somebody needs to take the time to come into City Hall and ask to see those bills and sit down and go through them, ya'll can do that. Believe me, I ask for the travel vouchers and Mr. Corcoran, you know I got these, because you had a memo sent to you too. And they did make me copies. They were nice enough to do that. And I paid for these, by the way, so they didn't waste any money. It cost me three bucks for these. But now, I have a problem with a couple of them. Number one I know they were gone through very carefully before they were given to me. And I'm not sure it's all of them because on one of my copies a red pencil mark is written and the pencil mark says "Cancel - the City was reimbursed. It was paid by personal check." And this was from a councilperson's spouse that went with them on a trip. Now here's another travel voucher ... this one really worries me. Motel room \$255 for two nights. Now that's \$125 a night. What's wrong with the Day's Inn? I have to stay there. And now, one dinner, one dinner, \$27.39. The second night, the dinner was \$35.41. Now they were eating lobster and steak with a shrimp cocktail to boot, or there spouse went and it's not marked on here and if their spouse went, we paid for their spouse's meals and I don't like that. You know. We can pay for your room, it doesn't make any difference. It's not going to cost anymore to have your spouse stay in that room, you got to pay for it, but to pay for the meals ... absolutely not and this was Mr. Epps.

Council Member Epps: We reimbursed them for that.

Ms. McBride: No sir you did not.

Council Member Epps: I used my own personal credit card to which Ms. McBride replied yes you did and we wrote you a check for \$468, you charge \$255 for your credit card, but we reimbursed it, we added it right back in. And here is the voucher if ya'll want to look at it. Or are you telling me that you didn't get a check for \$468?

Council Member Epps: I don't know, this was my first encounter with a trip and I used my own credit card and they reimbursed me back for what I spent. On one meal that was done that was not, my wife went with me and but she ordered a meal and after we saw the meal we didn't order any more, because we weren't going to, and we drove down town out of our pockets and bought the rest of our meals, we didn't eat at the motel.

Ms. McBride: Then who fixed up these figures for you to be reimbursed your \$468?

Council Member Epps: Because I used my card and they had to give it back to me.

Ms. McBride: Yeah, but these meals....

Council Member Epps: There was only one meal on there.

Ms. McBride: No there's two meals on here. January 8 and January 9.

Council Member Epps: The second meal was a couple of meals together where we went to a fish camp down in Asheville and ate because the motel was charging like \$25-\$30 just for ...

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City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular August 20, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

Ms. McBride: But I'm supposed to pay for \$37 for both of ya'll? I don't mind paying for yours but I'm not supposed to pay for your wives.

Council Member Epps: I took my time off my job and lost a day's wages and I went down there on city business to learn how to be what I'm supposed to be.

Ms. McBride: She didn't have to go. Sorry. Let me tell you something about paying for out of town meals Mr. Epps. I can go out of town any day of the year to a seminar for Morehead Hospital and they don't pay for my lunch and they don't pay for me 36½ cents a mile for travel rate either. That's what our city council gets paid for travel fees ... 36½ cents a mile. Now what kind of money do we make, it's not much, but boy does it mount up.

Council Member Epps: Let me say this ... is that we ... that was our first encounter with a trip. I had no idea how it operated. But I work for HUD. HUD pays my travel ... they pay all my meals and they pay my motel and my wife can go.

Ms. McBride: So you're being a citizen of Eden?

Council Member Epps: No, I'm just saying I thought that was procedure. Now if you've got a problem with that \$26 I'll be glad to give it to the young lady at the front.

Ms. McBride: But how many more \$26 is it?

Council Member Epps: I haven't been no where else because we have canceled everything due to the fact of the recession.

Ms. McBride: Well, let me tell you something being a citizen of Eden, you didn't wonder about all of these other people when they go on trips and take their spouses, you don't think that is not right?

Council Member Epps: I don't understand all the system, I've still got training wheels on my bike.

Ms. McBride: Well look, I'm not a member of the city council and I don't think it's right. I would never, ever, ever do it. I couldn't sleep at night. I would feel guilty.

Council Member Epps: Well, let me tell you this little story. I'm a pastor and I don't lie and I don't cheat and I don't do anything.

Ms. McBride: You don't?

Council Member Epps: No ma'am and I want to tell you that right up front. I would not risk my religion or go to hell over this. I want to tell you this. There was a young man one time that worked in a yard, doing a debarking machine in a lumber yard. And he said, "You know if I was up there in that office I could run this place a lot better." And he told everybody about that. Well one day the intercom happened to be on and the manager heard it. He called him to the office and said, "I'm taking a vacation and I'm going to let you take my seat for two weeks." In two weeks that young man pulled his hair out and he prayed that he would get back on the debarking machine. It's easy to stand out there and tell us what you think and run our show when you don't know all the facts and you don't know what all we do.

Ms. McBride: Mr. Epps, you're running my show, you're not running your show... you're running my show. And I don't like the way you run it.

Council Member Epps: Well, I tell you what young lady. You can just do what you want. But I am doing just the best that I can do under the circumstances and if you knew the people that sacrifices that sets up here ... we take times off our jobs, we're in meetings all the time. We lose money and my wife's not working either. I'm the only one that's working in the house. What I'm here for is to do what's best for our community and for our citizens. We've got 15,000 people that aren't here tonight.

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Ms. McBride: And Mr. Epps, I appreciate you trying to do your job. I'm serious. I wouldn't have your job. I tried that one time. Ya'll just done made me so mad on the city council ... I said "I'm going to run." Went in as a write-in. Ten days before the election... ten days, didn't do any advertisement. The only time my picture was in the paper was when the Eden News put it in there with everybody else and I got over 300 votes. Since that time, everybody has said, "Why don't you run ... why don't you run?" Even some council people has asked me that and I can't because I am an honest, outspoken person. And when I am in a closed door meeting, I would come out and tell it if it didn't belong to be in closed door. That's why I can't run. Ya'll need to sit back, re-evaluate, and pay attention, just use common sense. That's all you've gotta have is common sense to know you can't spend more than what you've got. I'm only going to say one thing in closing and that is ... Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Gover go to bat for these citizens out here. They do speak up. So with our next election, if their names are not on the ballot, I'm going to vote for Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse.

Mayor Price: Okay, next person who'd like to come forward please. If you'd give your name and address ...

(h) Annie Grubbs, 1417 Maryland Avenue addressed the Council.

Ms. Annie Grubbs: I wanted to first say, has any of ya'll ever lived on a farm and know what an outhouse is? Where you can use it and don't have to flush it? Well my water bill's got so high I can't even flush mine. Can't wash my dishes, can't mop my floor, can't wash my clothes. What am I supposed to do? I'm on a fixed income.

The water bill has doubled from \$24 up to \$28 and \$72. Now if you won't tell me that's outrageous. Ya'll people sit up here and get this big money. We don't get that big money. And [Mayor] Mr. Price, I've bought tires from you but never again will I buy a tire from you. I'll go to Reidsville. Now you can sit there and smile like you think I'm crazy. I'm from the farm. I don't have much education but I'm going to speak what I think because I've always been taught to do that. You sit there and you get good money. All of you get good monies. And you ladies too. I ain't leaving yall out. Ya'll get good money and ya'll probably got a good time benefit. Ya'll go off and ya'll get another job and ya'll work that job. We other peoples can't do that. I'm a diabetic. I can't do it. But it's not right for ya'll to take all these jobs when right there where you pay your water bill, I'm going to tell you something else, right there where you pay your water bill, is seven or eight in there working when you ought to do them like the mills do. Take one job, one lady, and make her do four or five. When she goes home at night, she might sleep.

I'm gonna tell you, I'm mad. I'm mad. I'm from the farm and I don't care. I'm gonna speak exactly what I think because it's no ... nothing against what you speak as long as you don't get out of hand with it. But it's not right for ya'll to do the citizen people like you're doing. I'm a diabetic and honest to God, I can't flush my commode. When I lived on the farm, I didn't have to worry about flushing. I just closed my lid and went on and forgot about it, but here you can't do it. Can we build us a johnny house in our back yard? Mr. Price?

Mayor Price: Ma'am I'm sure it's not allowed in the city anymore.

Ms. Grubb: That's what I'm talking ... all right, can we go without flushing our toilets in our homes?

Mayor Price: I can't be the judge of that ma'am.

Ms. Grubb: It'd be stinking to high heaven, wouldn't it? Don't you think so?

Mayor Price: I think you're made your point.

Ms. Grubb: It's well enough for ya'll to sit there and get all that money each week or each month or whatever ya'll get, but those people, let me tell you. When I come up here to pay my water bill, one of the ladies had the gall to ask me if I brought my water bill. Now forgive me for saying this, I'm just going to repeat what I said, "the damn thing was so heavy I couldn't tote it." That's the very words I said.



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Mayor Price: Ma'am, you're welcome to talk. We certainly want to listen to you but we're not going to tolerate the profanity.

Ms. Grubb: Alright, I just said what I said to her. Anyway, she kept on saying that, "well, maybe, 35,000 gallons of water is [inaudible] too much ---- [inaudible]." I'm there all day long. Half a night by myself. It's no way. I could cut every spigot in my house, outdoors too, and let it run for a week and I wouldn't get that much water. But that's what she said. Then she turned around and said, "well, maybe you've got a leak." I said, "Lady, I'm glad you set your foot in it. Has every house in Eden got a leak?" Now you sit on that and think about it.

Mayor Price: Thank you.

(i) Richard Grubb, Stadium Drive, addressed the Council.

Mr. Richard Grubb: I have here about 700 more names on a petition. It reads just like the one you had before. The lady that just spoke is my mother. She is kindly right, she don't have the money to pay the water bill. She has to use it to buy her drugs and has to use it to live on. I'd like to ask a question, how much does the City Attorney make?

Mayor Price: Tom, could you give us an idea? I know his salary varies based on his time he bills to the city, but there's a base price on that.

City Attorney Tom Medlin: Yes it is a fixed monthly amount of \$2,650. That's for 17 hours of work and consultation.

Mr. Grubb: I want you to keep voting for this water and sewer thing because I promise you, before it's over you're going to earn the money. The city's going to spend a whole lot more.

Mr. Medlin: Course you understand, I don't vote. I'm not a council member.

Mr. Grubb: You're not a council member? You're just the city attorney? Well the rest of them is going to help you get rich.

Mayor Price: Mr. Grubbs has given to the city clerk a couple of petitions. They are each about 4 or 5, 6 pages a piece of names and it says, "This petition is for all citizens of Eden ...", the same as the other one, "we need representatives at City Hall to respond to our concerns: rates on water, sewer, solid waste, and police patrolling the neighborhoods and more emphasis on drug control." I present them to the city clerk for safekeeping. Anyone else who would like to come forward to speak tonight? We want the people who have not spoken and we're going to wind this up in about ten more minutes. Sir?

*A copy of this petition is in the office of the City Clerk.*

(j) Jerry Booth, 412 S. Byrd Street, addressed the Council.

Mr. Jerry Booth: Well, I ain't got a lot to say. Basically, it's all been said tonight. You know a lot of these cotton mill workers ... we're a cotton mill town. Year ago a lot of them worked for Fieldcrest and they're working on fixed incomes on these water bills and things ...

Mr. Booth: A lot of these textile workers, they're on fixed incomes and so forth and they draw social security. I know you probably ain't familiar with Fieldcrest retirement plan but it's not too great. They don't pay a lot. I've heard a lot of these senior citizens talk about they couldn't afford to pay their bills. It concerns me. I know they're telling the truth 'cause I'm a cotton mill worker myself. I've seen a lot of these mills shut down around and even the mill that I work with at decorative bedding, everyday I see people laid off and I hadn't heard a lot of talk about creating new jobs. You know, I'm glad Gildan came here because they have created some jobs. My wife works there and she's been around about 3 or 4 different industries and she's been laid off.

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I think we need more industry than we do a City Park. I see on this agenda consideration of BB&T loan for Freedom Park. I don't think we need a park. We've got a park. We've got ball fields in town. I think we need to use them. You know, it's just common sense to spend our money wisely. I don't make a lot of money at Fieldcrest. I'm a poor man myself. I scrape to pay my water bill but it concerns me when I see this go on. It makes me think about it. You know we voted all you people in as our best interests. As I look upon you today, I wonder if you are serving us like you should. And like the brother said tonight, he proposed a plan. He's not a city councilman or so forth but he proposed a plan. In his little research, he made a lot of sense in what he said. I appreciate him. I appreciate that. He put a lot of his time and effort to it. But you know you people need to take concern. We voted you in and you're to work for us. We're not against you. We're a team as Eden trying to survive. We need jobs. I ask all of you to reconsider this water deal because the people can't pay it and we have got a reminder every 2 months when we get that water bill. If that don't work the reminder, the reminder don't work, we've got a reminder when the election time comes. And we can remember who to vote for.

Mayor Price: Thank you Jerry.

Mayor Price: I think this young lady right over here wanted to speak.

(k) Delores Edwards, 854 Warren Avenue, addressed the Council.

Ms. Delores Edwards: First question I've got is when did ya'll sell the old property, old city hall property and the police department and council chambers? When were they sold?

Mayor Price: It's not been sold.

Ms. Edwards: It's not been sold so it can't be considered revenue. In the council meeting notes last week ya'll considered that as revenue.

Mayor Price: There is not a certified buyer, it's not been to the market yet. It's been appraised now.

Ms. Edwards: So you can't, you can't consider that revenue like you put down on the minutes last week, on the agenda?

Mayor Price: We're using the appraisal of what we think it will bring in the market.

Ms. Edwards: Okay, can you tell me how much it costs to produce a gallon of water to show a profit for the city of Eden?

Mayor Price: I can't tell you and I doubt very seriously that anybody here could tell you, but we could find out and let you know.

Ms. Edwards: How much is the solid waste grant for and where is it coming from? That ya'll applied for.

Mayor Price: Mr. Corcoran can address that.

City Manager Brad Corcoran: It's \$10,000.

Mayor Price: \$10,000.

Ms. Edwards: Okay. What is the number of the staff reduction compared and the new hires versus the dollar saved? If you're going to reduce the staff and you're going to rehire, what's the savings?

Mayor Price: I think the net result was, what is it, the status, Brad do you know?

Mr. Corcoran: In 1995-1996 the City had 203 full-time employees. When I got here they had 188 full-time employees. Today we have 183 full-time employees. And once the

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staffing reductions have fully been implemented that the council supported in February, we'll be down to 179 full-time employees, which is the lowest level since the 1980's.

Ms. Edwards: And can you explain this phase one of the bio-solids treatment upgrades, spread over the next two fiscal years? How is that going to help us?

Mr. Corcoran: I think that was one of the recommendations that Pastor Law also mentioned was phasing that \$475,000 project. I think he questioned if that could be done over two years. That already is going to be done over two years. And what that does is in this year's budget, if you look at this year's budget, you'll see the full \$475,000 and so by delaying that project until April or May, doing half the project this year and then half the project next year, it saves basically half of that \$475,000 from this year's budget, which I think is one of the points that he was making as well.

Ms. Edwards: Okay. Mr. Epps, if you were not knowledgeable of what this job required, you should have never run. You should have never ran for this seat if you were not going to work for the citizens of Eden. You, Mr. Tudor, Mr. Grogan. Now as far as Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Vestal, Mr. Grogan go, I think they are truly there for the betterment of the city. You three in particular, I don't think you are. You two up there, [Mayor] Phil, Mr. Corcoran, this is a poor town. If you will look around, this is a poor town. It is not Greensboro. We are 'bout as poor as Stoneville. We have less industry compared to the citizens than Stoneville has. Ya'll are trying to, between the city park and this multi-million dollar Taj Mahal down here, ya'll have just about bankrupted the citizens of Eden. Because we cannot pick up the expense that it's costing. My feeling is, this city council, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Cocoran, you need a, the citizens of Eden, you need a committee to oversee all of ya'll, to be at every meeting that goes on. No closed meetings. Where citizens attend every meeting that goes on. They know exactly what's going on every step of the way. Because this is not just your city. We put you where you're at. We can take you out of where you're at. Because you're not working for us because in the last six or seven years, this town has went downhill and it is still going downhill and it will take a long time to pull it back up. You're a businessman. You know if your business goes down, it's going to take a long time to build that business back up, to put that trust back in those customers. That's what you're doing to the citizens. You've robbed them of the trust they had for you. They don't have it anymore because little by little you have picked their pocket and this final slap in the face, you figured I guess, the majority of you figured we were too dumb to even notice that the water bills would go up. And if they went up, we would keep our mouths shut. We would swallow it and we would graciously send that check in and pay it without one word. But you only push so far. And when you push that limit, the horse is ready to kick. It's probably this way, a lot of donkeys are ready to kick. Because none of us claim to be brilliant but nine times out of ten, the majority of people that you've got sitting out in this audience would work better for the city than what ya'll have done. We entrusted ya'll with this city and you've ruined it. You've all but ruined it. You've talked about walk paths, city parks that we do not need. Those parks are not going to babysit our kids. I mean, no parent is going to take a six or seven year old child after school to a park and leave it alone while they finish working the rest of the day. This money needs to come back to the citizens, or it needs to be put in a better way than what it's been put. Ya'll can run this city better than what you've done because ya'll are the only bunch that's tore it up. The councilmen before you, the mayor before you, they done a good job with this city. It prospered. It had work. Ya'll come in, what have we got? We've got more empty buildings. You look on the Boulevard. The Boulevard is practically a ghost town. There's nothing there. You go down here to Eden Mall. You can walk in that mall, you look at the empty stores. There's nothing there. They say "shop Eden." You guys are not even shopping Eden. Ya'll go out of town for city merchandise. You go out of town for bids that should have been awarded here in the city because they were lower and not because they were higher and just give it to a citizen because you're going to pay them more money. The bids were lower, but you didn't do that either. For some reason, you felt like it was better to pay more over at Greensboro. That I don't understand. Now my suggestion is, if you want to build a city like Greensboro, make it easy on yourselves ... move to Greensboro. But you need to take the citizens into consideration because we can't keep going this. We cannot watch our children grow up, our grandchildren grow up knowing they're going to have nothing in this city to offer them. All it's going to be is a ghost town and we're going to have to watch them move away and leave when you can build this city into being something. And

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any congressman, any councilman, pardon me, Lord God, please not a congressman, any councilman that does not know what this job requires should not be paid to sit on the seat. Nobody should pay his way to get that seat. You should have never accepted it. Now if you had another job and city business took you away from that job for a day, so be it. You took the job.

Council Member Epps: I didn't say I didn't know my job. I said I'm having to learn the procedures of the city.

Ms. Edwards: You did not know when you come into this job that there would be times you would be required to ...

Council Member Epps: The only reason I ran for this job, I'm going to tell you something lady. I was riding home one day and the Lord spoke to me. I'm a pastor and he put it in my spirit to do something for the city.

Ms. Edwards: Don't go there, don't, don't, don't put this on the Lord. Don't put this on the Lord, no.

Council Member Epps: You've said what you wanted to say. Let me say what I've got to say. I spoke to my wife about it.

Mayor Price: Let's come to order please.

Council Member Epps: And I said, "honey, I think I'm going to run for city council." She said, "you've got too much going right now, you should leave it alone." So I left it alone. A couple of years later, it got in my spirit again. And so I started talking to people and we had people that called me and talked to me and asked me to run because the gentleman that had my position had voted down the Flint Hill Grant for those poor people that needed help. I was for that and we've got that through, by the way. It's happening. And the city employees was retiring without any help. We worked on that. I was a part of that to make sure that they could retire gracefully with a little pension. So, we've worked on some things. We've done some great things. But see the problem is that, we've got a lot of things that ya'll just don't understand what's going on because ...

Ms. Edwards: Do you mean the city employees had a 401K? And you've gave them a pension on top of a 401K?

Council Member Epps: Wait a minute, wait a minute. No, I'm saying their insurance will take care of them after they leave. Like a Cobra or something but it's different. But let me tell you this. We've got people right here that's complaining about water and sewer that we was planning on putting pipes in their road that we can't do now because we cut them back the other day. We've done the reasonable thing. We found out we had money. We've done the reasonable thing and we've cut back. I don't even know why we're arguing over water and sewer because we cut what, sixty percent, the other night off the water and sewer.

Ms. Edwards: My feeling is if you go back and you check those books again you'll probably find some more money that you didn't know was there.

Council Member Epps: I'd like to see somebody that's got a \$300 water bill. They've got swimming pools or something.

Ms. Edwards: Well, if they've got a \$100 water bill for this town, unless they're a commercial business, that's too high.

Council Member Epps: Mine went up to \$72, I mean ...

Mayor Price: Okay. 'Cuse me, 'cuse me. Let's come to order here.

Ms. Edwards: I think that's about all I've got to say. I wish ya'll can do better for this city. We entrusted you with this city. That's why you were elected because we thought you could do the job. We had no idea when we elected you, you were going to let us

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down. And every one of you practically, other than Mr. Vestal, Mr. Gover, and Mr. Reynolds, has let us down.

Mayor Price: Thank you Delores. This lady would like to speak please.

(l) Ola McFarland, 1122 Front Street, addressed the Council.

Ms. Ola McFarland: I lost my job. My husband left. And my daughter's unemployment ran out today. I didn't realize there was a late charge on the water bill until I flipped it over. If it hadn't of been for me getting my check, which is SSI, and I could have paid it before it had been past due, I would have to have paid that \$15 and my mama wouldn't have had her medicine cause she lives with me and I have to look after her. If it wasn't for my cousin buying the groceries so we can pay the bills, we wouldn't have nothing to eat because of the water bill. And the water bill was \$96. And it's just three people.

Mayor Price: Ms. McFarland, let me make a comment to you and to others in this predicament. It does happen. It's not something that anybody can deal with in a positive way. But I want you to contact the City Manager directly in his office and let him get involved in the issue. I think in a number of instances, he's gotten involved and he's been able to help a lot of people who otherwise were just lost. If you would, if you would contact him in his office tomorrow. Let him get involved. He's been involved ...

Ms. McFarland: I mean we may have to move and I've done packed up all this junk one time and then I've gotta pack up all this junk again and get rid of things that I don't want to get rid of. Because we've gotta move because the rent's \$375 and then I have to get a money order and then I have to get a stamp. So, you know, by the time we pay the bills, we have nothing left to even go out to Libby Hill if we wanted to go...I don't want another husband...I don't want another husband.

Mayor Price: Let's come to order, please. Thank you Ms. McFarland. I believe somebody else wanted to speak and we would like to conclude, we're approaching 9:30 and we would like to wrap up the comments for the night please. If you'd give your name and address please.

(m)Gail Balcom, 536 S. Fieldcrest, addressed the Council.

Ms. Gail Baucom: I didn't intend to speak tonight. I'm not going to ask but about three questions. First of all, I need to know the sewer rate that we pay. Why do we pay for every gallon of water, that goes through our meter for sewer, because every gallon of water I use don't go in the sewer? Why? Can somebody tell me why we do that? And why do we have such high sewer rate?

Mayor Price: I can tell you that the, and this is just information that has come across from other boards, it's an interesting question. But the response, and I think it's a fair one because I can think of an instance that happened some time ago that a lot of water that was drawn out was not going back into the city sewage rate. Actually, the water was not coming into the, the water was not coming from the city, but the fluid was going into the city sewage. Which was an interesting problem itself. But just about every community bills that same rate. Now, I can't give you a specific scale and that's one of the situations I'll have to ask the city manager to respond to you. It's a good question. It's a good question because I can understand your instance where you are and the type of work you're in. It's normal in the community for water and sewer business for that charge to be like that.

Ms. Baucom: Okay, well now how, it's my understanding this meeting ya'll had the other night and the cuts, or what you're going to give back to the citizens, is strictly residential, is that correct?

Mayor Price: That's right.

Ms. Baucom: Well, we will be calling Mr. Corcoran for a forum with the business owners. We sure would like for these people behind us to stand with us because whether they know it or not, if our water rates go up, I own a business, I own a florist, and I have

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heard J-Mart on Stadium Drive, their water bill was \$900. They have nothing but an ice machine and a bathroom. So, if all of our water bills go up as much as my understanding our rate is not really going to be shown the biggest increase until September on businesses. These people's going to be paying our water bills.

Mayor Price: Okay, thank you very much. Yes sir? We're going to conclude with this gentleman's comments tonight please. Sir, if you'd give your name and address.

(n) Clyde Wilkerson, addressed the Council.

Mr. Clyde Wilkerson: Sir, I am very, very much disturbed over what I have heard here tonight, in particular from Mr. Epps here. I don't see how you can sit there and just rock back and forth. I'd be reeling back and forth.

Council Member Epps: I have nothing to be ashamed of sir, I've done my job like I should ...

Mr. Wilkerson: Well we need to have a ---[inaudible].

Mayor Price: Clyde, do you have a comment about the issues?

Council Member Epps: We shouldn't be here picking on people ...

Mayor Price: Excuse me.

Mr. Wilson: We need to find out what's going on here at City Hall. We need to find out big time. And a lot of these folks that I have been told have called certain people here and they would not even return the phone calls. We elected you people. We elected you in good faith. If you're not going to stand behind your job, and do what you should do, then why don't you resign? Thank you.

Mayor Price: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for coming tonight, for your comments. We're going to take a short recess.

RECESS:

Mayor Price called for a short recess.

RECONVENED:

The meeting was called back to order by Mayor Price who noted that all Council Members were present, other than Council Member Reynolds, who had been excused. *(Council Member Reynolds left the meeting during the recess at 9:30 p.m.)*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

July Financial Report.

Mayor Price noted that Mrs. Ford had done an excellent job on the report providing them with notes for everything they needed to know. There were no questions regarding the report.

A motion was made by Council Member Myott seconded by Council Member Gover to accept the July Financial Report. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

(a) Consideration of truck traffic on residential streets.

Information provided to Council explained that the Planning Board was asked to revisit this issue after the June regular City Council meeting. They had a lengthy discussion and the only change they decided to make in their recommendation was in the way the weight of the trucks and the license requirements of the driver.

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The Planning Board was of the opinion that it had two basic interests to consider. First, protecting the residential character of the city's neighborhoods and second not advocating regulations that would prevent a resident's ability to remain employed.

They recommended that Section 9-191 of the Eden City Code be amended:

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan seconded by Council Member Tudor to accept the recommendation by the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Mayor Price opened the floor for discussion. He then stated that he was in opposition to the recommendation. He stated that from comments he had heard around town, he thought it was inviting certain desecration of the neighborhoods by allowing the commercial vehicle trucks in. He stated he thought it was easy for some of the neighborhoods that had deed restrictions to handle them but he thought some of the older neighborhoods did not have deed restrictions and it was not fair for them to have to contend with this. He encouraged the Council Members to vote in opposition to the recommendation.

Council Member Tudor stated that he shared Mayor Price's concerns and in talking with Planning Director Kelly Stultz about the issue, he considered it to be a compromise. He stated that he was not happy about the recommendation, but he was willing to compromise and support it.

Council Member Grogan stated that the reason he made the motion and supported it was because there were people who were working and making a living with the vehicle that they owned. He pointed out that the people owned the house or the property unless they were renting and the people should be allowed to use it. Council Member Grogan said that a city could dictate and do what it wanted but that was a man's livelihood and one right you could not take away. He questioned who would be responsible for that man's vehicle if he had to leave it at such and such and would the city take that responsibility. He stated that he for one was not for that.

Council Member Epps stated that his concern was the aspect of safety. He stated that on one particular street, someone parked a tractor there and in case of a fire, he did not see how a fire truck could get by there. He stated that he had to weave in and out because people park on the street because they did not have driveways. He explained that if you came around Flynn Street and turned onto Victor, you would almost hit this tractor head on. He added that this tractor was not parked there everyday, but about three times a week. He noted that on Gordon Street, a tractor was parked there with logs on it. He stated that the tractor sat there almost at the stop sign with a complete load of logs on the trailer. He expressed concern that this was parked on the street, not on their own property, blocking the right of way that would make it difficult for an emergency vehicle to get through.

Mrs. Stultz explained that the Planning Board's recommendation was that the vehicle would have to be parked entirely off the public right of way and sidewalk, not presenting any visibility problems, and must be entirely on the person's property. She added that in the case of trucks and trailers, the tandem operation, only the truck part would be permitted to be taken in and not the trailer.

Mayor Price inquired what Mrs. Stultz meant when she said the vehicle could not present any visibility problems.

Mrs. Stultz answered that the ordinances address that stating that someone cannot park in their driveway such that the person next door cannot see around it to get on the street safely with the truck in the way. She said they would have to park the vehicle where it did not impair the neighbors or the traffic going up and down the street. She said the Planning Board had been concerned about some parking on the sidewalk and they had been convinced that it should not be happening.

Council Member Gover stated that they needed to allow the people who make a living to park their vehicles in an appropriate place and that it would be protected from the streets

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as Mrs. Stultz had just mentioned. He noted that this would protect them, as well as the city, from parking on the street.

Mayor Price inquired of Mrs. Stultz if these trucks could be in the front yard as the recommendation read that they were to be off the street and not causing any visibility problems.

Mrs. Stultz replied that the Planning Board just went as far as getting the trucks on the person's own property.

Mayor Price asked if this meant the trucks could park on the front yard.

Mrs. Stultz indicated that it did.

Council Members Epps inquired of Mrs. Stultz if they would still be using the stickers designated to go on these trucks.

Mrs. Stultz answered that it was her plan to do so. She advised that she and the police chief would have to go over the particulars once she and the city attorney had the ordinance finalized.

Mayor Price inquired what the fine would be for enforcement.

Mrs. Stultz answered that she did not know.

Mayor Price asked if there would be a fine for enforcement. He inquired if that was something the council would have to approve.

Mrs. Stultz stated that what was in the city code said that basically the trucks could go in any of the neighborhoods except for Country Club Drive and John Street. She indicated that the police department had given at least one ticket to a driver on John Street. She stated that she and the police chief had talked about having an initial period of just warning the owners that they had to register. She stated that when the tickets were issued, they would be the regular tickets the police use.

Council Member Epps inquired what type of fine they were talking about.

Mrs. Stultz answered that she did not know.

Mr. Medlin advised that there was a provision in the code that if it was not specified what the penalty was for violating a code, there was a general provision that covered everything not specified and that was what the penalty would be.

Council Member Epps asked then if they were using the general statute to which Mr. Medlin replied it was within the code.

Council Member Epps inquired if it would be more feasible to have a city code so they could get the money.

Mr. Medlin explained that it was in the city code. He stated that within the city code there was a provision that said if you don't specify the penalty in article six, there is a paragraph elsewhere in the city code that says what the penalty will be.

Action on the motion was as follows: All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. This motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Consideration of Landscape Maintenance Contract.

Information provided to Council explained that the Planning & Inspections Department sent out requests for proposal for Landscape Appearance of all of the projects previously undertaken by the Community Appearance Commission and the Tree Board including various parking lots, entrance signs and other areas such as the Veteran's Park on Fieldcrest Road.



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We received only one bid from Irving Farms. This is the firm that has done the work the past few years. Their bid is \$46,800 which is \$6,000 less than last year's contact price.

Council Member Vestal inquired of Mrs. Stultz if there was anyway the city could get a better price by getting Mr. Irving to do the nuisance mowings along with his contract.

Mrs. Stultz answered that Mr. Irving was a professional landscaper and horticulturist. She added that he really did not do the kind of nuisance mowing that the city did, however she could ask. She said if the council would like to try that, the Planning Department generally had three or four different contractors around town and they knew some would do one kind of work and some another. She added that she did not believe she could get Mr. Irving to do that as a part of \$46,800.

Council Member Gover asked Mrs. Stultz if she had exhausted all means to get someone in Eden to bid on the contract.

Mrs. Stultz replied that she had. She said that a big package was sent to every contractor in Eden who had a contractor's license ... to everyone who had a privilege license to do the landscape maintenance and also an ad had been run in the Eden Daily News.

Council Member Gover asked if anyone had been denied Eden's landscaping business in any shape, form, or fashion to which Mrs. Stultz replied not that she knew.

Council Member Gover stated that the very first thing they were going to be asked was why someone in Eden did not get the contract.

Mrs. Stultz answered that Mr. Irving had worked for the Tree Board for a number of years. She stated that he was the only bidder.

A motion was made by Council Member Myott seconded by Council Member Gover to approve the recommendation. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

(b) Consideration of Budget Amendments #1.

Information provided to Council explained that Budget Amendment #1 was to recognize Purchase Orders that were requested and approved for purchases in the prior Fiscal Year. These items were approved in the prior year budget.

The outstanding PO's in the General Fund were as follows:

- Micro Support Systems (for repairs needed to the email server)
- Micro Support Systems (a new computer in the Fire Department)
- Knickers & Needles (employee appreciation shirts in lieu of dinner)
- Signs & Trophies (trophies for recreation activities)
- Piedmont Parks (playground equipment for Bridge Street)
- T&S Machine Shop (repair work for 25G swivel arm)
- Wurth USA (decal removal tool)

The outstanding PO's in the Water & Sewer Fund were as follows:

- Micro Support Systems (for repairs needed to email server)
- Utility Service Company (for installation of overflow drains on Byrd & Grove Streets)
- Water Environment Federation (training courses)
- Similabs International (wastewater analytical services)
- Vic Bailey (meter reader truck)
- Green Gifford Fleet Services (replacement wastewater truck)
- Tiger-tek (repair of 40HP aerator)
- Sam Smith, Inc. (Hamilton Street waterline replacement program)
- Oregon Hill Communications (repair radio repeater at Dunn Street water tank)
- Intercostal Diving (installation of temporary screens at raw water intake)
- Osborne Company (crane work for installation of temporary screens, raw water intake)
- Dalton Enterprises (repair cut of Church Street due to water leak)
- Julius Kraft Co., Inc. (repair and calibrate 2 gas monitors)

August 20, 2002

City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular August 20, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

This is the first Budget Amendment for the year.

Budget Amendment #1	Account #	From	To	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	10-3991-91000	\$ -	\$ 44,500.00	\$ 44,500.00
				<u>\$ 44,500.00</u>
General Fund				
Expenditures				
Admin M&R Equip	10-4120-35400	\$3,200.00	\$3,400.00	\$200.00
Mun Ser M&R Equip	10-4125-35400	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
Fin/HR M&R Equip	10-4130-35400	\$6,500.00	\$7,100.00	\$600.00
Fire M&R Equip	10-4340-35400	\$6,000.00	\$6,200.00	\$200.00
Eng M&R Equip	10-4350-35400	\$3,500.00	\$3,700.00	\$200.00
Str M&R Equip	10-4510-35400	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$200.00
SW M&R Equip	10-4710-35400	\$2,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$200.00
Plan M&R Equip	10-4910-35400	\$3,500.00	\$3,700.00	\$200.00
Rec M&R Equip	10-6120-35400	\$9,700.00	\$9,900.00	\$200.00
FM M&R Equip	10-6920-35400	\$4,500.00	\$4,700.00	\$200.00
Fire Department Supp	10-4340-29100	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,000.00
Streets C/O Off Road	10-4510-56000	\$28,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$22,000.00
Fin/HR Spec Inc	10-4130-22100	\$6,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$5,500.00
Inventory – Parts	10-6920-95300	\$235,000.00	\$235,300.00	\$300.00
FM Small Tools	10-6920-29800	\$1,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$300.00
Rec Exp Reimb	10-6920-29400	\$ -	\$700.00	\$700.00
Program Activities	10-6120-29600	\$16,500.00	\$17,200.00	\$700.00
Parks C/O Equipment	10-6120-57200	\$7,600.00	\$22,600.00	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
				<u>\$45,500.00</u>
Water/Sewer Fund				
Revenue				
W/S Fund Balance Appropriated	30-3991-99100	\$ -	\$86,500.00	\$86,500.00
				<u>\$86,500.00</u>
Expenditures				
Water Res M&R Equip	30-7110-35400	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
B&C M&R Equip	30-7115-35400	\$6,500.00	\$6,700.00	\$200.00
Water Fil M&R Equip	30-7120-35400	\$75,000.00	\$75,200.00	\$200.00
C&D M&R Equip	30-7125-35400	\$6,000.00	\$6,200.00	\$200.00
WW M&R Equip	30-7130-35400	\$114,000.00	\$114,200.00	\$200.00
WC Water Tank Overflow	30-8120-24603	\$ -	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Wastewater Training	30-7130-39500	\$5,700.00	\$7,200.00	\$1,500.00
Wastewater Prof Ser	30-7130-19600	\$13,000.00	\$13,700.00	\$700.00
B&C C/O Vehicles	30-7115-55000	\$ -	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
WW C/O Vehicles	30-7130-5500	\$ -	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00
WW M&R Equip	30-7130-35400	\$114,200.00	\$116,600.00	\$2,400.00
WC Hamilton St WL	30-8120-52102	\$ -	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00
Water Fil M&R Equip	30-7120-35400	\$75,200.00	\$75,400.00	\$200.00
WW M&R Equip	30-7130-25700	\$116,600.00	\$116,800.00	\$200.00
B&C C/O Equip	30-7115-57001	\$3,000.00	\$4,700.00	\$1,700.00
Water Fil M&R Equip	30-7120-35400	\$75,400.00	\$76,900.00	\$1,500.00
Water Fil M&R Equip	30-7120-35400	\$76,900.00	\$77,400.00	\$500.00
WC M&R System	30-8120-24600	\$20,000.00	\$23,100.00	\$3,100.00
C&D M&R Equip	30-7125-35400	\$6,200.00	\$7,400.00	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
				<u>\$86,500.00</u>

Adopted and effective this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.

Attest:

s/Kim J. Scott,  
Kim J. Scott, City Clerk

s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price, Mayor

Mayor Price explained that the second item of new business was the consideration of budget amendment one, which consisted of the rationale for changes. He advised that all of those were things that had occurred over a period that needed to be changed.

August 20, 2002

City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular August 20, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

For verification, Council Member Gover stated that this was only the PO's that had not been paid for in the previous year that had caught up with the city this year and they were paying them off.

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Vestal to approve Budget Amendment #1. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

(c) Consideration of Water Plant Concrete Rehabilitation Project – Request for Reappropriation of Funding and approval of Budget Amendment No. 2.

Information provided to Council explained that funds for the subject project were approved in the Water Construction Fund of the FY 2001-02 Budget on line 71-8120-24602. The project was originally scheduled for the spring to take advantage of weather conditions more conducive to the curing of the sealants. The original bids were significantly over budget and were rejected. The specifications were rewritten and the project was rebid. On June 18, 2002 the City Council amended the budget for the project from \$66,000 to \$84,000. The contract was awarded to Strickland Waterproofing Company, Inc. The FY 2001-02 Budget year ended before work on the project could begin.

The Director of Public Utilities requested that the Council reappropriate the \$84,000 earmarked for this project in FY 2001-02 to the FY 2002-03 Budget. This action will not adversely impact the current budget since the funds under consideration were not anticipated to be in the June 30, 2002 Fund Balance.

This is the second Budget Amendment for the year.

Budget Amendment #2	Account #	From	To	Amount
Water & Sewer Fund				
Revenues				
W/S Fund Balance Appropriated	30-3991-99100	\$ 86,500.00	\$170,500.00	<u>\$84,000.00</u>
Expenditure				
WC Concrete Rehab	30-8120-24602	\$ -	\$9,500.00	<u>\$84,000.00</u>

Budget Amendment #2: To reappropriate monies from the FY 01-02 Budget to the FY 02-03 Budget for the water plant concrete rehab project as explained by Mr. Dennis Asbury's memo dated August 2, 2002.

Adopted and effective this 20<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2002

Attest:

s/Kim J. Scott,  
Kim J. Scott, City Clerk

s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price, Mayor

Mayor Price advised that the new business of budget amendment two was the project for the re-appropriation of funding for the water plant concrete rehabilitation project.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps seconded by Council Member Myott to approve Budget Amendment #2. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

(d) Consideration of BB&T Load for Freedom Park – Resolution Approving Financing Terms.

The information provided explained that BB&T provided the most favorable terms on the park loan. It is expected that we can borrow approximately \$398,500 at 4.69% over ten years.

The LGC must first approve the loan, however, this will allow the City Manager to proceed with the financing paperwork once the LGC approves the loan.

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS

WHEREAS, the City of Eden (the City) has previously determined to undertake a project for Phase II of the Eden Freedom Park including three (3) Ballparks, accounting hardware and software, and mapping and inventory of the electrical system, and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The City hereby determines to finance the Project through Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T) in accordance with the proposal dated July 1, 2002. The amount financed shall not exceed \$400,000.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed

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City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular August 20, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

- 4.69% and the financing term shall not exceed ten (10) years from closing. The financing shall be secured with a first lien deed of trust on the Eden Freedom Park real property.
2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the Financing Documents) shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. The City Manager of the City is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as he may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution. The Financing Documents shall include a Financing Agreement and Deed of Trust and an Escrow Agreement as BB&T may request.
  3. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The City Manager is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by City officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms, as the City Manager shall approve, with the City Manager's release of any Financing Documents for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Documents final form.
  4. The City shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which will cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligation. The City hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as qualified tax exempt obligations for the purposes of the registered owners of the interest payments under the Financing Documents as qualified tax exempt obligations for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).

This Resolution is effective upon its adoption this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price, Mayor

ATTEST:

s/Kim J. Scott  
Kim J. Scott, CMC  
City Clerk

Mayor Price explained that the next order of business would be for consideration of BB&T loan for Freedom Park resolution approving the financing terms.

Council Member Tudor commented that about four years ago there was a large group of citizens at the council meeting as there was at this council meeting. He noted that he stood as a citizen then, as many did that night, and said that they wanted a new City Park. He stated that he had always supported the park. He said that the citizens that night had asked them to spend the money wisely. He said that the council several years ago had appropriated \$50,000 a year for a new city park. He said that the council here, with the suggestion of the city manager, was going to leverage the \$50,000 a year to get the best use of the \$50,000 a year. He stated the city had gone to the bank and inquired what money they could get for a payment of \$50,000 a year. He stated that the bank answered that they could have \$400,000. He said the city was leveraging it's money and it was the best way to use this money to build this park. He stated that this section of the park was the money-making portion of the park. He said that this portion of the park would make money and would finance the remainder of the park.

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Myott to approve the resolution for the loan with BB&T for Freedom Park. Council Members Tudor, Myott, Grogan, Epps, and Vestal voted in favor of this motion. Council Member Gover voted in opposition of the motion. This motion carried.

(e) Resolution in Support of Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Price explained that next was the consideration of a resolution in support of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Tudor stated that America was a nation under God. He relayed that the Pledge of Allegiance stated that America was a nation indivisible under God. He noted

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City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular August 20, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

that the Wall of Freedom had been put up in the City Hall lobby and it contained the Ten Commandments. He stated that it was fitting that the council support the Pledge of Allegiance as is said everyday at Holmes Middle School. He said it has been said for years. He asked the Council to support the resolution.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WHEREAS, on June 21, 1892, President Benjamin Harrison signed the proclamation that said, "Let the national flag float on every schoolhouse in the country and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Francis Bellamy wrote these now famous words, first printed in "Youth's Companion", September 8, 1892; and

WHEREAS, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance in 1942 and in 1954, by a joint resolution of Congress, an amendment was made to add the words "under God"; and

WHEREAS, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that our Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because it includes the phrase "under God"; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit was completely wrong in its ruling; and

WHEREAS, as Americans, we are proud of our Pledge of Allegiance, proud of the spiritual heritage of this country and proud of our religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the North Carolina State Legislature have unanimously declared that the Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase "under God" is constitutional and desirable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council, City of Eden, without reservation, supports the overturning of this decision;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that we encourage the Superintendent of Schools to continue to provide Rockingham County's young people the opportunity to express their respect for our traditions, particularly reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase, "under God" included.

Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.

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Philip K. Price,  
Mayor, City of Eden

Council Member Tudor added that he thought it was fitting under today's political situation and the fact that the Ninth Circuit Court made this ruling one day and backed up on it the next. He stated there had been an outcry across America and United States Senator John Edwards had stood up and said "we are a nation under God" and members of Congress went out on the steps in front of Congress and cited the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated he thought it was fitting to do this.

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Epps to adopt the resolution. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

(f) Proclamation – Stage IV Severe Mandate Water Conservation.

Council Member Tudor stated that it was important that the council listen to the department heads. He said that this was an area that Dennis Asbury had recommended to them and he would support it.

Mr. Corcoran explained that basically this was just ratification of what the council members did on the telephone the previous week. He stated that Mr. Asbury, the Director of Public Utilities contacted each council member last Monday asking if they would support a declaration of Stage IV Mandatory Water Conservation. He explained that in the city ordinance, it stated that the council must do so by proclamation. He stated that if the city got into any enforcement issues, there would first need to be a formal action by the council. He said that now that they had taken care of the emergency situation with the

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City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular August 20, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

temporary pumps that had been installed, a special water and sewer committee meeting was planned for the next Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. He explained that engineers would be present to meet with the water and sewer committee to look at longer term, more permanent solutions. Mr. Corcoran said that if any member of the council had any suggestions or thoughts as to possible options or alternatives to look out, let the committee know. He stated that the temporary pumps were doing exactly what city wanted them to. He said that the situation would be monitored and if it got to a point where the city could go back from the mandatory restrictions, they would be sure to bring it to the attention of the council as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Gover to approve this proclamation. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

9. CONSENT AGENDA:

- (a) Approval and Adoption of minutes – July 16, 30, 2002.
- (b) Approval and adoption of a motion to hold a public hearing and to consider an ordinance for a zoning text amendment request to amend Section 11.29 and Section 11.31 of the City of Eden Zoning Ordinance concerning sign regulations. ZONING CASE Z-02-06.

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Epps to approve Consent Agenda items a and b. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

10. VOUCHERS:

No discussion on vouchers.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Myott to adjourn. All Council Members present voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim J. Scott  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip K. Price  
Mayor