

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, July 16, 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:	(Absent)	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, Richard Moore, Neely Chronicle

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.

INVOCATION:

Mrs. Carol Robertson, Co-Pastor, Monument of Faith Church, gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Mayor Price introduced two new city employees, Michael Dougherty, Business Development Director, and Debbie Galloway, City Planner

PROCLAMATIONS:

FILL THE BOOT

Whereas, the Eden Fire Department will be working with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in their fight against neuromuscular disease; and,

Whereas, the Eden Fire Department will spend many hours collecting money on the streets for the MDA "Fill-the-Boot" campaign; and,

Whereas, Firefighters locally and nationally are the largest contributor to the MDA, collecting more than 16 million dollars in 2001 to help fight the forty-three neuromuscular diseases associated with the MDA.

Therefore, I, Phil Price, Mayor of Eden, and on behalf of the City of Eden, do hereby proclaim August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002, as Eden Fire Department "Fill the Boot Days".

s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price  
Mayor

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

Ms. Fran Anderson, a representative from the Greensboro office of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, expressed thanks to the citizens of Eden for supporting their

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firefighters. She noted that last year in North & South Carolina \$700,000 was raised for MDA. She said that Eden alone raised more than \$6,300. She invited those in attendance to come out on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and support MDA, as well as their firefighters.

(b) Mayor Price introduced Kay Hartgrove, who works through the Parks & Recreation Department with handicapped and physically challenged individuals. He noted that over the years Ms. Hartgrove has done a wonderful job promoting this cause. Mayor Price explained that July 18, 2002 would be Barrier Awareness Day in the city with information and demonstrations set up in the Eden Room at City Hall. He advised that this event was meant to demonstrate to others the barriers facing physically challenged people.

Proclamation:

Whereas, there are approximately 54 million people with disabilities in America and 1.85 million of those in North Carolina.

Whereas, on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act became a Civil Rights Law to provide equal rights to people with disabilities.

Whereas, in supporting the ADA by making the public more aware of the barriers people with disabilities face in everyday life,

I, Phil Price, Mayor of the City of Eden, declare July 18, 2002 as Barrier Awareness Day.

s/Philip K. Price  
Philip K. Price  
Mayor

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Grogan to add consideration of an LLEBG Grant to the agenda. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. The motion carried.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

June Financial Report.

A motion was made by Council Member Tudor seconded by Council Member Myott to approve the monthly financial report. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. The motion carried.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

Due to the number of citizens present and speaking, Mayor Price asked those addressing the Council to limit their comments to 3-4 minutes.

*(Mayor Price requested that the following comments from the citizens be transcribed verbatim):*

Raymond Wilson: Mayor and Council Persons, this is to you. I, Raymond Wilson, am speaking for the poor, disabled, and the fixed income people group. These citizens cannot take the rate hike for water, sewage, and solid waste with the incomes that we get monthly. You need to take consideration of the necessities we pay when we make a drastic change in the city costs. Each month we all must decide (I'm talking about the ones on fixed income) must decide which item we cannot pay and will not pay for that month because we don't have the money or the funds to do it with because we have to pay these high city rates. Okay, as I read the Eden News I see that people continue to spend funds that is not being in any way bringing industry to our town. All of us need to crawl before we walk. During the election, we voted, with good conscience, that you people would represent us well. Well, you represented us, and it appears we made a great mistake. Before I leave, I request to be on the next agenda for the next regular council meeting. I thank you for the time you gave me.

Robert Staley (618 Roberts St.): Mr. Price I would like to be recognized. I'd like to say I'm really disappointed at the turnout tonight. I was expecting a whole lot more, but a few citizens did turn out. My name is Robert Staley and I live at 618 Roberts Street and my

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councilman is Mister – I can't remember his name – Mr. Reynolds. I talked with him this afternoon and he said he wished he would have this many people every week. I'm really disappointed tonight because I thought we would have a full house. First let me say that I'm a proponent of any user fees or increases in services when needed. This month my water bill went from \$47 to \$84 for the water and waste services. My water bill looked okay and I have no complaints. I was led to believe solid waste increases would go in effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 according to your letter that you sent out to start this with. Trying to find out why they were more and went into effect three months early, I contacted Mrs. Ford, who said they were following the instructions of the city manager who is not here tonight and I don't blame him. I wouldn't be here either. Which was okayed by the city council and you are here. I don't think my councilman voted for it. I sure hope not. Service rendered 4<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> was billed at the new rate, \$9.59. As representatives of the citizens of Eden, once you say July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, is when the increase would go in effect, don't implement it three months early. Do what you say you're going to do. That's all I've got to say. I'm really disappointed. I don't know who did it. She said that the city manager and the city councilmen okayed it so we must be looking the horse in the mouth. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Billie Jean Freeman (612 Robindale Ct.): Hello. My name is Billie Jean Freeman. I live at 612 Robindale Court in Eden. I would like to address the meeting tonight in the matter of the Eden City Park on Highway 14. I heard that the city plans to do away with the park on 14. I was so upset about this news that I got up a petition to get my fellow citizens opinion. I, along with 856 citizens, are saddened to hear of the decision. Some of the citizens that would be affected by the closing of the old park would be the disabled children and the elderly because lack of shade. The city paid a million dollars on the new park when they could have took a half of that with TLC and made Eden a wonderful and beautiful park. It has more to offer the residents than the new one. There are plenty of beautiful shade trees. The shelter is bigger, two grill pits, tables around the area for everyone. It has a country atmosphere. There are areas to play volleyball, football, soccer, basketball, badminton and other sports. It has 2 ponds already stocked. There is room to skateboard and ride BMX bikes on the hiking trails. The new park is directly in the sun, no trees around and will not be for years to come. It is also close to two factories. Who would want their children playing in the same atmosphere with pollutants from them? I would like to add that along with the new park there should be some way that the old park could be saved. Thank you.

Mayor Price read into the minutes that the petition had been received and it had many pages, 128 names on one (page), 228 on another, 184, 184, and 122.

Ann Fish ( Northridge Mobile Home Park): Good evening. I think most of you probably know me but for those of you who don't, my name is Ann Fish. I am not a public speaker. I do better sitting in front of a typewriter or computer and writing it. I've done that tonight and I hope I can get through it. Quit laughing. I live in North-Ridge Mobile Home Park just outside of Eden. In April I was forced to retire and now have a limited income. Tonight I speak not only for the citizens in North-Ridge but for other senior citizens and single parent families on fixed incomes.

Most of you are aware that many senior citizens live on as little as \$500 a month and often do without to make ends meet. I'm not in quite that bad of shape but my income has been reduced by half and I have to pay \$250 a month for health insurance for the next 2 years. Whenever I go out of town I've always had a habit of turning off my water, usually under the house. I was gone out of town the entire month of May so when I got back and opened my mail and had a water bill for the months of April and May, it was \$55.57 that is double what I normally pay. Remember I was gone for 30 days. I talked to some of my neighbors, I heard prices of bills ranging from \$89 for a single resident home to more than \$200 for a family of four whose father is the only bread winner and he is on disability. I realize with your budget process and all the cuts you've had from the state you had to find money elsewhere. But do you have to terrorize your citizens in order to do so? And in talking with citizens that it the word that most of them have ... they can't believe you have done this to them. I don't know the amounts. Is doubling, tripling, or quadrupling the rate the way to solve your problems? I think you could probably find other areas in the budget where fat can be trimmed without taking food out of the mouths of the elderly or young families on limited incomes. Between December 1<sup>st</sup> and February

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6<sup>th</sup> my bill totaled \$37.48 or an average of \$0.56 per day for 67 days. From February 6<sup>th</sup> until April 2<sup>nd</sup> it was \$27.91 or an average of \$0.51 for 55 days. Now I get a bill for 58 days, and keep in mind I was gone 30 days of that time, and the total is \$55.57 for 58 days or \$0.96 average. Deduct out the 30 days the water was off and it comes to \$1.98 a day. Is this not absolutely ridiculous? I do realize that I am charged a certain amount regardless of how little water I use. This is the picture of my water meter right before I left to go on my trip. The man that usually helps me turn off my water said "let's turn it off at the meter". This is the picture of my water meter which was last week before I went on my trip. And incidentally I had a phone message on my recorder. I cut my vacation short to be here tonight. You tell me how they read my water meter. It's covered with leaves and spider webs and it didn't just get there in the last few days. So I want you to look at that. And several other neighbors, one lady sitting beside me back here, she said she and her friends had to go out there and scratch the mud off of her meter to even read it. How do they read the meters? Who knows? I just want to know, and a lot of you are my friends up here and I'm probably going to make you mad but I don't care because I'm upset. Are you people happy making us old folks suffer in what should be our golden years?

Comment from a member in the audience: They don't care about us.

Mayor Price: Excuse me just a minute. Ladies and Gentlemen, we want to listen to your comments. This is your community, but we are going to have to remain in order here tonight. Thank you.

Ms. Fish continued: I'm sorry. I caused a ruckus. Now that I'm retired, I had hoped that I could enjoy the comfort of my home but it seems I must now plan long visits to relatives so I can keep down my astronomical water bill. And I'm leaving town again tomorrow. You know it's sad. I haven't ever been faced with this before because I've always had a decent income but all of a sudden, I'm like this man said ... what bill do I not pay this month or where do I cut down on my grocery bill? And these are the people that are hurting. I know all of your water bills went up too, but think about the ones on fixed incomes. Thank you.

Teresa Mitchell (725 Caleb St.): Hi, my name is Teresa Mitchell and I live at 725 Caleb Street here in Eden. I have two things that I would like to comment on tonight. First, my mama, who is present here, Katherine Gilley, she lives at 505 Patterson Street is disabled. I have to go over and push her trash can to the curb and I do it every two weeks because she has such little garbage, it doesn't require to be pushed to the road every week. When we got the letter stating that the senior citizens would get a discount, I just knew for sure my mama would get that discount. Well, where I push the garbage can to the road every two weeks, they went by how much garbage was in the trash can those two weeks I pushed it to the road and her, as a senior citizen and disabled, she didn't get the senior citizens rate because of something that I done because I couldn't run across town every week to push her garbage can out. I don't feel that it's right or fair of the way that they done instead of saying that this is two weeks that this trash can was placed at the curb and cut it in half and she would have got the senior citizen's discount. That is one issue that I have to say. The second one is that I went on vacation for the week of the 4<sup>th</sup>. On my return on Sunday, I sat down Sunday night and wrote out my bills and my water bill was due on the 9<sup>th</sup>. So I sat down and wrote out all my bills and I was looking at June's calendar not realizing that I hadn't turned my calendar to July. I made all my bills for Monday the 10<sup>th</sup>, my checks, excuse me, for Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> wasn't until Wednesday so therefore I thought I would wait and pay my bills on Wednesday instead of tearing up 12 checks and redoing them. So I come down to pay my water bill on Wednesday and it was one day late. On my water bill it said that it would be past due after the 9<sup>th</sup>. When I come in to pay it, she told me that it would be a \$15 late fee. I know that I have done it before. I said well when did this start and she said this is a new thing that we have just started. I asked her why hasn't the citizens of Eden been notified. She gave me a piece of paper and she said this is the new policy that it's going to be and she said it would be put in the Eden Daily News. Well, what good is that doing me? I wasn't notified that it was going to take place. Had I been, I would have tore especially that one check up and rewrote it but I know that I was at fault because I was one day late, but I knew I had been previously. I just felt and I still feel that the citizens of Eden should be

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notified when changes have been made so we won't make those mistakes. That's all I have to say.

Benny Joyce (1031 Harris St.): I'm Benny Joyce. I live at 1031 Harris Street. On these water bills and sewer and all, people's talking about theirs jumping up. Mine went from \$72 to \$148. I realize ... I'm not questioning the water. What I'm questioning is the sewer. I realize I use more water but I didn't use more sewer. If they had checked the sewer meter, they'd have seen. Do you have a sewer meter?

Mayor Price: No sir.

Benny Joyce: Why are we charged with one?

Mayor Price: It's to reflect the cost of the capital cost of the sewage and water works off one meter.

Benny Joyce: You're charging for the water meter plus the sewer meter that we do not have?

Mayor Price: It's a capital split between water and sewer off the same meter and that was the charge based upon that. Now I grant you it's confusing but it's designed to reflect the capital costs that the city has in providing the water and sewer to your home.

Benny Joyce: Okay. Well, answer me this. When the house was built, wasn't the meter paid for when it was put in?

Mayor Price: I'm sure.

Benny Joyce: Okay. And we're still having to pay every two months now.

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Benny Joyce: Why is that? I mean we pay taxes. We pay property taxes. Why do we still have to pay something that has been bought to start with?

Mayor Price: It might be a good time for me to talk just a second about property taxes. If we took everything that you and I pay for property tax, both real estate and personal property, we would just about cover the cost of financing our police department.

Benny Joyce: So our taxes are just going for salaries?

Mayor Price: You're spreading out but what I'm trying to explain to you is that our taxes, and they are high, just don't pay the entire cost of running the government and that's why we have to have, trying to be fair based upon usage of water and sewer and solid waste and other things that come into the city. But our taxes that we collect, and if you'll just pick out the police department which has over a \$3 million budget, just about collectively pay what the cost of running the police department is in a year's time.

Benny Joyce: Well, we have a Beautification Committee, right?

Mayor Price: Yes sir. We have an Appearance Commission.

Benny Joyce: And you want the area to look good?

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Benny Joyce: But I am getting penalized, I say, for watering my yard and trying to have things look good around the house.

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Benny Joyce: That don't look good to me.

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Mayor Price: Well, it's not good Mr. Joyce, it really isn't. It's just the cost of running the business which I'll have further comment on in just a minute.

Benny Joyce: Thank you.

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Samuel Philip Roberts (602 Loftus St.): My name is Samuel Philip Roberts, 602 Loftus Street, Eden North Carolina. About this here water bill stuff ... I realized that it was going up but what do we do when you've been disabled for 25 years and my wife she's had --- and she had to come out of work. We have very little insurance. We just can pay for medication. Where am I supposed to get the money from to pay for this here jump from about \$39 to \$87.88? I'm going to have to let some of my medication go and that's not going to be good. I talked to my doctor about it and he said I had to keep it in my system since I've been taking it and I'm still in pain. I'm going to have to cut back to generic, which I've tried and have more pain with generic and it's not doing me no good. I'd appreciate it if you could take it into consideration and see if we can do something about it. I've been used to working all my life ... ever since I was 16 years old. I know what work is all about and I've been disabled 25. It's just took a chunk out of me that I'm living with and I don't know what's going to happen. When us people on disability and fixed social security and fixed income ... what are we going to do? If they stop picking the trash up, it's going to be more trash strewn up and down the highway. That's not going to be good either. I'd appreciate it if you would give this some consideration and give it some thought and see what we could do about it because if people have to go without our medication, we'll wind up at Camp Butner ... people will think we're crazy. Some people have to have it to keep 'em together. Just like now ... I'm on the depression pill and it's just wearing me out. I tried to cut back to generic but it doesn't do no good. Thank yall.

Bobby Young (321 Stratford Rd.): I'm Bobby Young. I live at 321 Stratford Road out at Northridge. I have the unfortunate job out there right now of managing the place. Have 152 homes out there ... 62% of them is on fixed income. Ms. Fish told you how the water bills are. Most of them is over \$100 out there. I was going to ask you about that and Mr. Joyce asked you about the meter so I don't have to ask you about that. I still don't understand that part. What I'd like to understand, if you can explain it to me, a year and a half ago we went under city ordinance. We have to go by city codes and everything out there. The county used to have it ... the city has it now. Yet when the water bills come out they put it under the county like we live in the county. We are half a mile out from the city limits. The city takes care of everything out there ... the county don't take care of anything. Our trash is picked up by Waste Management. That's a question I'd like to know ... why our bills didn't go up like the city, instead of going up 75% as living in the county.

Mayor Price: And you do not pay any city tax?

Bobby Young: No.

Mayor Price: The bill was adjusted for those folks who were using city services outside the city limits. They would be higher than those citizens living inside the city limits. The people of the city, if you look at it, this is just a broad general way of looking at it, each household in this community, if you figure 6,000 households, and that's just a broad stroke, these folks in each household owe about \$1,500 a piece for bond debt on the existing water system. So they have some exposure inside the city that folks outside the city do not. That's not a complete answer Bobby, but that gives you some idea of the rationale of having a higher rate for folks outside the city because the other folks have more exposure inside the city.

Bobby Young: You know when yall made the water run up into Logtown and built a holding tank out there, it was supposed to take care of raising the water rates. You know, they all used to say the reason we had to pay the county rates was because we was on the end out there and they run it out there special just for us. Now it's going on up into Virginia. They've got a big holding tank out there, right across the Virginia line, and we are sending water into Virginia, selling them water so we're not on the end anymore.

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Like I said there's 62% on a fixed income out there and some of the people are really hurting out there. We'd appreciate it if you'd look into this and do something about this.

Cornelia Wall (820 Holland St.): Good evening. I am Cornelia Wall from 820 Holland Street, Eden, North Carolina and I have this question about the trash coming up. And I want to know where they have, why is it a blue or orange or yellow and a red bow on different tanks. I'm not a public speaker but those four colors right there, they are prorated on what, the income of the people that's living in them? Because some of them is \$11, some of them is \$ 7, some of them is \$6. Now we're talking about ... I hear it on television and yall do too, about a war. We got a war here. That's a war by itself when you give him an orange ticket and her a yellow ticket and me a red ticket. That is very, very separative and I'm on just about poor an income as anybody and I feel like they are asking for volunteer service. Is it anyway that the City Council can organize a program that will help the senior citizens have some kind of income to help pay these expensive bills for the water and rates of that water system like they have? You understand what I'm saying? I feel like we are being overcharged and they don't put that on my social security check. You understand what I'm saying? I feel like they should try to find a program that will help the senior citizens to eliminate some of this funds that they're making for you all. You understand what I'm saying? But I feel like that I want to know why it's a blue one, red one, orange one, and yellow one all on the street I live on, just off Morgan Road.

Mayor Price: It's just for, and I can get into detail with you about this later, but it's based on your volume that you use and the ... I will tell you this ... senior citizens who are not using more than 30% of their trash have a yellow one.

Cornelia Wall: If you don't put out no trash at all, you shouldn't even get a yellow one, right?

Mayor Price: Well, on the other hand ... come to order please. On the other hand, if you're raising a lot of grandchildren at your home and you have more, I know you aren't, but if you do and a lot of grandparents are and great-grand-parents are rearing their children and using a lot more trash, that benefit to retired benefit does not go to them. It's based on the person who's living there and who obviously does not use much trash. I want to encourage everybody who's doing that now, if you don't use much trash, please, during this shake down period, just take your trash out every week. If it's not but a bagful in there ... just take that trashcan out there and let's get this thing calmed down. To take a second to explain that to you, this has not been a nebulous thing ... everyone has tried to do it in a fair and equal manner to charge the people who are using the most and those folks who aren't using to pay less. In 1994 the City of Eden went in with some other municipalities in Rockingham County and built a landfill. The only municipality that did not go in with us was Reidsville. A lot of people have said that was a mistake. I say, frankly if you knew the facts about what was coming on in the future, you would probably say it was a good decision even though I will agree with you, we have made, we pay more for our solid waste than probably some other communities. But there are 30 landfills, first class landfills, in 100 counties in North Carolina. You begin to look at some other communities; you don't pick up the Greensboro paper without hearing discussion about their landfill out on the White Street. Some other communities are having a problem. They know they've got to do something. They are going to have to build these real mammoth landfills or come up with something creative. What I'm trying to portray to you, and I can't guarantee you this will be the case, we've already done ours. When the truth comes out in several years, and it's not going to come out next year or the next year after that, but probably in about 5 years we'll begin to see that our costs are going to come in line because we've paid our landfill. We haven't paid for it, but we've at least got the infrastructure down and got it to a point that it will be good for the citizens of Rockingham County. I'm very proud of the City of Eden taking part in that. They had to have our participation in that to make this work. They needed the trash of the City of Eden at that time to make that landfill work. It is working. Again, it has been more expensive than some other communities have paid. Some years ago, the City of Eden had, I think, 8 people picking up all the garbage in the City of Eden. Now as all of you know, there are 2 people who pick up all of the garbage. Two people pick up all ... I'm not talking about the hot water heaters and all the trees and the shrubs and all that type ... but just the pure garbage put out in the cans by use of those machines that go by

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and pick it up and throw it in the thing. Two people pick all of that up. The City of Eden, I will tell you is rich on another thing. We provide a service that, frankly, other communities don't provide. We are out everyday during normal working hours picking up sofas, trees, that type of thing that other communities some of them don't do but twice a year. So we do have an extra expense there. I'm telling you this because here's an extra expense here, there's an extra expense here, we're trying to get this thing designed so that people will be paying a fair share of what their solid waste bill will be. It's not fair for my Mother who lives by herself to pay what Leslie (Brown, news reported) who lives in . . . but he's got two children. You know he's going to have more trash. It's designed for that fee income I was talking to you about and to be fair. Is it fair now? It's a shakeout right now, ladies and gentlemen. It's a very tenuous hard thing to do. I will guarantee you this, that the city employees have really put their best foot forward. Everything is not right and it's going to take several months to get it right. Should you be upset? Yes. I know many of you personally. I know all of you are very understanding people and you're upset about this. But I would ask you to use some forbearance and let this thing shake out to the City and the City can work the details out and get the right colors. I've got so many retired people . . . they don't even know how to turn the stove on. They're on a different color. We know some mistakes have been made and they're going through those and it's going to take several months to get them shaken out. I've not given you the answer you want to hear on the solid waste issue. It's a very difficult issue. Everybody's trying and I really do honestly feel like by cold weather, certainly by fall, things will be down to a more palatable area and we can in a manner more reasonable adjust this thing and make it fair to everyone. There will always be questions. I've turned in probably 10 or 15 calls to the solid waste people this week by friends of mine, who are retired, who just got the wrong color and others who had not been told about the implementation of new policies. It's been frustrating and we certainly want to apologize for the aggravation a lot of people have had but everybody is, I promise you, trying to make this thing work. So with that, I'd like to continue on.

Ella Broadnax (1135 Irving Avenue): My name is Ella Broadnax. I live at 1135 Irving Avenue. Mr. Mayor Price, I would like to know, I live by myself. I have 15 grandbabies but none of them stay with me and my water bill has went up to \$83. Two months ago it was \$45. My light bill was only \$29 that ought to tell you something . . . something is wrong. You said the word fair. How are they going to go about doing that? I want to know something about this fairness. I've gotta keep paying it. Maybe next month, two months from now it's going to be \$150. Where is fair at? I mean that's all I've got to say about it.

Mayor Price: Thank you very much. I would like to say something about the cost of the water and sewer. About 20 some years ago this City embarked on a program to greatly expand our water and sewer plants in the City of Eden to accommodate new customers that were coming into the City, new industrial customers. And those customers have been good corporate citizens for our community. Some have left and they aren't using the water that was there. We recognize that Eden is in kind of the catbird seat for a community our size because of our capability to produce a lot of water and there's a lot of fixed cost that goes into that. Perhaps even more importantly than water is our ability to treat sewage. A very, very, very few communities, not only in North Carolina, but on the east coast of the United States can treat sewage like we can. That's important to big customers that come in and want to locate in a place. They want to be assured that they can get that sewage treatment that they won't be taken to court for due to polluting the river. So we have a lot of fixed costs. We also in our community we are an old community. Many of us are second and third generation people who came from here. We very well realize that some severe problems with water pressure and we've got to deal with that. Perhaps even more importantly some areas that some of our sewage pipes are beginning to take, have not had the proper maintenance or just have not had the expansion they should have had over the years. We're beginning to get some infiltration of water into our sewage lines and we're having some spills. So we've got to begin to put capital costs into place to be able to expand these lines to make the changes we need to make to ensure the water pressure. I have a friend of mine who lives over on Dunn Street who's retired, called me last week, just a first class person, hard worker like everybody in this community. She said when I take a shower, you can forget it, there's no water anywhere else. She's put new lines in from the meter to her house and that's that whole area. You can go around Carolina Heights, you can go to some areas in east Eden, I can



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think of some areas, Bob, not far from where you live that the water pressure is absolutely nil. Now how can we grow as a community if we can't take care of our own things? Let me go back about these rates. If you'll look about many years ago the water rates were set and nobody is an expert, there are people around who are experts. Over the years the rates were set to take care of the operating costs of the water, to pay for the chemicals, to provide the electricity, to provide the people who do it, that type of thing. Very little money was set back to, in capital costs, to repair these lines, put the new lines in, to put the new sewer pipes in. The city is putting in a new sewer thing right down here. If you think you can do it for \$50, I think it's about \$350,000. The engineering is almost as much as the cost of doing the job. So, that money was not put into the rates, and you begin to look at where we are. I haven't been here (*in office*) but since 1994 and everybody I've talked to who's been a manager or interim manager or who's been a consultant here has said you need to adjust your water and sewer rates to accommodate the charges that you need to have to have enough money to spend on these water and sewer lines that you have to have. Unfortunately, it hasn't been done. Well, last year we took money out of savings just to pay for what we had to do, and we didn't do what we had to do. We took money out of savings. I don't need to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that this is your government, but everybody knows full well you can't succeed and pay the bond debt of \$8 million that I just mentioned to you, keep paying for rising costs that you have in your operating costs, and then continue to have the problems that we're having with water pressure and that type of thing. Something had to happen. Now, this action that was taken was really just to get up to parity, to get us up to where we could break even and stop taking money out of savings and get us down to where we had to be to run this thing in a reasonable manner. Is it going to be the rate that's set? This was just a rate that was set up again, just to get us even. We hope to bring in a master plan and somebody who will look at this whole issue and tell us what needs to be done to set some rates to just determine what the rates ought to be but we had to stop this bleeding and we had to stop it this year. You can look at it, is it unfair? There is not a soul on this Council, I'll tell you this, I promise you, I know every one of them very well and the ones who have been here before, nobody wanted to do this, but you got to a point that we couldn't represent you and be fair if we didn't say, look, we can't keep taking money out of savings. We've got to do something. We can't face fines from the government by dumping sewage into the rivers and the creeks. We can't take care of our customers in a fair and equitable manner. It's not fair for you to pay good money and you don't get service. So the rate was set. If you'll look and you'll compare ... today I ask for some information to compare our rates with other communities in Rockingham County. If you'll compare our rates to, with the exception of one community, one small community in Rockingham County, if you compare our rates, we are even or lower than the other communities are paying in Rockingham County. Now that's based on, I think, 6,000 gallons of water per month, somewhere in there. Some of you use more, some of you use less. I was just trying to get something to figure some figures on. So, it had to be set. And again, we have tried, we have looked. A lot of time and thought went into this on behalf of our City Manager. I would like to tell you that he has an exhaustive study of this. That study is available to you if you would like to call down and ask Lori Ford, our Finance Officer, to give you a copy. You can take a look at it. It explains, in detail, what the revenues are, what the costs are. It's hit us at the wrong time, I think. A very, very good friend told me, in a very nice manner, but I could tell he was upset, he said, why did you wait till the last minute, why didn't you go up a little bit every year? And that's one of those things, ladies and gentlemen, that nobody on this Council can answer. We wish we had've gone up. We wish we had've gone up a little bit every year so it would have been a little bit easier to manage. Now we've got some of our best citizens in this community who have worked, who have gone off to fight wars, who have worked their heads off, who have reared children in this community, thrown their shoulder against every project that's come along in Eden, and now they're having to get these high bills. We don't feel right about it. We're trying our best to look at it in a fair and equitable manner. Mistakes have been made in terms of the execution of this thing. We're trying our best to get that straightened out. I have been in the office when the ladies are meeting the public in there and they're trying their best. Everybody is trying their best to implement this thing. I know you're not happy, and I want to assure you that nobody is trying to be mean-spirited. We're trying our best to get this thing resolved in a reasonable manner.

Bob Staley: Phil, did you do a survey on the waste, how do we compare the cost of solid waste compared to surrounding areas?

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Mayor Price: Bob, I did not do it. We are comparing ourselves with some private vendors and probably we're a little bit higher to tell you the truth because we're using the local landfill versus some of the private vendors who are using other landfills. On the other hand, we could very easily cut probably, I'm using this figure, probably \$150-200,000 a year off our solid waste bill if you wanted to take out picking up the garbage everyday, not the garbage, but the trees and the refrigerators and that type of thing. We could cut that out. That is something that was put into the system over the years that good, well-meaning people wanted to keep this community clean. They didn't want that debris hanging in the yard and that type of thing. So, we're all going through a shakedown period, just trying to understand what's going on. It is hard on a lot of people and Bob, we understand. I didn't mean to take all your time, but we want to listen to everybody who would like to make further comment.

Raymond Wilson: You already know who I am Mayor Price, so I'm not going to repeat it again. C.H. Gover knows me real good ... I was raised up with him. You talk about this water deal costing so much, this, that, and the other about this water. Why can't people put wells in their own yard?

Mayor Price: Raymond, I believe they can if they want to, can't they Dennis? It's not against the city ordinance for, but you've got to pay if you run it back into the sewage.

Raymond Wilson: We don't have to run it back into the sewage, we didn't years ago.

Mayor Price: Well, if you're using it running back into your home, you're running to the sewage. Remember I mentioned they used part of that sewage on the water meter.

Raymond Wilson: This is what I'm trying to get across on the solution. Why not go up just a little bit on the sewage ... let us put our own wells in our yards and use our own water and run it into the sewage and it will cost just a little more for sewage, instead of charging all these high prices for the water and the sewage?

Mayor Price: Well, you've raised an interesting point, but again you've got to pay. Remember I told you you've got one meter you pay in capital costs for water and sewage. That's something that could be looked at. I'll tell you there are a couple of things being looked at.

Raymond Wilson: I've already got the well there. All I need to do is clean it out.

Mayor Price: Sure. And there are a lot of wells around here. Anyone else who would like to come forward? Mrs. Wall.

*Cornelia Wall: Could not understand Ms. Wall's comments from the tape.*

Mayor Price: Mrs. Wall, there is a gentleman right here who is a guru of the city in terms of water and sewer, he's in charge of all that. His name is Dennis Asbury, and he will get with you before you leave, and he will respond to you on that but he really knows what he's doing. . . Anyone else want to come forward to speak?

Ann Chatman (625 Riverside Dr.): Hi, my name is Ann Chatman. I live at 625 Riverside Drive. I've been working since I was 17 years old. My water bill went up \$50 and I've got two small children, 1 and 2 and a 14 year old. I work at Wal-Mart making \$5.88 an hour. Now, how am I supposed to raise my family and pay all these high bills? I bet you nary one of yall up there can make it on \$5.88 an hour. Nary one of you and buy pampers for two babies and feed them when I have a 14 year old that can eat like a horse. He can eat more than three of yall up there together. I have a light bill, I have a water bill, I have a phone bill, I have a house mortgage, I have a car payment, I have to keep the insurance on my car so I can take my babies to the doctors, and I have to pay taxes on my car and my house. Somewhere along the line I've got to pull money out of that \$5.88 an hour to buy groceries. There's a lot of weeks I can't even buy nothing. I can't get no help Social Services either because they say I make too much. Now what's the deal? I'm going to have to let my babies go hungry in order to pay this damn water bill.

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Mayor Price: Okay, excuse me ma'am.

Ann Chatman: I'm sorry. I didn't mean for that to slip. When you've got two little ones at home, they cry and you know they're hungry. It's hard to see it. I bet you nary one of yall would let your children go hungry to be able to pay a water bill. And nary one of yall can make it off of \$5.88 an hour. It's a shame that yall can't get more jobs here in this community. That would solve the whole problem right there.

Mayor Price: You're entirely correct and we are trying to get more jobs here.

Ann Chatman: And if yall would make those companies that are here in this community pay the debts that they need to pay, then we the citizens wouldn't have to pay it.

Mayor Price: Ms. Chatman would you like to add more about this water and sewer?

Ann Chatman: It's wrong that my bill has jumped \$50. And then if you're one day late paying it, I get paid every two weeks, you're going to have a \$15 charge on it. That's another extra \$15 that I don't have. That's wrong. That's totally wrong that there is going to be children that don't have nothing to eat if we pay the water bill. If we don't pay the water bill they ain't going to have no water to drink. They ain't going to have no water to take a bath. We can't let them thirst to death ... can't let them starve to death. And I work everyday, matter of fact, I'm working two jobs. I started another one Sunday and that means I'm taken away from my children, seeing me and spending time with me, in order to pay my bills. It's just a shame. It shouldn't have went up as high as it did. It should have gradually went up. It hit us in the pocketbook too hard all at one time because the jobs that we do have around here is McDonalds, Burger King, Hardees, Wal-Mart, Dollar General, cause Miller ain't hiring. We don't have many factories and they're not hiring. And they're liables to just pack up and move any day because I worked at one of them that just packed up and moved. They sold everything and went to Mexico, which I blame that on the President.

Mayor Price: Okay, thank you very much Ms. Chatman. Anyone else like to come forward? Yes sir.

Howard Scales (889 Morgan Rd.): My name is Howard Scales, 889 Morgan Road, Eden, North Carolina. I'm concerned about the water and the waste. I'm a senior citizen. When they first got the tags to mark the tags when you're a senior citizen, how much waste that you have in your container, I did that ... I marked that I'm a senior citizen on a fixed income. Two people, three people rather, my wife, I, and my mother in-law. She's 92 years old, she's bedridden. She can't use any more water than you put on her and give her to drink. My water bill jumped from \$40 some to \$95. Waste, looking at it today, where I had an orange sticker on my container, they took it off and put a red sticker on. That means that you've got a whole container of waste. In other words you've got the high price paying for that waste. I heard you talking about you had to take from savings to meet some of your obligations, how many seniors have got savings? I don't have one because the little pension that you get a month, if I had to pay for medication which I did do for several years until I got into an organization that paid for my medicine. If I had to pay for my medicine now and I did for several years until I got into this organization, my medication would run me \$500 a month. \$500 a month for medication and that would and that would have took over half of what I get. What would we have to eat on, what would we have to pay the light bill with, even the water bill? In other words, we're just living hand to mouth. In other words we're just struggling trying to make ends meet. The senior citizen, I'm talking about most of them today, they put their blood and guts into this community to make it what it is, and then you come up here with all these high prices that they can't afford. I think something needs to be done for the senior citizens. And on my street I checked the garbage cans and some of them people ain't got but one or two people in the house and on the street and just about every garbage can got a red sticker on it. And I check the garbage cans, I'll be fair with you I check, and some of them ain't got two bags in them but yet they got a red sticker. Thank you.

Nash Millner (1114 Irving Ave.): My name is Nash Millner. I live at 1114 Irving Avenue. I'm not going to sit here and cry about the bills because I figure yall going to do what you

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going to do anyway cause you done already did it. Alright, I would like to ask you one question. Was any letter or correspondence sent out about raising the cost?

Mayor Price: I'm sorry.

Nash Millner: Was there a letter sent out about you raising the cost?

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Nash Millner: I never received one.

Mayor Price: It went out from under my hand. Lori, do you happen to have a date?

*(Response was not audible)*

Nash Millner: But there was a letter sent out?

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Another thing I'd like to comment. I know that changes bring about a lot of things. But overall you have to look at other considerations, too. Like these senior citizens came in here today. Were they really considered into your budgets when you raised these things? Did you know how bad things were here in Eden? I don't think so because there's too many heads bowed. These people get up here and talk about children needing to be fed. In other words, you're telling me that you sat there and negotiated an increase, such as, knowing that there's children in need. This is what you're telling me? I'm not going to get a reply?

Mayor Price: I think that you heard my comments a while ago that when we sat down and we talked about this a lot and we tried our best to come up with a fair plan. We're looking at one side of, as I just mentioned to you, all the needs that your infrastructure has in this community and what we know has to be done for the future of this community in terms of the cost and the amount of the investment that has to go into it now just to make it work. We also looked at the fact that you can't keep taking money out of savings to keep going. We looked on the other side of what is fair now. I mentioned, if you'll remember, we do plan to have a look at this entire situation when we take a closer look at this. But we had a move toward recovering our cost and putting infrastructure costs into it as well. We looked at a comparison of where we were to other communities in the county, trying to be fair. Obviously, from the comments we've heard tonight, a lot of people are upset about that and understandably so. Nobody again is trying to be mean-spirited in this thing but trying to come up with something to meet what we see and what we're told by the specialists and the people who do this and what we heard from folks who demand and deservedly demand good water pressure and adequate sewage treatment versus what we see other people pay and what we think we need to pay. That's the thinking now. I certainly understand what you're saying and everybody understands what you're saying. There is not a good answer to this. It really isn't. All I can tell you is I know that this community in terms of people who are elected to represent you to run your government are trying. I know the answer doesn't satisfy you, but we are trying.

Nash Millner: There was no other sacrifice to be made, rather than this?

Mayor Price: We looked at everything we could look at and we compared to what the cost were in other places, and what other people were paying, and what we felt like we had to get to get this thing to stop the bleeding, just to get it up to stop the cost, and have a revenue mutual and to be able to make an investment we had to have.

Nash Millner: In other words, what Eden has to do is stay in line with other cities?

Mayor Price: What we're having to do sir, is to make the investment in our system that we have to keep it a viable system for our citizens for years to come. We did compare ourselves to try to be in line with what people pay.

Nash Millner: At this rate it may not be no citizens in Eden for years to come.

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Council Member Tudor: Mr. Mayor, may I say something?

Mayor Price: Yes sir.

Council Member Tudor: Correct me if I'm wrong on the figure for the water and sewer rate, we were losing \$125,000 a month, it came to more than \$4,000 a day. So, the City Manager used the phrase you've heard the Mayor use a couple of times, "stop the bleeding". We had a very bare bones budget. We tried to cut and tried to cut. We got to the point that the City Manager just couldn't find another place to cut and he used that term, we needed to "stop the bleeding". We are all sworn to do everything we can to maintain the financial integrity and viability of the city government and nobody, nobody, I don't care what their politics are, wanted to have to first of all, confront a problem like this, and if there's somebody that's smarter than anybody here that can give us a better answer, then praise the Lord, let us hear it. We'd certainly love to hear it.

Nash Millner: Well my mother also told me that the bleeding had to start from something so I don't think it started with the citizens so why should they be the ones to stop the bleeding?

Council Member Gover: I'd like to say something also. I didn't believe in this triple whammy that you're getting. I don't believe in it tonight. I'm ready to repeal it. I'm ready to make an amendment. I didn't vote for it to start with, and I'm not grandstanding. I'm with you. I'm not about to grandstand. But I do know that we hit you too hard and I voiced my opinion in the budget meeting. I don't claim to be smarter than anybody else here as Mr. Tudor pointed out that somebody has to be smarter, but I do know a triple whammy when I see one, and I voted against it. I think we can do something about it. I think we can back off of the \$15. I didn't realize that they was going to charge \$15 for being late on water.

Nash Millner: What about the interest fee?

Council Member Gover: That was in a package and I'll be honest with you, I need your chewing tonight because I missed this \$15. I would have voted against that. I'm ready to make a motion that we drop that double water meter charge and go to thirty percent on your solid waste.

Council Member Reynolds: You make a motion and I'll second it. We work for these people out here. They are our bosses and they're telling us tonight they want us to go back to square one and do something.

Mayor Price: Anyone else who'd like to come forward to speak tonight?

Darrell Law (318 The Boulevard): Darrell Law and my address is 318 The Boulevard. Mr. Mayor and Council, first of all I realize you have a very, very hard task. My mother went into the nursing home in March. When I got her water bill this month, which means she was not home ... no water's been used, her bill went up fifty percent. My profession, I'm the pastor of the Eden Baptist Church, our water bills went up fifty percent. We've been charged for years for a canister that we don't even have at the church. And yet, our bill went up for that. I understand the need for more money, but I really believe if you will really look, I mean across the board, there are places that you can cut some cost. I realize in budgeting and accounting you've got the sewer and water account and you've got this account over here. But these are perilous times. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, not just Eden, but America, has just gone into chaos. That has to be taken into account. My wife and I were walking over on the Bridge Street track the other week and as we rounded one of the corners, I told her "I'm glad to see that" and I pointed to the fact that there were convicts working on the horseshoe links. But we got up past the horseshoe links, and I saw four city employees standing around shooting the bull. And one individual, he didn't have on a city uniform and I didn't recognize him as a city person, the second time around, I noticed that he was going toward the street. When he got to the street, he got in a truck, a landscaping truck, and from all appearances he had been mowing the yard at the Eden Rec center. I don't have a problem with that, but what I have a problem with is four city employees on city time getting paid by the city standing the chewing fat. Now I

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know OSHA requires this and that, but if the city is going to contract work like that, and I take it that's what it was, then why not let the contractor provide the men that OSHA requires? I'm not looking to cut anybody's job, but the bare fact is, Eden's got to cut their operating expense. The senior citizens, not just the senior citizens, everybody has been affected since September 11. My income has dropped seventy-five percent because my wife lost her job of twenty-seven years with US Airways and has not been able to find a job. Our income has dropped and yet now, I have the responsibility of caring for my mother's home while she's in the nursing home and the rates are going up there. Another illustration, and I apologize I did not know about the meeting tonight until about seven o'clock ... I knew about the Council meeting, but I didn't know it was going to be concerning this. The other week I got the water report and I'm sure that's required by some government, state government or federal government, that we all be notified about the city, the condition of our water. I hope that no government agency requires it to be done on color glossy paper. I would have been much happier, especially with all of the increase of rates and everything, to have gotten a simple 8 ½ by 11 sheet of white paper in giving me that information. I'm really, I'm encouraging you, to find places to cut. I understand you have these bonds and everything else, but I believe there's some fat that can be cut out of the spending of the City of Eden and you won't have to increase rates like they're being increased. I encourage you. Most of you are business people. You can't go and operate your business by saying, "Oh I like that and I think I'll buy that and if I don't have the money I think I'll just up my customer's rate." If you do that, it's not going to be long before you don't have any customers because they're going to go somewhere else that is cheaper. You know, I hear people talking about they're going to move out of Eden because everything keeps going up and up and up. I think the key is realizing, yes, things have to be done and they have to be taken care of, but there are areas that if a genuine concern was looked at that costs could be cut. If costs is cut over here, and you have some surplus over here, then transfer it or do whatever you need to do to this account over here to take care of some costs over here if this can't be cut. I think the key is looking for areas. I've had to look for areas that we could cut in my own family budget. It hasn't been easy, but I've had to do it to make ends meet. It's getting harder and harder but the fact of the matter is, it has to be done. There are other illustrations I could give you of things I've seen in Eden. This is not a metropolis and it can't be run like a metropolis. We can't have all the things that metropolises have. We have to realize that we're a small city. That bothers me to say that as much as anyone else. I was as proud when we were the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest city in North Carolina as anybody else. I boasted about that. The fact of the matter is, we're not as big as Winston-Salem, we're not as big as Greensboro, and you can't offer the services that they offer. As far as the comparing of the other communities in Rockingham County, from what I can see, we don't have the industry Reidsville has. We don't even have the industry Mayodan has or Madison has. They have the big plants up there and as the lady spoke a while ago, we've got McDonald's and Wal-Mart and I know we've got some small companies, but we don't have all that the others and we've got to look at that and that has to be taken into consideration with all these things. Thank you.

Mayor Price: Thank you very much. Comments well taken. Young lady, you had another comment?

Teresa Mitchell: Yes, I'd just wanted to say that I didn't understand one thing about Eden is, and maybe you can answer this, why did we get another Eden City Park when we already had one like the lady that first spoke was talking about, the old City Park? I took my three children up there one Sunday afternoon. We was sitting on the swing swinging and I'll be honest with you, I don't know what the teenagers was doing, but I know by looking at their eyes and stuff, they won't looking right at me. I got very nervous, very scared. I got my children and I left. I have not been back and I'm not going back ... not without my husband or somebody present with me. My concern with that, when they built another city park, is everybody was talking about how nice it was going to be. Well, over a period of years, is it going to be like the old city park? Are the citizens going to be scared to go because of drugs and other things that may be taking over the place like it is at the old city park?

Mayor Price: We certainly hope not.

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Teresa Mitchell: That's my opinion and I don't understand why we've got another one and the other one is still sitting up there. I didn't understand why we bought another park when, like that lady said, why didn't we take half of the cost of that park and, because that is a beautiful place on 14 ... it's gorgeous up there. I just didn't understand why we bought it and I was hoping maybe you could give us some light on it.

Mayor Price: Well, the park issue, those who have been coming to the Council meeting for years, the park issue has been talked about a lot and is certainly one of the things that has been controversial in our city, but we wanted to provide a place that was not only safe for our young ladies, like yourself, to take their children, but be in the confines of the city limits and would have some of the amenities that people and children of all ages could use. It's slowly and surely taking shape and people who are involved have determined that it's going to be the best for our future. We've got to build toward it. That's the background. I'll be happy to talk to you personally about that anytime. SP, you had another comment? We're going to wrap up with his comment tonight. SP, if you'll come to the podium tonight.

SP Roberts: This won't take long ... it's just a question I need to ask. What has happened to us, here recently about this bill. I've got the understanding, it's going to hit us two more times before this year's out. This question is if you could give us an answer.

Mayor Price: SP, that's the plan but it's all based on the revenues that take place and the cost that come from it. The plan is in place to increase the solid waste again, but that's really based on the situation that's at hand at the time and how the new plan is implemented and how the cost and the revenue stack up. I will tell you something else. To those of you who had a note, some of you might be aware if you're 65 years old and have an income of less than \$18,000 a year, you can qualify for a reduction in your city and county property taxes. It's through the Homestead Exemption Act. If you would like to have some information on that, please contact Lori Ford in our finance office and get some information on that because that's yours. If you fit into that, that's a good way for you to save on your taxes.

Yes ma'am. I need you to come forward and give your name please. We are going to, ladies and gentlemen, conclude our comments with this lady.

Gladys Gantt (442 Decatur St.): I'm Gladys Gantt. I live at 442 Decatur Street. I am a senior citizen. When you first put the little tags on my garbage can, I believed what it said. It said if you're a senior citizen, that we would get a discount. So I filled out the little card and put it on the can. And today when they came around, they slapped another color on it. So, the reason I'm coming to you, it may save me from having to come to somebody else.

Mayor Price: Well you can and remember I said a while ago that the biggest complaint I've heard has been from seniors who've had the wrong color. Again, if you have a lot of people living with you that doesn't justify. If you have yourself and you're over 65 and you had less than 30% capacity, which most people are, then that will justify it.

Gladys Gantt: No, just me and my husband and I'm very careful since you put the first ticket on my trash can. I take all my plastic, everything that I can recycle, I don't think you have a place for glass but everything else. I don't have but one little trash bag and it's not completely full. I'm very careful.

Mayor Price: You're right and this is going through, for lack of a better word, a shakedown period until we can get this thing set up. I will make sure that you are contacted about that.

Gladys Gantt: Okay. Thank you sir.

Mayor Price: Ladies and gentlemen we're going to conclude this part of the request petitions of our citizens. Thank you very much for your initiative to come down here tonight and for your understanding of the situation and most importantly your courtesy in this large group. Thank you so much. We're going to take a short break.

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City of Eden, N. C.

Minutes of the regular July 16, 2002 meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, continued:

Council Member Vestal: Mr. Mayor, before you take a break, while we're on the subject here, as you and the rest of the Council is well aware, I fought passionately to get this phased in. Mr. Gover brought up a point there and I think he's aware that he can't do that tonight. But Mr. Gover I'd like you to add that to the agenda next month.

Council Member Gover: I certainly will but I don't understand why I can't add it tonight because we did the park and it wasn't on the agenda when we voted \$400,000 for the park. But I'll certainly put it on the agenda. The park wasn't on the agenda, but . . .

Mayor Price: Alright, we're going to take a short recess. Thank you very much.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of appointment to Safety Committee:

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Reynolds to appoint Mr. Terry Shelton to the Safety Committee. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. The motion carried.

Request to apply for LLEBG Grant:

Mayor Price advised that Chief Benthin had requested that the Council authorize him to apply for the LLEBG grant.

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan and seconded by Council Member Gover to approve the request. All Council Members vote in favor of this motion.

#### 9. CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval and Adoption of minutes - May 15, 22, and June 18, 2002.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps, seconded by Council Member Tudor to approved the Consent Agenda item. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. The motion carried.

#### 10. VOUCHERS:

No discussion on vouchers.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Grogan, seconded by Council Member Gover to adjourn. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim J. Scott  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Philip K. Price  
Mayor