

CITY OF EDEN, NC

A special meeting (Retreat) of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Thursday, February 27, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. at the City Hall Conference Room, 308 E. Stadium Drive, Eden, North Carolina.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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| Mayor: | | Philip K. Price |
| Mayor Pro Tem: | (absent) | John E. Grogan |
| Council Members: | | Ronald Reynolds |
| | | Billy Vestal |
| | (absent) | Christine Myott |
| | | Garry Tudor |
| | | Jerry Epps |
| | | C. H. Gover, Sr. |
| City Manager: | | S. Brad Corcoran |
| City Attorney: | (absent) | Tom Medlin |
| City Clerk: | | Kim J. Scott |
| Representative from News Media: | | Steve Lawson, <u>Eden Daily News</u> ; Scott Michaels, <u>Greensboro News & Record</u> |

Meeting Convened:

Mayor Price welcomed everyone in attendance.

Review of City Council Goals for Current Fiscal Year 2002-03:

- What Was Accomplished?
- What Still Needs To Be Accomplished?

City Manager, Brad Corcoran began by reviewing the goals submitted by the Mayor and Council for FY 2002-03 and how those goals were addressed.

Continue Development of New Eden Industrial Park:

Mr. Corcoran noted that the second phase of engineering was completed during the first part of FY 2001-02 and the City Council proceeded with the purchase agreement and authorization of the final engineering/design on February 19, 2002. The engineering/design work has been on-going for the past year and is expected to be completed prior to the end of FY 2002-03. Upon the completion of the engineering/design the City Council will then be faced with the decision of whether or not to proceed with actual construction of phase 1.

Establish Specific Goals for Revenue Increases In All Areas of the City – Generate Enough Income to Meet Expenses Through Necessary Rate Increases:

- a. Water & Sewer Fees
- b. Solid Waste Fees
- c. Real Property Tax Increase
- d. User Fees
- e. Funding for Industrial Park
- f. Funding for Recreational Park
- g. Funding for Water/Sewer Improvements

The available fund balances budgeted in June, 2002 to be used during FY 2002-03 was \$0.00. This compared extremely well with the fact that the previous year was balanced via the allocation of \$1,798,500 in available fund balances. During the course of the past year the City Council voted to increase both water and sewer fees and solid waste fees. The City Council also voted to increase other user fees such as those charged for various recreational programs. The real property tax rate was not increased. It was agreed that future funding for both the Eden Industrial Park as well as for many of the Water/Sewer Improvement Projects would need to be completed via a new bond issue. The City Council voted to leverage its annual donations to Freedom Park into a \$400,000 loan.

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Water/Sewer Improvements Needed Within City & Reinstatement of 2" Waterline Replacement Program:

Mr. Corcoran noted that this would be discussed later this morning. A lot of water and sewer projects have been completed in the last two years and the work was obviously on going.

Complete Phase II of New City Park:

He stated that the city received a Ronald McDonalds House grant for a portion of the costs associated with the development of Phase 2. The City Council had also agreed to borrow \$400,000. He noted that the project was basically on schedule to have grass planted in June of this year and will be ready for play next Spring.

Expand Extraterritorial Area:

Mr. Corcoran stated that in November, 2002 the City Council voted to proceed with the expansion of the extraterritorial area and Mrs. Kelly Stultz, Director of Planning & Inspections is in the process of working with the Director of Planning for Rockingham County to have this matter considered by the Rockingham County Planning Board, as well as the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners. It is anticipated that this will be completed prior to June 30, 2003.

Implementation of Fire Tax Service Districts in Rural Fire Districts Administered and Handled by The City of Eden:

Mr. Corcoran stated that during the course of the last year, representatives from the three rural fire departments have met with members of the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners and Rockingham County staff members in an effort to pursue the establishment of a rural fire tax district. The City of Eden's Public Safety Committee has expressed its willingness to be involved in this process if requested but is not actively pursuing this matter at this time. The lead agencies in reference to whether or not special tax districts will be created include the three rural fire departments who will need to do some work to get the issue before the voters and Rockingham County who will ultimately be responsible for the overall consideration/implementation process. Currently, this matter is on hold pending additional information from the County.

Reduce the Number of Manned Fire Stations Down to 3, 2 or 1 Station(s):

There has been no discussions or action taken in reference to this matter.

Flint Hill Rehabilitation Program:

Mr. Corcoran stated that funding for the Flint Hill Rehabilitation Program is included in the current FY 2002-03 budget. Mrs. Kelly Stultz is handling this project.

Recruitment of New Industry and Retail Businesses – Jobs and Marketing of Shell Building:

He stated that he had proposed and the City Council approved the hiring of a Business Development Director to help with retail/small businesses, downtown revitalization efforts, commercial/industrial efforts, etc. During the course of the last year the staff has tried hard to create a working relationship with the Rockingham County Partnership for Economic & Tourism Development. During the past year we have sold the Eden Shell Building to Natural Care Labs, Inc. He reminded them that they relocated to Eden from Atlanta, Georgia and will be creating 46 new jobs. He noted also that Loparex has expanded its manufacturing operation adding 4,000 square feet to its existing facility and adding 17 new jobs. He also noted that Santee Company is in the process of selling its assets to Liberty Screen Printing and the new company is estimating they will employ approximately 250 people. Eden Custom Processing was going into the Consolidated Labs building and would be creating 20 new jobs.

Mr. Corcoran stated that the Eden City Council voted to move forward with submitting an application to the Main Street Program for assistance with various downtown revitalization

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efforts. The Director of Business Development has developed a close working relationship with the merchants in Eden, the various downtown associations, the Chamber of Commerce and has had much success in sustaining some growth and excitement in our commercial/retail areas.

Begin Water/Sewer Bond Sale Process:

The Water and Sewer Master Plan needs to be completed, reviewed and acted upon by the City Council before proceeding further with an actual Water/Sewer sale process.

Initiate Realistic Condemnation Process – Review Feasibility of Moving Code Enforcement to Fire Department & Junk Car Enforcement to Police Department:

Mr. Corcoran noted that at the present time the staff feels it is more desirable to leave the responsibilities associated with code enforcement under the direct supervision of the Director of Planning and Inspections. The staff there has pursued a more aggressive plan of action in reference to condemnations and code enforcement during the past year. This is an expensive proposition and additional funds will need to be allocated for this purpose during the upcoming budget process if this effort is to continue.

Increased Monitoring of Schools/Training/Travel:

Due to budgetary constraints the number of schools/training/travel has been reduced when compared with previous years. Each of the requests were reviewed by the Department Head to make sure that it is beneficial to the City of Eden. He noted that there are several instances when attendance at a school is mandatory in order for an employee to maintain their current level of certification.

Thoroughfare Plan for City Traffic – Including Another Link to Harrington Highway Connecting to Summit Removing Some Truck Traffic on City Streets:

Mr. Corcoran stated that there has not been any action in reference to another link to Harrington Highway connecting to Summit Road, however a whole section was dedicated to transportation later today.

Preventative Maintenance Crew in Water & Sewer:

He noted that due to budgetary constraints this has not been done.

Update Web Page for Inter-Active Use in the Area of Small & Large Business/Industrial Promotion Efforts:

This has been completed. Our web page has a fresh new look and information concerning available industrial and commercial properties will soon be posted on the web site.

What are the City Manager's Goals and Strategies for: Recruiting Industry Short Term? Sewer Outfalls & Cost Projections? Getting our City Back on Track with Finances? City Council Agendas & Agenda Items

Mr. Corcoran stated that he had outlined his personal goals for the city during the annual budget retreat. He felt that 2002 was a big success with still a lot of work to do.

Recap Last Year's Retreat: What Was Accomplished and How Will We Get Back on Track With What Was Discussed?

He stated that this was completed during the retreat last year.

Display Historic Documents at City Hall:

He noted that this had been completed.

Mr. Corcoran also noted that Section two of the retreat notebook was 36 pages of information in reference to all of the departmental goals set last year and how those goals were achieved or

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addressed.

Review of City Council Goals for FY 2003-04 & Beyond & Goals Submitted By The City Manager (Group Discussion):

- Where Will We Be Focusing Our Attention & Resources?
- What Are Our Plans Going Forward?

Development of New Eden Industrial Park:

- a. Engineering is due to be completed during Spring, 2003. How do we proceed?
- b. Feasibility of Securing a Federal Grant for Development of Infrastructure for Industrial Park?

Mr. Corcoran called attention to information from Neal Tucker of Stimel Associates to Don Moss on the revised engineering and permitting schedule the fiscal year 2003-04 budget and cost estimates for grading, erosion control, and storm water management. He noted that in recent discussions with Mr. Moss, he had indicated that they would need to come up with \$526,000 during the upcoming year and they would be looking at approximately \$1.1 million the next year. He added that it would be to match the county's contribution. He explained that in the material they were looking at projected consulting fees of approximately \$230,600, as well as \$321,312 in projected construction costs and the difference there was that additional funds would also be needed to proceed with land acquisition. He noted that the City Council would need to formulate a plan of action in reference to how they would like to proceed, as well as the funding mechanisms that would be used to pay for it.

Mr. Corcoran explained that regarding the federal grant some early indications were that securing a federal grant may be somewhat problematic, especially from the standpoint that the county had already received one federal grant in Reidsville. He noted that obviously there were some state grants.

Water/Sewer Improvements:

- a. Consideration & Action On Water Master Plan & Sewer Master Plan.
- b. 2" Waterline Replacement Programs & Improvements To Water Pressure.
- c. Sewer Outfalls & Pump Stations.
- d. Recommendations In Reference To Raw Water Intake Study-Drought Mitigation Efforts.
- e. Possible Bond Issue For Capital Improvements.

Mr. Corcoran noted that the Water & Sewer Master Plan was due to be completed by April 2003. He said that they had discussed previously that once they got the Water & Sewer Master Plan back, they might need to look at the projects twofold. He asked what projects would have to be done between the present and 2008-09. He noted that the reason he used 2008-09 was because it was when the current debt service would be paid off. He said that they had talked about how they may need to look at a smaller bond issue for any projects that they felt needed to be done between the present and that time period. He pointed out that when they retired the current debt service in 2008-09, they could then look at another bond issue for the years in the future because they would have that money available that they were currently spending on the debt service each year which was about \$1.8 million. He stated that they would have that money available for debt service on a future bond issue. He said that the discussion previously had been to break the Water & Sewer Master Plan into two parts in terms of funding and doing the work.

Regarding the 2" waterline replacement programs, Mr. Corcoran mentioned that there were over fifty 2" water line replacement projects that still needed to be done. Mr. Bev O'Dell, Director of Engineering, was in the process of reprioritizing all of the projects.

Mr. Corcoran stated regarding the sewer outfalls and pump stations, they had just about finished the Meadow Green, Merriman, Long Street and were presently in the engineering phase for the dry creek sewer outfall. He added that they still had Smith and Matrimony Creek, noting several projects out there. He noted that Council's previous decision had been to do one at a time.

Mr. Corcoran noted that regarding the raw water intake study that the staff, along with the help of the Council's Water & Sewer Committee, had been meeting many times looking at it. He

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stated that they really needed to do two things. First, they needed to do something immediate and temporary that would position them for the drought in the summer of 2003 if it should happen again. He pointed out that everyone thought, because they had seen a lot of rain and snow, they were out of the drought. He said that the sad thing was they were not.

Mr. Corcoran advised that on the possible bond issue, obviously they were talking about a great deal of work there and realistically it probably would not be possible without looking at a bond issue.

Annexation:

Review Annexation Feasibility Study, Make Final Decisions on Whether or Not to Proceed And Proceed Accordingly.

Mr. Corcoran noted that later in the meeting, the Council would receive a tentative schedule of what had to be done to have annexation effective by June 2004. He added that everything on the page had to be done by May 2003. He presented a copy of the latest feasibility report that they had received from the Wooten Company.

Complete Phase II Of Freedom City Park:

- a. Complete Construction Of Baseball/Softball Complex And Be Ready For Play During Summer of 2004.
- b. Fundraising Efforts For Construction Of Future Phases Of Development.

Mr. Corcoran mentioned a letter in the retreat from Joey Conner outlining the status of the project. He said that he thought that the park for the most part would be ready for ball playing by the next spring. He explained that as they were now finished Phase II, they needed to consider how they were going to raise money for Phases III and IV. He noted he would be meeting with a committee from the Council's Park Committee to develop a fundraising initiative to raise enough money so that the following January they would have the matching money needed to apply for another Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Thoroughfare Plan:

- a. Prioritize Transportation Initiatives & Pursue Projects Identified In Thoroughfare Plan.
- b. Increase Efforts at Getting Transportation Initiatives Placed On The TIP.

Initiate Efforts To Obtain Funding For Widening Of Highway 14:

Mr. Corcoran noted that later in the meeting would be a discussion/ presentation on this issue. He had asked the Planning Department to take the thoroughfare plan in existence and comment where each of the projects were. He noted not many of the projects had received attention.

Adopt A Realistic Budget With Realistic Budget Cuts:

Mr. Corcoran advised that the budget was ultimately adopted by the City Council in June. He said that he could assure the Council that the staff would do everything they could to make sure that the budget was realistic and that they had realistic revenue projections. He commented that if they thought last year's budget was difficult, they had not seen anything yet as this year's budget process was going to be extremely difficult.

Mr. Corcoran called attention to other items listed by one Council Member which included: Implementation Of Fire Tax Service Districts In Rural Fire Districts Administered And Handled By The City Of Eden; Allocate Additional Funding For Extra Legal Efforts In Reference To Condemnations, Junk Cars, etc...; Flint Hill Rehabilitation; No Rate Increases On Water/Sewer/Solid Waste Fees For FY 2003-04; Initiate A Comprehensive & On-Going Clean-Up Campaign for Eden; Ongoing Efforts In Reference To Comprehensive Safety Program; Ongoing Efforts At Creating Additional Jobs; Construction Of Sidewalks (YMCA/Boone Road/Kings Highway Loop, HMS/MHS Sidewalk to Library, Central Elementary To Intersection Of Pierce & Stadium); Evaluate Director Of Business Development Position;

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Recommendations From Fire Chief In Reference To Fire Scene Chain Of Command and Initiate Benchmarking System For All City Departments.

Top 15 Goals (No Specific Order) For FY 2003-04 As Presented By City Manager:

1. Continue Our Efforts At Improving The City's Financial Condition. We Need To Develop Long-Term Solutions Not Short-Term Fixes. We Must Continue To Work Towards Eliminating Any Dependency On Reserves In Order To Balance The Budget. Incoming Revenues Must Continue To Equal Outgoing Expenditures.

Mr. Corcoran stated that in the budget that year, annexation in lieu of payments totaled \$917,100. He said that based on preliminary figures that they had received from Miller Brewing Company and Duke Power, the next year they were looking at \$589,268. He explained that interest income that year, general fund alone, the budget indicated \$137,100. He pointed out that preliminary estimates from the Director of Finance indicated \$80,928. He stated that the current budget included \$295,100 that they thought they would get in reimbursements. He noted that obviously, they would not receive that money the next year. He said that those three items alone equaled a loss of \$679,104 to the general fund which was the equivalent to \$0.12 plus on the tax rate. He commented that it was an astronomical hit that they were going to take.

Mr. Corcoran stated that the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners was going to meet on March 3rd to consider levying, effective July 1st, the optional half cent sales tax. He said that if the Board of Commissioners decided to do that, it would result in some additional money coming to the City of Eden. He said that another key that year would be the real estate evaluation. He pointed out that the real estate evaluations had gone up and if they maintained the current tax rate, they would recoup some of that loss.

Mr. Corcoran stated that regarding the Water/Sewer Fund, it was just a question as to how much money they had for capital improvement projects. He explained that the Water/Sewer Fund was an enterprise fund and it balanced itself through its revenue.

2. Development Of Strategic Plan For The City Of Eden. The City Council With The Assistance Of Staff & Citizens Need To Address The Following Questions:
 - A. Where Have We Been?
 - B. Where Are We Now?
 - C. Where Do We Want To Be?
 - D. How Do We Get There?

Once We Have Answered These Questions We Will Have To Allocate The Resources Necessary (Both Monetary And Non-Monetary) To Ensure Success Of Our Efforts Will Fall Short.

The Final Results Of The Eden 2005 Planning Committee & The Advocates For Eden Planning Group Should Be Considered And Included Where Appropriate As A Part Of This Effort Once The Work Of These Two Groups Has Been Completed. The Key Is To Have A Unified Plan Of Action.

3. Complete The Annexation Feasibility Analysis & Proceed In Those Areas With Ample Justification For An Effective Date Of June 30, 2004. According To The Preliminary Data The Areas That Should Be Considered For An Effective Date Of June 30, 2004 Include Indian Hills, The Area Immediately Surrounding The Parkdale Plant And Perhaps The North Ridge Area. In Addition, A Resolution Of Consideration Should Be Adopted For The Remaining Areas That Are Being Considered In The Annexation Feasibility Report For Prioritized Annexations In The Years Succeeding 2004. Having A Current Resolution Of Consideration That Is Updated On An Annual Basis Provides More Control For The City Council As The City Grows and Develops. Orderly Growth & Development Is Essential To Eden's Prosperity And To The Quality Of Life Of Our Citizen's.

Mr. Corcoran stated that instead of doing one huge annexation at once, since they had to get services in two years, it made more sense to do the annexation incrementally but consistently. He

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said he thought they would see recommendations about a series of annexations so they were not biting off too much at once rather than one huge annexation.

4. Adequate Funding & Long-Term Plan Of Action For Much Needed Infrastructure Improvement And Vehicle/Equipment Replacement Programs Including Raw Water Drought Mitigation Efforts, Sewer Outfall Rehabilitation Projects, Pump Station Improvement Projects, 2" Waterline Replacement Projects, Water/Sewer Master Plan, And Various Equipment/ Vehicle Replacements.

Mr. Corcoran advised that there were a whole lot more projects than the City had money. He noted that proper prioritization was going to be crucial, as well as securing adequate funding in a long-term plan of action to deal with those.

5. Develop Internal Strategies And Plans Of Action For Job Creation Through Industrial Development And Industrial Recruitment/Expansion Efforts. In Addition, Continue Our Existing Efforts In Relation To Our Business Development Program As Well As The Promotion Of Available Buildings & Demographic Information On Our Web Page. In the 2002 Issue of "Area Development" Magazine 68% Of The Respondents In Their 17th Annual Corporate Survey Stated That Available Buildings Are As Or More Important Than Any Other Search Criteria. Furthermore, Recent Statistics Indicate That More Of The Initial Search Process Is Occurring On The Internet Via Community Based Web Pages.

Mr. Corcoran stated that he felt they, as a city, should become more involved in their own destiny. He said that to the extent possible, he would like to see them become more involved in industrial development, recruitment, and retention. He commented that they needed the partnership and they should not duplicate their efforts; however, they certainly could stand to expand those efforts and take care of themselves as well.

Mr. Corcoran stated that when the web page was completed, he had asked Mr. Hill and Mr. Dougherty to put any industrial and commercial property on the web-site, along with the particulars, contact information, and demographics statistics for the city. He noted that the Internet was doing more searches.

6. Aggressive Nuisance Abatement & Code Enforcement Efforts. We Have Many Dilapidated Structures And Areas That Need To Be Dealt With Sooner Rather Than Later. These Abatement And Enforcement Efforts Often Require The Allocation Of Up Front Funding. It Will Be Important To Provide The Level Of Funding Needed In Order To Implement A Successful Program On An On-Going Basis.

Mr. Corcoran said to look at the buildings they had agreed to pursue the previous month and how much money it was going to cost.

7. Renewed Focus On A Comprehensive Safety Loss And Control Program. The Desire Is To Involve All Employees In The Area Of Safe Work Practices Instead Of Just Fifteen Employees Who Served On The Safety Loss And Control Program. We Need To Implement Internal Inspections To Ensure Our Continued Compliance With OSHA Safety Policies & Regulations And We Need To Increase Our Efforts In Relation To Safety Training.

Mr. Corcoran noted that in addition to a general safety committee, there would now be a safety committee in each department. He stated that was a new requirement in the ordinance that they had just adopted. He noted that there would be monthly inspections done on different facilities and work sites and they were also trying to have an increased emphasis on training, cross-training, training when someone moved from one job to another, as well as adhering to safe daily work practices.

8. Initiation Of A Comprehensive Beautification Program. We Need To Investigate Ways To Improve The Overall Appearance And Cleanliness Of Our Community. Examples Include The Replacement Of Deteriorated Street Signage, On-Going Right-Of-Way Maintenance Efforts, Adopt-A-Roadway Beautification Efforts, Aesthetic Enhancements, And Participation From Our Citizens And Businesses.

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Mr. Corcoran noted that he had met with Mr. Benny Sexton the other day and had a meeting set up with Mrs. Kelly Stultz on ways they could address this. He stated that he frequently heard complaints that some street signs were hard to read, looked old, or were crooked. He explained that he was try to get something in place so that by summer they could get some employees dedicated to that project and have them stay on the project until they had all the signage redone. He said that they needed to get more community groups involved in their adopt-a-roadway beautification efforts. He noted that they had many poles with banner brackets on them. He added that in cities where he had been in the past, they kept banners up all year long, changing the banner every month or so.

9. Implementation Of The Various Departmental Goals & Objectives As Established By Each Department Head.

10. Complete Phase II Of Freedom Park & Initiate A Fundraising Campaign For Future Phases Of Development. Phase II Should Be Ready For Use During The Late Spring Or Early Summer Of 2004. Programming Needs To Be Developed To Capitalize On Our Efforts. Fundraising Efforts Need To Begin Immediately In An Effort To Secure The Necessary Matching Funds For The Next Round Of Grant Applications In Early 2004.

Mr. Corcoran said that he had told Mr. Joey Conner that when the park opened, he needed to be hitting the ground running in terms of tournaments in an effort to bring more visitors to the community as well as to stimulate economic growth within the community.

11. Continued Development & Of The New Eden Industrial Park To The Extent Voted Upon By The City Council. In Addition, The Marketing Of Other Industrial Properties And Sites That Currently Exist. The Possession Of Marketable Properties Is Important To The Long-Term Growth & Development Of Our City.

Mr. Corcoran stated that Natural Care Labs could tell them that they would not be in the City of Eden had the City not had a building. He said that he could not emphasize the need for buildings enough. He noted that it was the same situation with Eden Custom Processing regarding an available building.

12. Strategies Aimed At Increasing Citizen Input & Participation. Initiation Of An Effort To Access The Feelings Of Our Citizens About Service Delivery And Ways Upon Which To Improve Their Overall Level Of Satisfaction.

Mr. Corcoran noted that a lot of times, they might assume that the services citizens were getting were the ones that they wanted. He commented that perhaps that year they could look at doing a citizen based services delivery survey to get a feeling of what services were most important. He added that if they found some services were not as important, they might be able to redo those to try and save some money.

13. On-Going Efforts In Relation To The Implementation Of An Effective And Comprehensive Human Resources System. This Would Include The Applicant Selection Process, Benefits Administration, Record Keeping, Wellness Program, Employee Incentive Programs, Cross-Training Initiatives & Employee Safety.

14. Review The Feasibility And Timing Of A New Bond Issue To Pay For Various Capital Outlay Improvement Projects That Will Soon Be Facing The City. It Is Apparent That The City Of Eden Will Need To Pursue A Bond Issue. It Is Likely That A Bond Issue Will Be Needed In Order To Pay For Any Of The Following:

- A. The Development Of The New Industrial Park.
- B. The Costs Associated With Annexation.
- C. The Costs Associated With Any Significant Transportation Initiative Requiring Local Financial Support.
- D. The Costs Associated With Various Water/Sewer Infrastructure Improvement Projects That Will Soon Be Set Forth In The 20 Year Water/Sewer Master Plan.

Mr. Corcoran noted that they may get some transportation initiatives moved up on the list if they

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were willing to supplement the funding. He stated that it was something that the Council would have to decide. He said that the bottom line was that they had a lot of large ticket items but did not have a lot of money.

15. Coordinated Efforts With NCDOT On Addressing And Completing Various Transportation Initiatives Important To The City Of Eden. These Would Include:
 - A. The Widening Of Highway 14.
 - B. Repaving Of Pierce Street And Summit Road.
 - C. Drainage Improvement Projects On Monroe & Washington As Well As Henry & Washington.
 - D. Traffic Signalization Installation At The Intersection Of Highland & Kings Highway.
 - E. The Two Bridge Replacement Projects.
 - F. Other Transportation Needs Important To The City Of Eden As Set Forth In The NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program And The City Of Eden Thoroughfare Plan.

Mr. Corcoran stated that the City had done all it needed to do at Henry and Washington and it was now NCDOT's project. As for Monroe and Washington, that would be a joint effort. He noted that the City had their funding in place first and NCDOT had just received their funding. He noted the engineering department was doing the necessary survey work and the project was moving along. He stated that traffic signalization installation at the intersection of Highland and Kings Highway had been approved and was not waiting on anything from the City of Eden. He advised that he thought it would be done this summer. He reported that the two bridge replacement projects were under the NCDOT time schedule. As a side note, to let them know how expensive some of these were, they had looked at doing sidewalks on Pierce Street and had just received the price from NCDOT to install them from the library to the schools. He stated that the cost was \$600,000 for everything, turnkey.

Mayor Price asked if they required concrete to which Mr. Corcoran replied he would think that they would.

Mr. Corcoran then asked if there were questions or did anyone have any thoughts or concerns.

Mayor Price pointed out that they needed to have a discussion about the industrial park. He noted that throughout the year they had seen that the measurements, engineering, and so forth had been done and it was now down to having a discussion with Rockingham County, as to how they wanted to fund it. He added that they needed the industrial park to compete with other cities. He stated that if they moved along now, it would probably be a year before they could put a sign up. He stated that rather than waiting on bond issue money to do this, he had rather commit some funds to be set aside to borrowings in the market to fund the city's half of the proposed change for this year, and to continue discussions on how to proceed.

Council Member Tudor said that he was thinking that they were going to develop streets, sites, a concrete pad with maybe all utilities laid in, but not necessarily put a building on the pad. He noted that now they were saying it was important that they have a building as well as the benefits they could receive from the web page. He questioned if it was something that had come to their understanding since they had last talked about the park with the engineers.

Mr. Corcoran replied that according to the information from Mr. Neal Tucker, if the bid package was split into two separate contracts, grading, erosion control, and storm water ponds could be bid earlier. So, obviously the information they sent them was only for that portion of work. He noted that the sheet that said \$1.4 million was only for grading, erosion control, and storm water management. If they went in and started talking about having utilities in place, pads, and roads, they were talking about a pile of more money. He said that buildings were important but it was up to the Council whether it was at the new industrial park. He noted that they still had the Nova Yarns building and they needed to continue to market that. He said the key was to market the buildings they did have and not to give up on those. He pointed out that buildings were very important. This was just the beginning of the puzzle. He reminded them that the initial estimate was \$12 million for all three phases. He stated that the Council needed to decide what stage they wanted. He said that once they decided, the key would be how they were going to obtain the money.

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Council Member Gover pointed out that as Mr. Corcoran had noted earlier, this \$600,000 shortfall, the News and Record put a good article out. All those projects have been put on hold, and they really needed to look at their revenue. They were not in good shape with their water, and they needed to improve on that. The other priorities that they have, he knew industrial sites were important for growth, but when you have a project of that magnitude and the money that was required there, they certainly have to look at a holding pattern on some of that and deal with what they have. He added that he did not know where the money was coming from. He reminded them of what happened when they went up on water and sewer rates. He asked them to be realistic when doing this, and pay attention to this \$600,000 shortfall.

Council Member Vestal added that they had a piece of property that might not be Don Moss's (Economic Partnership) choice but they could market it through the Department of Commerce and not spend a dime on it. It would cost in excess of \$2 million using their figures to get water and sewer so that they could market the new industrial park. He said that he agreed that they needed an industrial park but they needed to look at the feasibility of marketing one right now without any cost to the county or city. He pointed out that the water and sewer was already on that piece of property.

Mayor Price asked which piece of property he was talking about to which Council Member Vestal replied, Hopkins.

Mr. Corcoran noted that the timeline stated that construction documents would be completed in April 2003. He added that during upcoming budget process, they would have to make decisions as to whether or not they wanted to proceed. He added that they would show the five hundred and some odd thousand in there, but honestly, he did not know how they would come up with that \$500,000 and do anything else, and not borrow from their reserves...or have to do a bond issue. He explained that basically it was time for a decision.

Mayor Price asked if they could borrow from the market like they did for Freedom Park.

Mr. Corcoran answered that they might be able to for the initial phase, the first 500, but if they were going to do the full thing, the utility lines and a pad, it would be millions of dollars. Beyond that, he asked them to look at how many years they had delayed police cars, dump trucks, asphalt spreaders or other capital improvement in the General Fund. He added that there were drainage projects.

Council Member Tudor stated that he was of the opinion that the people would support an industrial park. He stated that this was groundwork for the future. If they did not have \$600,000 then they did not have it, and if they could not fund it this year, they would not fund it this year, but he did not want them to shy away from a bond issue.

Mr. Corcoran stated that they would need a bond issue on the General Fund side probably in relation to some of the annexation costs. He said that most of the annexation costs would be on the water and sewer side. He explained that depending on what areas they took in and how fast, they might need more police officers or additional street crew workers. He said all that was set forth in the annexation study.

Mayor Price said that if they took the two areas in that were proposed, there would be heavy expense for water and sewer.

Mr. Corcoran said that was why they were recommending that area first. He noted that they were recommending initially what would be the most beneficial immediately. He also pointed out that was why they added Parkdale, there was no annexation in lieu of agreement with them next year.

Council Member Gover pointed out that they could not gouge people in a depressed time. He explained that he did not mean there would be no support for a bond, it has to be a bond of a priority to him, if he even supported it. He explained that by being on the Water & Sewer Committee, he knew what was coming "down the pipe" on this water, and the water alone was a tremendous amount. They had not been meeting these past few months trying to make the system more efficient for nothing. He noted that they were looking at \$2.5 million right away.

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He said that was why he was reluctant to put any money out there where it would not give them a return. He stated that if they got the water and sewer, then the business would come here.

Mayor Price asked where they were with the storm water project.

Mr. Corcoran replied that they were okay. He stated that they had \$100,000 in last year's budget and the government did not come out and rate everybody. The storm water management program, they were probably not going to have to do anything, at the earliest it would be next fiscal year, but may even be the year after. He noted that it was a several hundred thousand dollar item, but because of the work at the federal level and the way they designated communities, the city had been pushed back. He pointed out that it was in the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) in the budget and showed the anticipated costs.

Mayor Price explained that they were talking about the so-called "roof tax" that larger communities were having to pay. He advised that it was a tax on the square footage of a roof for storm water. He said that it was coming and it had to be dealt with and discussed.

Council Member Gover agreed, but that was such a major thing. To contain all of that storm water runoff, even on the industrial park there, out there where it was in wetlands, to build those ponds just to hold that runoff. People were not aware, when they say "stormwater runoff, that catches the water from the parking lot and the roof, and in time that has to be treated. The City would have to contain all of the storm water run-off and treat it before it went back into the waterways. He suggested that they needed to bring industry in that would help them pay for some of the things they wanted to do.

Mayor Price commented that he was proud of the City's effort as they began to clean up some areas. He noted that the City had spent \$65,000 the previous years on clean up and had been refunded the money. He stated that what the City Manager was looking for this year was a figure to be funded this year to refund that cleanup. He asked if he had arrived at that figure.

Mr. Corcoran stated that they had not yet come up with a figure. He said that ultimately the City would get a lot of the money back but they had to fund it up front. He added that they wanted to continue to be aggressive and they had to have the money there to do it.

Council Member Tudor said that he wanted the City to be progressive and he had faith that the citizens would support the City in that. He stated that he no problem with letting the citizens make the decision and added that the smartest thing might be to let the citizens make the decision regarding some of the big things as it was their City.

Mayor Price said that cleanup was a tremendous problem in this community. He stated that he had mentioned a comprehensive cleanup campaign and if they worked some type of campaign through the Community Appearance Commission, they could have a lot of donated labor and management. He suggested that they should have a consistent cleanup campaign and not just one twice a year.

Council Member Tudor commented that Angelou Economics said that economic development was not having "Don Moss" bring someone into your community and show them around and be your "salesman". Economic development was where the people of the community believed in the community and spoke positive about it. When an industrial prospect comes into that community and sees that, that was what would bring new industry.

Council Member Vestal noted that they had the same appointed people on the boards year after year. He suggested that there be some implementation of a term limit, which would benefit the whole city by getting more people involved.

Council Member Tudor stated that they may be a little ahead of the game there with the action peak group and the Strategic 2005 group, and another thing, on the web, there was a survey that the city need to have citizens fill out, that would help compile data next October to help make some decisions.

Mayor Price asked if the Angelou Group was on the web to which Council Member Tudor

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replied that it was on there now and it needed to be publicized. He stated that out of Eden they needed 350-400 people to take that survey.

Mayor Price explained that what Council Member Tudor was talking about was that Congressman Richard Burr had funded to bring the Angelou Group here from Texas. He said that the Angelou Group would do a survey and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each community. He stated that after compiling the information, the Angelou Group could identify what industry would best suit Eden.

Council Member Tudor commented that they were very fortunate to be a part of it as they were almost left out of it.

Mayor Price stated that the Council Members and staff needed to get busy lobbying the state representatives for the City to get some funding for the Highway 14 widening from Meadow Road to the state line. He noted that Virginia had made plans to widen on their side. He emphasized the financial benefits the City might reap from having the widened highway.

Council Member Epps pointed out that Highway 158 was being considered for widening to Yanceyville. He noted that it would be beneficial for the City as well.

BREAK

Discussion Concerning Proposals For City Slogan:

- Eden, North Carolina – River City, U.S.A.
- Land of Two Rivers
- Eden: A Land of Opportunity
- Where Two Rivers Meet With History, Progress & Opportunity

Mr. Corcoran presented information to Council regarding the city's slogan recommendations. He then asked Mr. Mike Dougherty, Business Development Director, to explain this process.

Mr. Dougherty explained that he had received a lot of good feedback from citizens, city employees, Council and the Chamber of Commerce. The three out of the four finalists involve the rivers. He explained that he had included reasons why they should have something to do with the rivers in the slogan. He noted that it helps with industrial and business development, recreation, as there is a major push to work with the river access grant that was received from the County. The TDA is aggressively promoting rivers with their river brochure and he also thought about the Welcome to Eden signs, maybe to incorporate something about the river, maybe to highlight the fact that it was one of their major resources.

He noted that he suggested one of the following three: Eden: Where Two Rivers Meet; Eden: River City U.S.A. and Eden: Land of Two Rivers.

Mr. Corcoran added that he had been including this in his weekly report for quite some time now and he thought that they could proceed to move forward with the slogan.

Mayor Price agreed that this was a good idea, but the question that he hears a lot was where are the rivers. He pointed out that a lot of folks who come here, after they cross the bridge, that was about their only access to the river. He stated that their plans to open the riverbanks to some access certainly would be great.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they were working with that river access point that was on Hamilton Street and where Spray Cotton Mills was. He added that there was a major interest into the mercantile that Mr. Bishopric was now looking at putting executive suites there, but also the advocates have looked at that as maybe they could return that to retail outlets and there was an access right there. He stated that they had multiple points in the future. They will have more access and the river brochure was a good step in letting people know about this.

Mr. Corcoran noted that he had given them three choices and asked if there were any thoughts.

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Mayor Price asked about the City of Eden signs as so many people brag on those things.

Council Member Epps commented that as much as he appreciated the other endeavors that were working with the city trying to get business, those banners have gotten to be a problem and they sag down.

Mr. Dougherty replied that he thought they were a bit too busy and have served a purpose. He added that they would probably be coming down.

Mayor Price asked about a survey on the web.

Mr. Corcoran replied that they would eventually want to use a citizen's service survey as well as have it distributed out during the course of the next year. He then asked the Council, if they had a preference today, to go ahead and circle it and give it to the City Clerk. He explained that if there was one that had a majority, they would place it on the agenda for the Council's decision.

Discussion Concerning Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Initiatives:

- What Have We Accomplished Over The Last Two Years?
- What Projects Will Require Funding During FY 2003-04 & Beyond?

Mr. Corcoran explained that for the next section he wanted to have ample time for discussion about the various Water and Sewer Capital Improvements initiatives that will be facing the city over the next several years. He noted that it would be good to start with a look back at what has been accomplished. He noted that when he to Eden two years ago there was a need to do some projects in reference to water and sewer. He noted that the first year of funding was very limited and this year they had additional funds thanks to the rate increase. He pointed out that he thought those funds have been well spent and they have been capable of doing some much needed projects.

He noted that they did break down those projects by divisions which included a section for Water Filtration, Collection and Distribution, which indicates the Water Main Projects that have been completed January 1st, as well as the Sewer Main Projects, completed at the same time, and then the Water Resources Division.

He noted that they also received information on Capital Improvements Projects currently underway, broken out by divisions. He stated that he thought they wanted to spend most of their time today on Capital Improvement Projects, with a priority list for the upcoming fiscal year and those were in order of priority in each division.

He added that the sad thing, in doing the math, the items under Water Filtration total \$783,100. The items under the Waterline Upgrade Program total \$278,000. The Non-waterline Projects and Equipment total \$6,559,200, Wastewater Treatment Division totals \$2,484,000 and Water Resources Division totals \$8,500 for a grand total of \$10,112,800. Obviously there was no way that they could do all of those projects and again, this was just a one year snap shot of projects that were on the immediate horizon, let alone some of the projects that would be set forth in the Water and Sewer Master Plan and let alone a long term solution to their Raw Water Intake Study.

Mr. Corcoran then introduced Mr. Dennis Asbury, Director of Public Utilities to discuss the Capital Improvements Projects.

Capital Improvement Projects Priority List for FY 2003-2004:

Mr. Asbury explained that this came under the Capital Improvements Projects Priority Lists for FY 2003-2004. These were estimated costs, they were at the time of the year where they were basically looking at magazines, calling other cities, catalogs, trying to find out what things cost.

Water Filtration Division:

He then referred to Water Filtration and noted final solutions to address long term raw water

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intake problems during drought conditions. He reasoned the \$750,000 figure was due to the Water & Sewer Committee's recent quote and this just represents a little more than quite that quote or \$350,000. He noted that this was for emergency pump stations and was not an ultimate solution.

He continued with replacement of Fluoride Bulk Storage tank and explained that again that was pretty self-explanatory, as this was the tank that has been sitting there for quite a long time and needs to be replaced. He added that fluoride was a very aggressive material.

Mr. Asbury stated that next was the purchase of a remote turbidimeter to improve low level finished water turbidity monitoring. He explained that they were trying to reduce the amount of turbidity in the water and hopefully this would also decrease the THM and the HA5. He stated that EPA was concerned about that. The THM come about after chlorine is added to the water, and organic material that may be in there, it would create those THM, which were associated as carcinogens. He explained that this machine monitors it at lower levels. He added that previously, when he first got in the industry those levels were at 5 and now they were at .3.

He then continued with the rebuild or replacement of the main wash valve used in filter backwashing. He added that this was not a real critical thing although it had been leaking for years, the staff put a bucket under the leak and put a little solar sump pump in it, so the leak itself was not critical, but it was something that they do need.

He then noted the replacement of the hall windows. They have seen this year after year, the hallway in the filter gallery, but, again it was a lower priority.

Collection and Distribution Division:

Maryland Avenue waterline upgrade.

Mr. Asbury then went to Collection and Distribution and noted that the Waterline Upgrade Program was listed there. He stated that the Maryland Avenue line has already been designed, approved and they have authorization to construct. Currently they were putting in the water and sewer lines at Freedom Park and once that was done he thought the next project was Ford Street. He added that of course, they have a couple of more that Mr. Bev Odell, Engineer, was designing.

Elam Avenue waterline upgrade.

He continued with the rest of the list, which included Elam Avenue, and he had indicated what the project was intended to do, as far as improved fire protection, or improve flows or pressures.

Pervie Bolick & Creekridge tie-in.

Next was the Pervie Bolick and Creekridge tie in. He stated that they had heard from citizens who live in that area about not being able to take showers or whatever without interruption, especially early in the morning when we were changing pumps. He stated that hopefully this tie-in would allow the city to give a little more pressure and flow in those areas.

Lewis Street waterline upgrade and Ellett Avenue & Green Street waterline upgrades.

The next project was the Lewis Street waterline and then the Ellett Avenue line. He noted that was back in the Dunn Street area where the water tank was, it was an older neighborhood and this was a replacement of the 2" line.

He stated that he had mentioned to the City Manager that they should call this the Waterline Upgrade Program instead of the 2" Waterline Program as they were going to get into a situation down the road where they were replacing things other than 2" lines.

Lake Drive waterline upgrade and Beech Street waterline upgrade.

Mr. Asbury continued with Lake Drive and Beech Street, priorities 6 and 7. They were basically

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butt-end to each other. He explained that he had indicated that they were on hold, reason being, the water Master Plan includes massaging of the computer model for the distribution system and one of the concerns that they have in putting those particular projects in without also making a commitment to doing some transmission main work, they would not really have a lot of effect on this area. He explained that they needed to get some more force mains up in that area. That was why they were seeing that.

Council Member Gover asked, when they show this in the area, and they were contemplating increasing the pressure all over that area just for doing this or were they doing it for just that one street.

Mr. Asbury replied that it would have the greatest impact on the street, depending on how it was connected. If it was extending a line, the front was a 2" line that was capped onto a main that they started, that larger line, it should carry on down into the adjacent neighborhood.

Council Member Gover referred to Ellett Avenue and Green Street. That should increase their Dunn Street and all those pressures there, that was where they were getting the complaints now.

Mr. Asbury explained that he had indicated there that with improved water pressure and flow, and of course fire protection and, maybe he was not addressing his question in that it was probably coming out of, how do you put a larger line between two smaller lines and get anything out of it.

Council Member Gover replied that was why he had asked, if he showed this they were going to say, what will that do for my street.

Mr. Asbury replied that he could not answer him at the moment or give a guarantee.

Council Member Gover explained that when he looked at this, he was looking at this tying into other 6" lines that ties into there and what that would do to those 2" lines that was running parallel or series or whatever.

Mr. Asbury replied that one thing it would do was to reduce the pressure or what they call the head loss and they could have friction loss in pipes and if a 2" line was changed out for a 6" line, there has been a great reduction in friction loss along that distance, but once you get to that 2" line, from there on you are still having that resistance, so the people on the street may notice a marginal benefit if any.

Council Member Gover commented that he had a hard time standing under one of the largest water tanks in the City of Eden trying to explain to people why they did not have water pressure.

Council Member Tudor questioned if they knew whether it would help the retirement center.

Mr. Asbury replied that the best he could say was that they should see a little difference on Ellett Street and whereas the 2" line pretty much acts like a partially closed valve, once you tie the 6" on each end, it will create a loop which will help the water quality as well as the pressure. He added that to predict how many pounds, he could not. He stated that one of the things they looked at was part of a larger program to eventually do all of these, and the priorities given was how many times they have been down there. If it was two or three a week, there was a problem there and the reasons for doing this was; the longer-term goal was to rebuild the infrastructure.

Mayor Price asked if the water tank came into play down the road.

Mr. Asbury replied that the master plan will have a recommendation for some elevated tanks, some discussion was going on right now between the Engineer and the consultant. The consultant started out talking about needing a two million gallon tank in one area and Mr. O'Dell commented that was a lot to put in one tank. He suggested distributing it around the system. He added that there was a price tag in that the current rate for constructing water tanks was about \$1.10 per gallon so a million gallon tank was \$100,000. He noted that he thought he and Mr. O'Dell would agree that it would be better to put a million gallon tank one place and another one at another. He noted that obviously at the east end of town where they have industries that were

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pulling out of the industrial park, Miller and National was an area that would be looked at.

Mayor Price asked if that equalized the pressure.

Mr. Asbury replied that it would in the sense that they would see less problems with the pumps coming on and people getting surges.

In response to a question by Council Member Gover regarding Ford Street, Mr. Asbury replied that it was in the process, they have the approval from the State, plans and it was the next thing in line after they finish Freedom Park.

Non-waterline Projects and Equipment:

Railroad Pump Station Upgrade (\$2,200,000).

Mr. Asbury explained that the Railroad Pump Station Upgrade was in the design phase now. It serves National Textile almost exclusively and it was obviously one of the largest consumers of sewer services. It was put in the late 1980s and they have had trouble with it for a long time, it has been rebuilt, added larger motors and they were just at a point now where they need to prevent further bypasses.

Increase elevated water storage capacity (\$2,200,000).

Mr. Asbury mentioned that other plans were to increase the elevated water storage for \$2.2 million.

Kuder Street Pump Station – suction valve replacement (\$390,200).

Mr. Asbury noted that the Kuder Street Pump Station was just a routine thing. That station has been in since the late 1960s and these valves, over the years have worn out in other locations. There were three pump stations that were built on the same pattern by Olsen & Associates.

Council Member Vestal questioned Kuder Street and if they were planning on pumps being changed completely out

Mr. Asbury explained that they would be doing that. They were talking about pumps and drives and that would come in the Sewer Master Plan. The reason they were doing the suction valve replacement now was so they could continue to operate.

Council Member Vestal questioned spending \$400,000 when they were going to turn around and replace it next year.

Mr. Asbury replied that was a good point and perhaps what they should do this year, they realize that they could not fund all of the projects and created essentially an emergency contingency fund for water and sewer pump stations, so if they had one that went out they would have the money there. He added that the whole pump station was 60's age stuff and they capitalize the two other stations and they were beginning to run out.

Dry Creek sewer rehabilitation (\$1,400,000).

Mr. Asbury explained that this was similar to what they have already done and the Merriman Street Outfall, the Meadow Green sump basin on Long Street, and the idea was to hopefully reduce the flow out there during wet weather conditions. He noted that even during last Saturday's rain, they had some by-passes in those areas but they have noticed a decrease and the frequency and the length of the by-pass, so he thought they have been able to achieve something and the idea behind Dry Creek was to lower the amount of water that gets to the Dry Creek Plant and perhaps even take it out of service and use the Railroad Pump Station after it was rebuilt.

Council Member Gover asked if he was saying to bring the outfall into the Dry Creek pumping station. He questioned why they want to discontinue the use of that station. He asked why they would want to divert all of that eastern section back into Mebane Bridge.

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Mr. Asbury explained that really, the problem as he saw it, was just having that extra permit, really the opportunity to violate. He explained that anytime you have a permit you are going to be violating. He added that the State was interested in reducing the number of discharges.

Mayor Price asked if it would be helpful to have a backup.

Mr. Asbury replied that the Dry Creek Plant would not be a very good back up for the Mebane Bridge Plant because the Mebane Bridge Plant was considerably larger. He added that it would not be a good back up for the Railroad Pump Station because its capacity was ten times more than what Dry Creek could take.

Mayor Price explained that he was just thinking about an emergency from one of their large customers to which Mr. Asbury replied that was a possibility.

Council Member Gover asked if everything was diverted into that pump and there was development there industry-wise, and everything was on that one pump station there, that did not sound...he did not particularly like that idea.

Council Member Epps asked if Dry Creek was permitted already to which Mr. Asbury replied that it was. Council Member Epps asked if they could leave it permitted and still use the other.

Mr. Asbury replied that it was their hope to save some dollars, operating costs as well as people, again that was just the staff's thinking.

Council Member Gover explained that he was into saving money, but that would cause a problem down there.

Mayor Price commented that it seemed to him like they would be providing an extra service that they sell a lot to their customers there.

Mr. Asbury explained that they might see that was a recommendation in the Master Plan. He added that it may not be a recommendation they may want to go with for whatever reason, but that was sort of a side issue as far as the Dry Creek sewer rehabilitation. He explained that they needed to go ahead and do that. He pointed out that they sometimes see three million gallons coming into that plant, when it rains really hard, so they need to do the sewer rehabilitation whether they abandon Dry Creek or not. He stated that was another issue and decision to be made.

Council Member Gover stated that it was a very important piece of real estate there and if they close it down he did not know what it would do to the easement that they have going across the farm down there.

Continuous Rodder replacement (\$50,000).

Mr. Asbury noted that the rodder was several years old, however he did not have the data yet. He added that the Council would be getting the detailed information about the age and condition of it.

Sewer camera inspection system (\$140,000).

Mr. Asbury stated that they already had a good sewer vac and jet rodder.

Hydraulic power supply and tools (\$19,000).

Mr. Asbury explained that this was a hydraulic unit to power supplies.

Council Member Gover explained that this was just a motorized unit with a pump and they could use hydraulic tools of whatever nature. He explained that they were dealing with tremendous pressure and it was something they have to be real careful with. He explained that they could not roughhouse the hoses and the fittings and it was very expensive to operate. He pointed out that

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there had to be certified people to come in and maintain the apparatus.

Mr. Asbury stated that they would make sure to address those issues.

Leak Detection Survey and Analysis (\$45,000).

Mr. Asbury explained that any water system has leaks. He noted that even if you put in a new water system it has a test that has to be performed on it and you are allowed so much leakage. He explained that one that has been in for years was subject to leaks also. He noted that they were looking at either contracting it out to someone that has the detection equipment or to purchase it and do the analysis in house. He asked them to be aware that they have had a difficult one that they could not find on Moir Street. He explained that they have dug up that whole block and part of the next and still have not found it, but they did find several leaks along the way.

Council Member Gover asked what would it cost to have a contractor come in and find the leak.

Mr. Asbury replied that they did. They had one come in and identify one of the leaks there, but he did not know what it costs.

Council Member Gover asked what method they used to which Mr. Asbury replied it was basically a high frequency amplification listening device. Council Member Gover pointed out that spending \$45,000 for one leak a year, they could call someone in. He pointed out that if they bought it, it would be an instrument that required someone specialized to use it, so it was not just the unit itself.

Mr. Asbury explained that their thinking was, part of doing one of these was to go back and look at all of the billing records and look at water production records to see if they could get any kind of balance between how much water was metered out to customers and they charged them for, versus how much they were pumping out of the water plant. He stated that it was hard to get a handle on it, but they could do that to begin with and then do a citywide survey. He agreed that \$45,000 was a lot. For survey analysis, the intention was to hire someone in to do this citywide.

Dry Creek Outfall access improvements (\$40,000).

Mr. Asbury commented that someone mentioned they had difficulty with that old line that goes out across the Willow Oaks Farm. He stated that he believed that Sam Smith's grandfather put in the line. He explained that it was terra cotta, which has a tendency to crack and break and will eventually rot out. The new owner has been more restricted in allowing access, they want the city to go in different places rather than going down the main road into the farm.

Council Member Gover asked how many feet they were thinking about, as this was a long way.

Mr. Asbury explained that part of the problem they have had was that it was an 18" line and the largest cutter they have on their sewer rodder was 8". He stated that he could not tell them how many total feet, but anywhere that there were trees growing in an area, there would be roots all over the place. He explained that this cost was just to get them basically a bridge across the creek there to get into that area.

Council Member Gover asked if he was going to let them use that bridge to which Mr. Asbury replied that he had asked them not to. Council Member Gover asked where the bridge would be put to which Mr. Asbury replied, upstream of the Dry Creek plant.

Council Member Gover stated that in talking with Mr. Smith, on that outfall going across the property, that was a 1938 easement, so that pipe has been there for quite sometime. He stated that by putting a bridge up there, they have a terrible flooding problem, and he did not know how they would establish a bridge there. He stated that \$40,000 was quite a lot of money at the bridge area.

Mr. Asbury explained that they received quotes off the Internet, someone who basically has these bridges.

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Council Member Gover asked if there was another way on the other side to which Mr. Asbury replied that he believed there was another entrance at the backside of the ballparks.

Mayor Price questioned the fence that was put in.

Council Member Gover replied that they have put in 8 miles of fencing. He pointed out that if they did not have another way to go they would have to go through that fence.

Mr. Asbury stated that it was the owner's intent to restrict the area. He added that the city had a permit years ago to put in sludge down there and they pretty much had access to the whole farm, but now they just want them off of their road. He asked for any suggestions about something that would work.

Northridge Pump Station upgrade (\$75,000).

Mayor Price commented that he thought that was just upgraded some time back.

Mr. Asbury replied that the last work was redesigned by Finkbeiner (Finkbeiner, Pettis & Strout) and Fred Shanks (former City Engineer).

Mayor Price asked if it was in disrepair or needed maintenance.

Mr. Asbury replied that it needed to have the pumps put back in and that kind of thing.

Council Member Gover asked what kind of growth they were contemplating back into Henry County. That pump has not been in there very long. He stated they were only looking at four years.

Mr. Asbury replied that it had been considerably longer than that.

Mayor Price added that Northridge has been in there probably 10-15 years.

Council Member Gover pointed out that the question was, was there an upgrade at that time going into Henry County.

Mr. Asbury replied no, there were serious concerns with the Council at that time to protect the city.

Wastewater Treatment Division:

Follow the recommendations of Anderson & Associates' Bio-Solids study. The need for dewatering equipment should be a top priority (\$2,305,000).

Mr. Asbury explained that this was one they talked about last year. He stated that he thought they had cut the amount of allocation in half shortly after the first part of this year and this was just to carry this on to the next phase for dewatering and to increase the plant capacity removing solids on a daily basis. He explained that the old scenario was where they would try to build up and get all the solids out in the summer and just weather the winter. This was just a continuation of an ongoing project that was being right now the phase that they were in. He noted that they were designing a pump station to remove the solids from the water plant and take them directly to the waste plant, bypassing the bio solids aerator so it was not a part of loading the solids on the aerator itself.

In response for more clarification by the Mayor, Mr. Asbury explained that the solids from the water plant were basically mud out of the river plus whatever coagulants they use which would be the aluminum sulfate...to which Mayor Price asked if it really did not need to be treated.

Mr. Asbury replied that it did need to be treated as a biological material. It was basically inert material, mud out of the river. So rather than load this up and continue to add on he guessed this was a deviation from the original plan, which called for some parallel work going on here. They

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wanted to remove the solids first, and then see how far they needed to go with this. He asked them to remember the original proposal from Anderson & Associates that was about \$4 million or something. He explained that they were trying to do the first step they were in now, which was design the pump station, be building that and once that was done, look at what steps they need to follow. He added that it was not encased in stone right now.

Mayor Price stated that he mentioned the pump station and asked where the pump station was going to be now.

Mr. Asbury replied that it would take the solids that are settled out at the water plant which currently travel by gravity to the front end of the wastewater treatment plant, what happens there is you are adding a lot of inert solids that the biology over there cannot eat the stuff and it also tends to settle out very quickly and creates this loading up that they have seen.

Council Member Vestal questioned when the plant was designed.

Mr. Asbury replied that he had talked to John Maynard who was the site engineer on that job when it was originally built. There were no requirements to do anything else with it. They had to do it, as they could not put it back into the river without doing something. Their sewer plants are right across the street and they will just dump it into it.

Mayor Price pointed out that the removal, 15 years later has been real expensive.

Mr. Asbury replied yes and it would continue to be until they could get it out of there.

Council Member Gover commented that this was something that has been ongoing ever since it was in existence and not something they have to...to which Mr. Asbury replied that they needed to keep moving on it, but they could phase all of that in.

Mr. Asbury continued in that the rest of the wastewater area there was pretty self explanatory and included:

Install two – three aerators to the upper lagoon (\$28,000-\$42,000).

Council Member Vestal brought up the subject of the problem of bypass to which Mr. Asbury explained that removing infiltration was a difficult job. He pointed out that they have seen a reduction in frequency of the bypasses and the length of the bypass. He stated that they may not have noticed that because when the State first instituted it they notified the media when there was a bypass and now they were seeing more water. He stated that they had definitely seen a reduction.

Council Member Vestal stated that the same location was one of the main problems. He asked if they had figured it out.

Mr. Asbury explained that once Mr. Harvey, Collections & Distribution Superintendent, came on line, he got with W.K. Dixon and went back to the sites to check out what has been down. Amazingly the high school was one of the few that had removed their storm water from the sewer system. There were others that were identified and just became aware of this because of it. They were individual, small problems, cracked manholes, lids slid off, and whenever the work was designed, that work was cut out of the project it was felt at that time the city's staff could do that. He added that of course they have had a change in the responsibility of C&D so that ball got dropped. He added that they were aware of it and Mr. Harvey has a list of things to be done.

Mr. Corcoran added that they were also looking at the hospital's line.

Mr. Asbury pointed out that the contract that W.K. Dixon was looking at now for I&I includes the hospital's sub-branch in the system that feeds into Meadow Greens.

Council Member Gover mentioned that he thought that lake was a major thing that was leaking into that line, on the golf course.

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Mr. Corcoran replied that he thought what it ended up being were additional areas that were outside the initial scope of service that were probably contributing more to the I&I problem than initially felt. That was why they were expanding out into the hospital area. He added that they knew that they did not have a problem now because all of this was brand new, yet they were still having a problem, not as bad as it was, so they need to expand their work out there. That was why they were running some ads letting everybody know they were going to be doing flow test within the next 30 days. They were not going to move from the Meadow Greens to Dry Creek until they felt comfortable.

He stated that they were having overflows, but they were having a whole lot more wet weather. However, he added that if they compared the reports today with two years ago it was not even close.

Mr. Asbury added that he thought that it would improve the situation. I&I removal efforts all across the country run into this same problem. He explained that you go out and were trying to find something underground with cameras, you smoke it, you fix what you can, and as soon as you do that, what you have allowed are other things that were not nearly as severe before to be able to contribute more gallons of water. The pipe was empty and if there was a drain in the ground and it has cracks in it and if there was water around it, it will come in.

Council Member Gover commented that he had seen more water in their sewer manholes than ever during this past rain.

Mr. Asbury replied that over the years they have seen a lot especially down in Mr. Johnson's property on the east end. He added that he did not want them to take this the wrong way, it was not his intention, but 10 to 13 years ago he told the City Council that they needed to spend a half a million dollars a year on I&I, that \$6 million dollars had not been spent. He stated that until it was spent they were going to have problems to which Council Member Gover agreed.

The remaining items for Wastewater Treatment included:

Add two additional areators to the MB digester (\$28,000).

Replace the #2 Influent Bar Screen at Mebane Bridge. This unit as well as #1 (being replaced this year) is in poor condition because of the corrosive nature of the dye waste entering the plant (\$60,000).

Replace the Laboratory Drying Oven \$3,000).

Replace gates at the clarifier splitter boxes (\$35,000).

Replace vehicle M-1 (\$11,000).

Water Resources Division:

Begin a six-year upgrade our SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) to standards compatible with current Fire Department high pressure equipment (\$3,500).

Replacement of the department copier, the current model copier is no longer supported with replacement parts. Future repairs will be limited to parts that are available. The project was delayed due to funding cuts in the previous budget (\$5,000).

Raw Water Intake Project:

Mr. Corcoran continued by moving on to the Raw Water Intake. He asked Mr. Asbury to bring everyone up to speed on this project.

Mr. Asbury began by walking through a map of the Raw Water Intake Project. He stated that they had quite a bit of a drought. The key player in this thing was their raw water intake. He pointed out on the map where the rug mill was on Bridge Street and their intake was here, at the water plant and back over here across the Lynrock Golf Course, and then the wastewater plant across the street from that, and another key thing that already exists was the Duke Power dam.

He explained they had originally hired W.K. Dixon to look at alternatives. They looked at a

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number of things and for one reason or another, their recommendation was, not to pursue this one now. He added that they did look at the possibility of reactivating the Fieldcrest pump station. There was a water plant there and they were thinking about pulling water out of the Smith River and bringing it down along by the river on the existing right of ways and into the lake, the pre-settling basin behind the water plant.

Another thing they looked at was either a block crypt dam or an inflatable dam. A block crypt dam was temporary, put in as an emergency. The inflatable dam was another option. One of the suggestions that Finkbeiner had made earlier on was an inflatable bladder on top of the Duke Power dam and increase the level of water backed up, the main problem with this intake, it works fine as long as there was water there. It was designed when the USGS data did not show the kind of drought that they have had over the last few years. Consequently it was literally exposed. In reviewing those, the Water & Sewer Committee felt there were other options that were better suited to their current needs and their pocket books and so they looked at those.

He noted that all of the solutions that W.K. Dixon was giving them were in the \$5 million range. He pointed out that the committee suggested putting a gravity intake here and another was to locate emergency pumps down here. One of strengths of this suggestion was being able to take advantage of the flow in two rivers, also it puts it closer to the Duke Power dam, and they would then be able to operate continually in backwater. He stated that they called in a couple of engineers and his summary covers what the engineers told them which included lowering the screens and getting someone to come in with the manpower and equipment to get them down and lower.

He added that they had also talked about the concept of having a gravity intake that was fed into the raw water plant intake and he thought that they decided to first lower the screen and if that did not work, then bring in this gravity intake just shortly upstream. He explained that what would end up happening, the reason a different type of screen would work better, the current screen has basically long tubes to hold it. In order for it to be effective they have to be submerged at a certain level and they were a certain level off of the bottom of the river so it would not be taking in mud. The way the traveling screens work, one of the reasons the traveling screen was the best application here, unlike the circular screen, they can go all the way to the bottom of the river.

Mayor Price asked if it was round.

Mr. Asbury replied that it was continuous screen on a chain. There was a telemetry that will measure the depth of the water on both sides of the screen and once that level gets to a certain differential caused by leaves or whatever, it would cause it to rotate and whatever leaves collected would be allowed to go free and a new clean screen would be presented into the water coming in.

Mayor Price asked if that was near the boat dock up there to which Mr. Asbury replied that he thought all of this work would be done close to the raw water pump station. Mayor Price asked if it floated.

Council Member Vestal explained that it was submerged in the water and goes near or almost to the bottom of the water and will not run out of water until the river goes dry. He stated that he did not think they would have that problem. There was one other problem, even though the screen would go to the bottom, they could not get the water to the pumps unless they made a modification in that...

Mr. Asbury added that there was a wall inside the pump station and both Council Member Vestal and Gover had recommended all along that for modification to basically lower that wall, cut out a concrete section, put in a gate that they could move up and down so if it became critical they could work at a different level.

Mr. Corcoran also pointed out that the advantages of the modifications of the existing facility was that they did not have to go through any permitting process and could go ahead and proceed immediately. It was a big key when they think about needing something in place. For instance, he stated that if they had to go to the emergency pumps, they added it up, they were looking at

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104 days to receive approval and as of Tuesday, there was only 125 days until July 1st. So that was the other disadvantage of not only the cost of the emergency pump, but the permitting timetable.

Council Member Gover added that it would also change their image. This way they would hopefully not have to curtail water.

Mr. Asbury noted that one of the things, by bringing the emergency pumps here and then running the line back up by Mebane Bridge and up, and it was a very feasible thing, they have seen it done at Blues Lake. They were basically using electric pumps down on the river bank and pumping through a manifold of 18" line to Blues Lake trying to raise the level. Every 20 days they could raise the level.

The emergency pump was a good idea, it was something that may happen, but they did not have a cost presented to at this point. The ultimate solution was a new pump station. He stated that there was no reason to build a new pump station in the same size or capacity as the old pump station. He referred to Council Member Gover's comment about changing their image to make sure they had the advantage of both rivers. Here they were going to change if they were going to move from this pump station to this one, instead of being operated on the river here, basically they were operating on a fairly prominent pool of water behind that dam. While they were in the far reaches of the backwater up here they would be well into it down here. There were some really deep areas, so they had two rivers coming together.

Mr. Corcoran added that the other advantage was that they did aerial photos and in those photos you could actually tell the water that was the Dan and the Smith and it was right at about this point here that you have a total mixture. So right here you are really getting both rivers coming together.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Asbury to explain the dam again.

Mr. Asbury explained that he was originally dead set against the idea of a rubber dam and then he guessed he was converted along the way. He explained that the concept was to put an inflatable dam, basically a bladder that was bolted to the bottom of the river, put in a concrete pad, bolt this thing down, and it stays deflated through-out for years, until there is a drought, like the one in 2002. Then you pump air into it and back the water up into your intake. That was in order to give you the same thing as a new pump station down here and again they were looking to increasing that size, basically doubling the size of this pump station from that one. In order to give a dollar comparison between the dam option they also need to construct this pump station over here. There was really no point in that, if they were going to build a pump station, build one, put it down here, and address the issue as well as the flow.

Mayor Price asked if he had all this new thinking in mind when they build the new pump station to which Mr. Asbury replied exactly.

Mr. Corcoran replied that what they have found out, this work here they could do, could probably take care of them for many years. What had happened was that communities all over the place were getting in line, going ahead and designing projects. They were going ahead and getting permits and approval so that they could take care of themselves in the future. He explained that what they had found through their research was that sooner rather than later, they needed to go ahead and begin the permitting process, and what they were looking at was a 42 million gallon pump station. They could get a permit for that, they were talking about 3 to 4 years for the design and engineering. Once that was done, they would be looking at construction at about 4 or 5 years. The point was, when they heard what other communities were doing, the thought was, if they could go ahead and get approved for that much water, then their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren would have enough water and Eden would be well positioned in the future. Yes, they had to pay now, even if they did not need it, but if they did not do this now and wait 20 years, they may not have the capacity they need.

Mr. Corcoran noted that water was becoming more of a concern and what they would see was industries relocating to areas such as Eden, if they had the water.

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Council Member Gover stated that the city must capitalize on the two rivers.

Mr. Corcoran advised that money would needed to be in next year's budget to start the process.

Council Member Vestal said that the new site was already within the WS-4. He stated the problem would be that it would extend another mile down river.

LUNCH

Request From T&S Properties of Southeast, LLC – Adoption of a Resolution Directing the City Clerk to Investigate a Petition Received Under G.S. 160A-31:

Mrs. Stultz advised that the Council would have to adopt the following resolution before a public hearing could be held on the matter.

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31**

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on February 27, 2003 by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the City Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eden that:

The City Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

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

ATTEST:

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

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

**RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION
OF ANNEXATION PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31, AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the City Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eden, North Carolina:

Section 1. That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at the City Council Chamber, 308 East Stadium Drive at 7:30 o'clock, p.m. on the 18th day of March.

Section 2. That area proposed for annexation is described as follows:

T&S PROPERTIES SOUTHEAST, LLC

BEGINNING at an iron marking the intersection of the northern edge of the right of way for S.R. 2039 and the western edge of the right of way for Mebane Bridge Road (S.R. 1967), thence with the northern edge of the right of way for S.R. 2039, N. 66 deg. 39'56"W. 262.20 feet to an iron, thence a new line across parcel D as shown in M.B. 13, P. 86, N. 4 deg. 49'06" E. 385.42 feet to an iron on the bank of the Dan River, thence S.69 deg. 38'57" E. 97.10 feet to a point, then N.88 deg. 26'35" E. 143.16 feet to a point, the northeastern corner of lot herein conveyed, thence S. 8 deg. 06'08"W. 40.73 feet to a point, thence continuing with the edge of the right of way for the Mebane Bridge Road (S.R. 1964), S. 7 deg. 09'23"W., 194.14 feet to a point, thence S. 1 deg. 51'02" W. 129.56 feet to a point, thence S. 4 deg. 45'07" E. 92.19 feet to a point, thence S. 10 deg 43'40" E. 3.79 feet to an iron, the POINT

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OF BEGINNING and containing 2.173 acres as per plat of survey by William S. May, Jr., R.L.S., dated April 17, 1979. For a more perfect and accurate description, see said plat, a copy of which is recorded in Book 728, Page 39, Rockingham County Registry.

For further reference see D.B. 692, at page 461, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, N.C.

SUBJECT to a 68' Right of Way Easement to Duke Power Company as shown on Map recorded in Map Book 13, Page 86, Rockingham County Registry.

Section 3. Notice of said public hearing shall be published in the Eden Daily News, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Eden, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 27th day of February, 2003.

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

ATTEST:

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

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Epps to adopt the resolution for a public hearing. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Council Member Gover questioned the parking to which Mrs. Stultz replied they would be able to park underneath the Duke Power rights of way. He explained that he would have to find his place which she had discussed with him. She mentioned that he was looking at the enormous wide easement of Duke Power to get permission. She explained that he had to make it work.

(Note: See March 19, 2003 minutes regarding this agenda item (Howard Tate/T&S Properties Southeast, LLC)

Discussion of Annexation Feasibility Study & Initiatives:

- What Do We Hope To Accomplish During The Course Of The Next Year And Beyond?
- Specific Plan of Action?

Background:

Mrs. Stultz stated that on June 30, 1994 the City of Eden completed its first ever involuntary annexation process. She advised that up until that time to the time of the consolidation and creation of the City of Eden, the only annexations that were done happened if someone came in and asked the City to annex them. She explained that in 1959 the General Assembly made it such that it was relatively easy, upon meeting certain standards, for a City to annex property outside its boundaries in the state.

Issues:

Mrs. Stultz advised at the time the General Assembly began considering this in the 50's, and in the literature, what we know is that annexation is a part of the orderly growth and development of any community and has a lot to do with its continued prosperity and growth and quality of life. An annexation program is only one part of the city's overall planning process as one goes through to make a city for the future of our community as the years go by. The most important issue as the City Council decided whether or not to proceed with annexation was the cost of providing services required for that particular area. She explained that the statutes said they were required to provide service of a relatively equal manner to the services that the citizens inside the community were already enjoying. They could not annex them and if everyone in our community had water and sewer, not at least provide the statutorily required trunk and major lines for that area. She advised that did not necessarily mean that until a petition was received that the city would have to run the sewer in the streets for individual connection, but they did have to provide the major lines into those areas. Water and sewer was just one of the things that the city would need to provide. Also included was police and fire protection, all the way to the services provided by the Planning Department. She noted that most of the area being considered was already in the ETJ and had services from her department already.

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She pointed out that another issue that arose was that an area might be desirable to be annexed, but there was no way to make it qualify. She stated that a few years prior when the Council had done its first round of payment in lieu agreements, the Fieldcrest plant at the end of New Street was part of that. She advised that since that time, they had sold off all the property around the plant except what the physical plant sat on. She said that meant that the area really could not qualify for annexation until it developed out because presently, even though the law would allow them to annex a plant, individually, an industrial site, it cannot it does not touch enough of the City of Eden's boundaries to do that. She explained that when they sold off the acreage, they sold everything that they owned that was contiguous and the property that is contiguous now has to considered vacant because it is not developed at all, but just big tracts of land. She pointed out that they might want to annex an area and there would be no way to make it happen except in a long-range program of moving out to it. She stated that development density was one of the things that was a big factor in whether an area would qualify for annexation, along with having a certain amount of contiguous boundary with the existing city limits. She noted that the only way to do a satellite annexation was as voluntary. She said that sometimes an area might qualify, but it would not be one that the Council would choose as a policy decision to annex at that time or ever.

She advised that since 1982 the City of Eden had done about six annexation studies but until 1994 none were acted on to do an involuntary annexation. She noted a lot of that had to do with cost. She said most of the areas that had been considered during that time were back under consideration now. She pointed out that the issue had always been about infrastructure, the water and sewer line conditions.

Mrs. Stultz said that as they went through the annexation process they were required by law to go through a lot of steps and they could not skip any. She noted that the first thing they had to do was identify the areas, which they had already done, that they might want to consider annexing. She said they would then move on to the feasibility study, which was designed to decide whether or not they could make the areas qualify legally and to give them some preliminary numbers on what it would cost to provide all services. She noted that the only area that did not qualify that they had asked to be considered was the plant on New Street. She stated that everything else would qualify except for some of the area on South 14. She pointed out that if they decided to pursue that as they went over the process the next two or three years, they would have to annex one of the neighborhoods and a year or two later annex the other side of Highway 14. She pointed out that she and the consultant had talked with Mr. Corcoran and decided to recommend that if they did those areas they should do the Glenn Farms side first simply because it would bring in more tax revenue.

She noted that the area around Dishmon Loop was one of the areas the Council had asked them to consider. She stated that they knew it was going to be horrendously expensive to provide water and sewer down into that neighborhood. She said they were also aware that there were some tank failures and other things going on down there.

She pointed out that they had chosen the date of June 30, 2004 because the City of Eden operates on a fiscal year because it follows the budget process – July 1 to June 30. Annexation is heavily involved in the tax year as they all list taxes in January which prepared to fund the fiscal year starting July 1st. She advised that the taxes were not due and payable until September 1st and were not past due until January 5th. Mrs. Stultz explained that the reason they try to have annexations land on the last day of the year, so they are effective the first day of the fiscal year, is so they do not have a period of time where either they are required to provide services and they were not going to get paid fully the whole year; because they do allow them to pro-rate if they annex late enough in the fiscal year, the people may not make a payment during the tax year they are operating in. She said they would have a whole period of time where they were providing services to them before the people owed them any money. She explained that the other bad thing that came from that was if they found themselves in that circumstance, when the first bills came out on September 1st of the following tax year, they could owe the City as much as a year and three quarters worth of taxes. She noted that would cause an uproar. She said that if they had an effect of June 30th, they would start receiving funds in the fiscal year that they came into the City and received services. She commented that sometimes people felt like they were paying ahead, but they were not because the taxes that they listed and values established on

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January 1st of 2003 were designed to fund the fiscal year that would start July 1st of 2003.

Recommendations:

Mrs. Stultz pointed out the following areas being considered: An area on South 14; another large area out west which includes Indian Hills, Holly Hills, Smith Acres, and the Meadowood; another area that includes the Parkdale Plant plus a larger area around Bryant Street; Friendly Road and Northridge Mobile Home Park; and an area on the east side to include Dishmon Loop.

Council Member Vestal questioned area 3 and asked if that went on the highway or the lots on the right hand side. Mrs. Stultz referred Council Member Vestal to the map and explained that some would go on both sides of the highway and some only on one.

Council Member Vestal explained that the line did not indicate taking in the whole lot on the right hand side which was why he asked if it followed the highway or was it taking in the first set of lots. Mrs. Stultz replied it was taking in the first ones going up the highway. She added if there was not enough development density as they have to have two persons per area, then they cannot take them in.

Council Member Gover commented that in her top fifteen goals, Mrs. Stultz did not mention Dishmon Loop to which Mrs. Stultz replied that she did not because she needed to ask the Council's permission to do something first.

Mrs. Stultz stated in looking at the areas under consideration, what she would like to ask the Council to consider is first, to let's back up some of the larger areas and pick some smaller areas out of them and focus on those and get them annexed as of June 30, 2004. She said they thought those areas could be annexed relatively inexpensively. She pointed out that they had water and sewer and the provision of infrastructure would be lower.

In response to a question by Mayor Price as to payback figures, Mrs. Stultz stated that she would get the payback numbers for them. Before the Council makes a final decision, what she was really asking permission to do today was to back up and focus on Indian Hills as they already have water and sewer, and the streets are designed to the city's subdivision standards, and they are currently being maintained by the State of North Carolina. She pointed out that they would have to take in a few areas between the city limits line and them because the city could not just jump out and get them because it is a satellite. She said that for June 30, 2004, she would like to take the minimum amount they would have to have to get to Indian Hills.

She noted that it was the same situation with the Parkdale Plant. She said that Parkdale was part of the original pay in lieu agreements the first round and they did not have an agreement with them presently. She stated that she thought they might want to go ahead and consider reaching out and getting them. She said they would likely have to get some parts of Vintage Road.

She pointed out that Northridge Mobile Home Park, off of Friendly Road, already had water and sewer so the cost might be small to do those areas as well. She noted that to get to it, they would have to take in some area on Friendly Road. She stated they would have to provide water and sewer to the parts that did not have it if they wanted it. She said that they had to provide the trunk lines, but did not have to provide the part that could be accessed.

Council Member Gover mentioned that they do not want another Hopkins Court. They do not want to mislead the people on Dishmon Loop, off North Friendly Road, or anywhere else.

Mrs. Stultz stated when they do the larger resolution of consideration, which she would also ask the Council to do this spring, is to do a Resolution of Consideration which starts the clock running for all of the big areas they have included, aside from the ones they were going pull out right away. She said that way they would update the resolution once a year as they decided they had the money to do so. She suggested putting Dishmon Loop in that big resolution and giving her permission to go out and get some grant funds to run the water and sewer lines out there. She stated that based on the census it was a low and moderate income area, they could get grant funds to provide the water and sewer completely. She pointed out that the payback on it was so horrendously long, it made it not terribly feasible unless they could get some assistance in the

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provision of the infrastructure. She said that if they got that and were able to attain funding through grants, it would make it feasible. She pointed out that it would also benefit the residents because there were a lot of issues with failures and that sort of thing.

Council Member Gover questioned if she was talking about trunk lines out there.

Mrs. Stultz answered that if they did that and got grant funds for it, they would have to provide everything. She stated that if they had grant fund for it and they did not have to pay any portion of it, they could make a decision not to access them because the City received money through a grant and the water and sewer assessment policy permitted them to do. She commented that some people she had spoken with at the state agency thought that they could get some infrastructure money to help with that area.

Mayor Price questioned the Friendly Road area to which Mrs. Stultz answered if they were going to try to get Northridge in the first round, they would not have time for it. She said that if they decided to pull Northridge out, they could pursue the funding for that area, too. She commented that she was not sure that all of the area would qualify but she would check. She explained if they would give her permission to pull the small areas out to be considered on their own, they would get the absolute figures for what that was going to cost before they had to make a final decision and adopt an ordinance.

Council Member Tudor noted that he had spoken with a resident of Friendly Road who said that he looked forward to the city taking them in because some of the neighbors wanted to hook onto city sewage. He said that he noticed on the map that they were doing the left side of Friendly Road and not the right. He questioned if a person on the right side would still be able to hook on.

Mrs. Stultz replied that they could if they ran a trunk up the road. She noted that if the residents wanted to petition to do that, they would want them to voluntarily be annexed. She said that they could present them with a petition for voluntary annexation and a petition for water and sewer and the Council could make a decision whether they wanted to do that at that time.

It was noted that there was already a trunk line in Northridge, Mrs. Stultz said that the consultants and their engineers felt like a major line would have to be run up through Friendly Road to pick up some of the residents on Friendly Road and to get out there. She stated that she was asking them to back that up. She explained that from information she got from Dennis Asbury, they knew that Northridge was being served back into Grand Oaks. She explained that on a minimal basis as they can, initially, leave all of the balance of these areas in the big area to be considered and out them in the Resolution of Consideration. She noted that the preliminary study would have costs for the whole areas. Then they will nail down what will absolutely the little areas, if the Council would allow her to pull those out and bring them to the Council.

Council Member Gover asked if the reason they were backing up on Friendly Road was so that Northridge would be against the City boundary or was the city already against them. She said that the reason she wanted to include those areas by June 30, 2004 was because what they were trying to get already predominantly had water and sewer.

Conclusion:

Mrs. Stultz stated that annexation was a powerful tool that they had at their disposal. She explained that as revenue sources had changed over the last few years, they realized that the number of residents of the community became more and more important, particularly with sales tax reimbursements and those kinds of things. She noted that annexation was also a means for them to advance their control of the urban environment that was considered part of the community. She stated that annexation was something they should do on a continuing basis. She said that in early March the Council would need to be presented with the big feasibility study that had already been done and then start narrowing in onto the smaller areas they were going to shoot for June 30, 2004. She noted that they would need to identify the precise boundaries of those and the Council would have a chance to review them. She pointed out that they would have to get a survey done of the areas which would require some money. She explained that they would have an exact schedule of everything they were going to do and it would require the Council to have a couple of special meetings between the present and June 2003. She said they

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could do some of it when the Council was together for budget meetings. She noted that they needed to follow all the steps on the tentative schedule in order to get the annexation by June 30, 2004.

Mayor Price commented that he thought there was a four hundred day waiting period.

Mrs. Stultz replied that it was for a Resolution of Consideration which they would want to do for everything else. She explained that if they did it without the resolution of consideration and just went right on, they would effectively adopt the annexation ordinance for those areas June 30, 2003, but then they could not consider them inside the city until June 30, 2004. She said that when give them three years until services had to be provided. Regarding the one finished up in 1994, she stated that on October 22, 1992 they did the original resolution of consideration for all those areas. She said they then went through a longer process. She pointed out that knew that the Council had told them that they at least wanted to have some of it ready as fast as they could. She commented that the quickest they could make it happen was June 30, 2004.

Mr. Corcoran interjected that all of the tasks on the list had to be completed by June 2003 because there was the one year wait.

Mrs. Stultz reiterated that they did have the one year to wait before the area was officially in the city. She said they would have the public hearings and such and adopt the ordinance and that would give staff and the Council a year to prepare.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps seconded by Council Member Reynolds to allow the Planning Department to study the small areas as presented by Mrs. Stultz and also allow them to search for grant money for water and sewer and other infrastructure improvements to homes in those areas, and for trunk lines.

Council Member Tudor noted that citizens would often asked why they should want to be added. He commented that it was not always an easy question to answer if they claimed they were already getting all of the services.

Mrs. Stultz replied that there was a report that she was trying to get a copy of about the issue. She noted that both the fire and planning departments were rated by the ISO. She said that it had a big impact on the rates of insurance that people had. She explained that as soon as they were providing fire service to the level that they were providing it inside, the ISO rating would go down, which was an improvement between what the county provided and what the City of Eden staff provided. In addition, she pointed out that the residents were paying for garbage now but would get more garbage services than they got in the county.

Mrs. Stultz explained that she also needed the Council's permission to go ahead and bring back the resolution of consideration that they would adopt for all the other areas that they had studied. She noted that it did not mean that they had made the final decision to annex, but it starts the time running and gives them the opportunity to keep those moving so the Council could start picking and choosing.

Council Member Gover stated he was requesting that they do not have another Hopkins Court as the people should know exactly what is coming down the pike.

Council Member Vestal asked if there was a time limit on the resolution.

Mrs. Stultz stated that they only lasted two years. She recommended that once a year in a Council meeting, they take a look at the resolution and they could add or take away from it.

Mayor Price asked Mrs. Stultz if they were going to look at the area around area 2 for money for the Northridge area.

Mrs. Stultz answered that they may be under too close a deadline because they had to be ready and provide how they were going to fund it. She posed the example that the Council decided to go ahead and pursue the Northridge area. If between the time that they Council actually as to fund, they have to be prepared to fund all of that. She said the City would have to prove that they

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had funds or a way to get them. She noted that in the meantime if she found some grant money, they could always back up and use that. She said that if they decided to do Northridge by 2004, they would have to already adopt an ordinance and make provisions.

Action of the motion: All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Corcoran stated that if they got water and sewer services right now, they were looking at a seventy-five percent surcharge being eliminated. He said that the county residents were paying more or equal to what city residents were paying and all they were getting was once a week pick-up. He noted that the city's solid waste program was much more comprehensive than anything they were getting in the county.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps seconded by Council Member Reynolds for a Resolution of Consideration that includes the large areas, excluding the areas the Council previously voted on. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Thoroughfare Plan and Transportation Issues:

Mrs. Stultz stated that Eden, since its very beginning as the three communities, had always had visionaries and a lot of them had issues dealing with transportation. She noted that Governor John Motley Morehead brought the railroad to the state and his son-in-law, B. Frank Mebane, built the bridge on Mebane Bridge Road to cross the Dan River.

Mayor Price shared the history of the railroad bed built by Mr. Mebane in Spray.

Mrs. Stultz pointed out that after World War II, roads came to be the predominant means of transportation of goods and services for the communities across the country. She advised that economic development was an issue they everyone talked about. She said that transportation was one of the leading factors that provided opportunities for economic development. She noted that for every new factory or business that opened in the nation, there were fifteen thousand economic development groups trying to procure them for their community.

She stated that in 1997, the City of Eden adopted an updated plan. She noted that for three thoroughfare plans before that one, most of what was on this particular plan was there then. She explained that the thoroughfare document was what they used to lobby NCDOT. She said they had helped prepare the plan and their engineers had been immersed in it, and it was a part of their document where the Council endorsed it and said those were the projects they thought were important. She noted that NCDOT had a limited amount of funds with a lot of people clamoring for them. She pointed out that NCDOT encouraged local governments to engage in thoroughfare planning and they recommended that they be updated every five to ten years. She commented that in a year or two she would be coming to the Council asking for permission to begin the process of updating the thoroughfare plan. She advised that NCDOT also prepared what was called the Transportation Improvement Program or TIP for the entire state of North Carolina. She explained that there were projects proposed in that plan for every county in the state. She noted that the projects were in a draft stage and were slated for adoption in the summer of 2003. She advised that the City had received a draft of the plan and the staff had a conversation with an engineer for NCDOT. She said that the TIP was designed to be a plan for the things that they were going to construct, study, or prepare for between 2004-2010. She noted that Rockingham County had a group that got together to talk about transportation issues. She said that they brought a proposal that the Council adopted about issues that they wanted to have added to the TIP as it was finally adopted in June. She pointed out that the document had been adopted by the Council in October 2002.

She noted that they took the thoroughfare plan and all the projects that went with it and compared it with the TIP and things that were currently under way. She stated that there were a couple of things that had happened that were not necessarily on the thoroughfare plan and they would talk about them one at a time.

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Discussion of Transportation Related Initiatives:

- What Transportation Initiatives Are Critical To The Long-Term Growth & Development Of Eden?
- Specific Plan of Action

WIDENINGS

1. **NC 135** – Resurfacing, safety improvements and partial widening from the western planning boundary to NC 770 (Washington St.)

Mrs. Stultz said that according to the state, the project was under construction.

2. **NC 770**

- A. **Washington St. (NC 770)** from Hamilton St. to the NC 135/NC 770 split
- B. **E. Meadow Rd. (NC 770)** from the city limits to Gant Rd.

Mrs. Stultz stated that 2A was one of the things that NCDOT recommended be done and it was designed to handle the volume that they projected would be on that road in 2020. She explained that the thoroughfare plan was supposed to deal with their needs from 1997 to 2020.

Council Member Gover mentioned as it is now, the truck traffic is kept off of Washington Street. In doing so, if there is a reduction in traffic, the state will not look at this as. . . if you already have this where traffic will not flow on it. He noted that was his big thing with the bridge going in, where are they going with the bridge if they do not have a plan to go somewhere with that bridge, then that bridge is just there. Mrs. Stultz replied that the fact that they have this numbered project #1 did not mean that she or her staff or DOT thought it was the most important thing they needed to do. Council Member Gover stated he thought the entire map should be taken to the TIP every time there was a meeting.

Mayor Price noted when they went to TIP for the meeting for Rockingham County, they would have to imagine that every other city was there with their projects and the projects that are talked about basically end up being the projects that have the most importance. He added he saw what Council Member Gover was saying, but everyone else was there also. Council Member Gover mentioned that the TIP meeting he attended, the city did not have anything there to show and did not make a stand. She suggested someone being there everytime.

She advised that she would like to see the Council take the thoroughfare plan that they have, look at it once a year, and the members decide which one is most important. She said that made it easier for whoever was serving on the TIP committee with the county to know what projects were most important to the City of Eden. She stated that presently they needed to become familiar with the projects but at some other time they needed to prioritize them.

She advised that 2B was the project that she thought would have the most immediate impact. She explained that the inadequacy of that road to Miller Brewing was a problem for the industries and potential industries in the area.

3. **NC 87**

- A. **Oakland Av. (NC 87)** from Rhodes Rd. to Hamilton St., adding turn lanes at major intersections, particularly Church St.
- B. **NC 87** from Washington St. to Bethlehem Church Rd.

Mrs. Stultz stated that between now and 2020, these particulars areas were just going to continue to have more traffic. She noted that it did seem particularly dangerous when trying to turn at the intersections on these roads.

She noted that widening Washington Street to Bethlehem Church Road was in the thoroughfare plan. She advised that the widening was a part of the TIP as the draft stood.

4. **NC 14 (Van Buren Rd.)** from Meadow Rd. to the Virginia state line

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Mrs. Stultz advised that the thoroughfare plan recommended that this portion be widened to five lanes, matching the Van Buren cross-section south of Meadow Rd. She noted that it had been included in the state TIP as an unfunded and unscheduled project. She stated that it was listed as an urgent request for inclusion on a resolution adopted by the City Council and sent to the state by the county group. She pointed out that this was one that she had heard a lot of talk about from the legislators, Council, and others interested in economic development and how it might be impacted by the property to the north of 14. She said that the area from the Dan River going north to the Meadow Road interchange had been the development corridor. She explained that they were running out of vacant properties so the progression of the development would naturally proceed north.

Council Member Gover commented that it was an issue that should be brought up every year to which Mrs. Stultz replied that it was at the top of the county's list.

5. W. Meadow Rd. (NC 770) from W. Stadium Dr. to NC 14 (Van Buren Rd.)

Mrs. Stultz noted that there was a tremendous amount of traffic through the area. She advised that the project was not in the state TIP or the resolution adopted by the Council as part of the county request.

6. E. Kings Highway / S. Pierce St.

- A. **E. Kings Highway** from Van Buren Rd. to the Eden Library
- B. **S. Pierce St.** from Kings Highway to Stadium Dr.

Mrs. Stultz pointed out that Pierce Street had gone through a lot of changes through the years. She noted that it was very important to the Council and the community to look at doing sidewalks on Pierce Street. She stated that the hospital was interested in developing the area behind the library and they would like to see the improvements on Pierce Street at the curve.

There was discussion as to the sidewalks being installed and it was noted that the cost would be approximately \$600,000. Mayor Price suggested that they consider using money from the "iced tea" funds.

Council Member Tudor stated that he wanted them to install the sidewalks before a child was killed.

Mrs. Stultz suggested that all the work needed to be done as a complete project at one time on Pierce Street.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Corcoran if he could begin searching for funding presently to which he replied they could.

7. Stadium Dr. from Pierce St. to Edgewood Rd.

Mrs. Stultz explained that with the introduction of city hall to the intersection, as well as the increase in traffic to the schools, country club, and park, this was something that really did need to be done and some had been done. She said it was recommended that from Country Club Drive to Edgewood Road, the existing two lanes should be widened to four. She advised that it was not in the TIP or the resolution adopted by the Council.

8. S. Hamilton St. from Manley St. to Irving Av.

Mrs. Stultz stated that this was to widen to three lanes. She noted that it was not on the TIP or any list.

9. Bridge St. – add a left turn lane from Oak St. to Hamilton St.

Mrs. Stultz advised that this was not on a list but NCDOT felt like it was an area that would continue to see more traffic. Council Member Gover asked them to keep this in mind while improving the drainage.

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OTHER SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

10. One-Way Pair – Washington St. and Jay St.

Mrs. Stultz explained that this was recommended by the NCDOT and staff. She advised that it was taken out of the thoroughfare plan due to objections by citizens and at the direction of the Council.

11. East-West Travel – Connector from Boone Rd. to the Meadow Rd. / Stadium Dr. intersection

Mrs. Stultz noted that Eden had a lot of west to east migration in the morning and afternoon. She advised that the thoroughfare plan recommended that they improve east/west travel primarily along Meadow Road and Kings Highway. She pointed out that it was recommended that a new connector be constructed between Boone Road and the Meadow Road/Stadium Drive intersection. She explained that some business owners in the area were opposed to the connector. She stated that the project was not on the TIP or on any recommendations.

LOOP FACILITIES

12. Western Eden Outer Loop

- A. **Westerly Park Rd. extension** south to Shady Grove Rd. and NC 770
- B. **Vintage Rd. (SR 1560) extension** west to Westerly Park Rd. extension
- C. **Vintage Rd. extension** east to Lake Dr.
- D. **Hamilton St. extension** north to Lake Dr.
- E. **Lake Dr. extension** east to Aiken Rd.
- F. **Aiken Rd.** improvements (straighten curves)

Mayor Price questioned what was between Vintage Road and the Westerly Park Road extension.

Mrs. Stultz answered that it was very hilly and mostly farm areas and undeveloped land. She advised that Harrington Highway was supposed to be Eden's loop, but it did not loop much of it. She stated that the recommendations were designed to finish the loop.

13. Western Eden Inner Loop – Church St. extension west to Vintage Rd. / Westerly Park Rd. extension

She advised that this cross section was two lanes with on-street parking on one side, which was out of the right-of-way sixty feet. She stated that neither of those things had been put into the TIP or the resolution.

CROSTOWN FACILITIES

14. East-West Connectors

- A. **Harrington Highway (SR 1533) extension** east to Quesinberry Rd. (SR 1591)
- B. **Aiken Rd. extension** from Friendly Rd. (SR 1714) east to NC 770

Mrs. Stultz advised that the Harrington Highway extension was mostly rural with large acreage tracts, a few farms, and some single-family residential development.

She noted that the Aiken Road extension was recommended to form the northern section of an outer loop for Eden.

15. North-South Connectors

- A. **Edgewood Rd.** from Fieldcrest Rd. south to eastern Harrington Highway extension
- B. **Main St. extension** north to Aiken Rd. (NC 700) extension

Mrs. Stultz explained that the Edgewood Road project was something they recommended be done but probably was one of the last things they needed to do.

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OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 16. NC 87 Bypass – Westerly Park Rd. extension** south to Harrington Highway

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

- 17. Aiken Rd. (SR 1714) / Virginia St. (SR 1716) Intersection**
- 18. Aiken Rd. (SR 1714) / Van Buren Rd. (NC 14) Intersection**
- 19. Van Buren Rd. (NC 14) / Meadow Rd. Interchange**

Mrs. Stultz stated that they felt the improvements to the intersections at Aiken Road and Virginia Street and Aiken Road and Van Buren Road were really important. She noted that a turning lane had been added at Aiken Road and Van Buren Road.

She explained that it was recommended that both NC 14 and Meadow Road be widened at the interchange. She advised that this would require another bridge to be constructed along Meadow Road. She said that it was recommended that it be redesigned to handle the anticipated 2020 traffic volumes. She pointed out that when a project was being designed, if the City asks that landscaping be done then, it would be included in the design and made a part of the project. She noted that the City would have to agree to take it over for maintenance after three years.

BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

(Projects not in Thoroughfare Plan that are included in the TIP)

- 20. Smith River Bridge Replacement**
- 21. Dan River Bridge Replacement**

Mrs. Stultz advised that both bridge replacements were underway and completely funded. She stated construction was slated to begin for both in 2004.

She pointed out that the City of Eden's Thoroughfare Plan was designed to be the planning document for the years between 1997-2020. She said the plans were designed to be updated every decade. She noted that of the nineteen projects in the original document, only four were undertaken. She stated that the current proposed draft of the TIP contained only two of the thoroughfare projects, Highway 14 widening and completion of the Highway 135 widening and paving. She said that also included in the TIP were bridge replacements on the Smith River and Dan River. She noted that the resolution adopted by the Council dealing with the countywide request for projects to be added to the TIP contained twelve projects with two of those projects located in Eden or in the planning jurisdiction. She pointed out that as the City of Eden prepared for its future, the implementation of the thoroughfare plan and the construction of projects deemed necessary by the Council would greatly impact the city's economy. She stated that continued and increased efforts need to be made to lobby for Eden. She said that the City should continue to support efforts of other Rockingham County local governments and they should likewise expect their support for projects that were important to Eden.

She advised that in the next year or the year after, the staff would probably come to the Council with a request to begin another thoroughfare plan. She said that they needed to keep it updated within the minimum amount of time. She noted that when they had started it the last time, they started about 1994 and it was done in 1997. She pointed out that they would need to start it in 2004 or 2005 and would have it ready by the time the ten year's was up.

Mayor Price commented that they had decided to put the landing at the Hamilton Street bridge back a year. He noted that thanks to the foresight of Council Member Vestal, the Smith River Bridge would have bicycle access.

Council Member Gover said that he wanted to make a recommendation that Mrs. Stultz be a representative to the TIP meetings.

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BREAK: The Council took a fifteen-minute break.

Continue Discussion Concerning Specific Goals Submitted By The Mayor, City Council And City Manager:

- Free Time For Mayor and Members of Council to Select Topics of Their Choice For Discussion

Mayor Price advised that the floor was open for discussion among Council Members.

Council Member Gover stated that he would like to see everyone stay on safety. He noted that they were heading into a safety program and needed to stick with it and develop it. He commented that it would help get the insurance cost down and would be safer for the employees.

Referring to the new Safety and Loss Control Ordinance, Mr. Corcoran stated that he did not know how in-depth they read on the material compared to what they had now. He said that basically what they had had was a committee of about fifteen members and it was about the only organization. He noted that in the new set-up, they would have every department division represented so it had been expanded by three positions. He pointed out that more importantly, each person from a department or division would then be a representative on a departmental safety committee. He explained that they had gone from just one safety committee for the city into a departmental safety committee as well. He said that they realized that some safety issues that were pertinent to a police officer might not be pertinent to someone working in the water treatment plant. He stated that the old ordinance had a tendency to be vague at times in terms of who was responsible and accountable for what and the consequences of not doing things. He pointed out that previously safety committee members had been careless in their attendance but in the new policy if safety committee members failed to attend the meetings they would be subject to disciplinary action. He explained that the subcommittees were getting away from what type of punishment should be levied and getting more into accident prevention, safety training, and mock inspections. He said that he thought that more people would end up being involved in the process than before and if it was carried out properly, it would lead to better results.

Mayor Price questioned if anyone had any thoughts on the comprehensive cleaning program and having something on an on-going basis where they could develop a good program to invite and involve a lot of people into a clean-up campaign on a regular basis.

Council Member Gover stated that he would hope the appearance board would take up the issue and run with it.

Mayor Price noted that at one time a private group had taken it upon themselves to go out and have regular clean-ups around town. He stated that they tried and made an effort but just could not make it work. He said that he thought the appearance commission would be a good group to work under that.

Council Member Epps cited the campaigns where different groups adopted a section of roadway. He suggested it might be a good idea for people to get together and be responsible for their block.

Mayor Price told Mr. Corcoran that he was sure in places he had worked before they had done some benchmarking before. He stated that through the North Carolina League of Municipalities, some larger cities and some cities smaller than Eden had initiated benchmarking. He said that in essence, it was taking a job for a department and benchmarking what their activities were and compare the state average. He noted that it let the department know where they were in comparison with what other types of cities were doing.

Mr. Corcoran commented that they did benchmarking in Vinton and did some in Whitville. He noted that the City had set up somewhat of a benchmarking system several years back in the planning department as a test. He said that each year as the planning department submitted their budget, it was in a benchmarking type format. He stated that they could look at implementing it further.

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Mayor Price advised that he had some information from the league that he could provide for them. He commented that it made a lot of sense. He added that it could be a big help to department heads and other people as they went around implementing what they were doing day in day out.

Council Member Gover said that he went over Mr. Corcoran's goals and he realized that Mr. Corcoran had not prioritized but in looking at it, he took Mr. Corcoran's number four to be number one. He stated that it was about adequate funding. He noted that he had labeled Mr. Corcoran's number one as two and the number seven (safety) as three. He noted that they had talked about revenue but it was something they had not dwelt on. He pointed out that they needed to see where their revenues were and stay with what they were and not go beyond them. He said they could see from the newsletter they were getting that the economy was forcing one in four cities to cut their police force. He commented that that was how drastic things were getting. He noted that \$600,000 had been cut from the revenue. He added he did hope they would look at the revenues, whether in water and sewer or general fund, or whatever and hold on some of the things they can do without. They could see what the water needs are as they were hit hard with the water needs.

Council Member Epps stated that he would like to see the City use the web-site to market the industrial parks.

Council Member Reynolds asked if they were going to look into purchasing the police cars that had advertising on them that would cost the City one dollar.

Mr. Corcoran stated that Eden was one of the first communities that applied and approved. He stated that the problem was no community in North Carolina had a car yet. He said it was one of those type programs that sounded really good and it was easy to get approved, but no one was seeing any cars. He noted that a lot of communities were having to abandon that idea because they were finding out there were a lot more stipulations. He pointed out that initially a lot of people thought that they company came in and sought the advertising for the department but now it seemed that the department would have to get their own advertising. He said it was turning out that there was a whole lot more work involved. He explained that they had thought about going to smaller sized vehicles when they did get around to replacing them. He noted that a lot of communities were going to vehicles other than the Crown Victoria and Caprice and he added that there was money to be saved there. He pointed out that twenty years ago cars were replaced at 100,000 miles and that seemed to be the golden figure. He said that cars were built a lot better today and it was nothing to see a car go 200,000 plus miles. He questioned if there was really a need to replace a vehicle just because it had 100,000 miles on it.

Council Member Epps stated that even the cab companies had abandoned the advertising on cars idea because of the work they had to do to get it. He suggested that a police car with advertising killed the vision of what a police car was all about. He noted that the county had gone to a lot of the Tauruses and small Chevrolets.

Council Member Gover questioned if the City needed fifty-two police cars. He said that he thought when the program came out it was just for the patrol officers.

Mr. Corcoran said he did not know if it was fifty-two presently as they had agreed to surplus some. He pointed out that the bigger question was if the police department should carry on with the one-man one car policy. He stated that they needed to look at the figures and make a decision.

Council Member Tudor stated that from the information from the packet by Mr. Corcoran, the cars were cleaner, maintained better, and that the City got better service from the cars.

It was noted that the comments actually came from the police chief and not Mr. Corcoran.

Council Member Epps pointed out that if a police officer took a car home, they would keep the car in a lot better condition than if the car was shared.

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Council Member Reynolds stated that it would cut down on the miles as well.

Council Member Vestal said that 1994 was the year the City went to the one-man one car policy. He stated that that justification had been that one big factor was a police officer was responsible for the vehicle and; therefore, had a sense of ownership and it was felt that it would extend the wear and tear on the car. He noted that they would know who was responsible if something happened to it. He pointed out that it was insubordination if someone did something to a vehicle and did not report it. He said that another factor mentioned was that there seemed to be a sense of community and security. He stated that those were the only justifications in the whole set of minutes for the policy. He commented that in 1992-93, they had twelve police cars with two of them being three years old. He noted that the average cost of those vehicles for parts was \$422.15. He said that during the one-man one car policy in 1998, there were fifty-two police cars with thirty vehicles three years old. He noted that the average cost for parts on one of those vehicles was \$679.68. He said that he asked two mechanics what they thought the cost increase on parts would be during those years and they said it was anywhere from twenty to forty percent. He reported that if they added forty percent to the 1992 figure, they would be right at the same figure as in 1998 so no money was saved. He noted that the total cost for keeping up twelve vehicles was \$20,242. He said in 1998-99, the total cost to keep up the police department vehicles was \$101,847.24. He stated that he did not think it was a good program.

Council Member Epps questioned who would wash the vehicles if they were not taken home by the officers.

Mr. Corcoran said the officers would. He pointed out that this was the only city he had been in that had the one-man one car policy. He advised that typically in other cities, the detectives and narcotic agents would have an unmarked car. He explained that the patrol groups shared cars. He said they might have eight cars and two back-ups in case one was down. He noted that the police department could probably cut their fleet from forty-two to twenty-one. He explained that the number would just go down as the cars wore out.

Council Member Vestal noted that a 1994 surplus car, under the one-man one car policy, sold for \$825 and a 1989 surplus car, that drove twenty-four hours a day, sold for \$800.

After further discussion, Mr. Corcoran noted that they would always have vehicles in reserve. Therefore, they could probably go from twenty-four down to twelve, having the six main ones and six in reserve.

Council Member Tudor asked Council Member Vestal if his study took into account how often repairs had to be made on the cars where they have one-main one car versus one car with two or three men.

Council Member Vestal answered that it was a whole year of one-man one car and a whole year of twenty-four use.

Council Member Tudor said that in a conversation with the previous city manager, he was told that with several officers sharing a car it was inevitable that they would run into a situation where the car was damaged or such and everyone denied doing it. He stated that the frequency of repairs also seemed to be up.

Mr. Corcoran said that where he had been previously they had a checklist and when the officer came on duty it was his responsibility to check the car and report into the shift commander anything he saw in the car. He stated that if the officer signed off that there was nothing wrong with the car and then the officer took it out and found something wrong, it would be on the officer that signed off that the car was okay.

There was further discussion as to the maintenance on the police cars.

Mr. Corcoran said that due to the economic times, they needed to think outside of the box. He pointed out that the City had less full-time employees than they had had since the 1980's. He added that anything they could do to save money, they had to do. He stated that the gas on the cars would be the same and the only difference would be the wear and tear and repairs and how quick

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the car wore out. He suggested that if they were going to go with changing the cars at every 100,000 miles, they were not holding onto them long enough for them to pay off. He said that they would be saving by not replacing cars the next few of years. He pointed out that the fleet would go down year by year. He stated that if they were going to continue the one-man one car policy, they would have to begin buying cars pretty soon. He advised that the police chief had requested nine new cars, followed by seven new cars, followed by eleven new cars, or twenty-seven cars for the next three years.

Council Member Epps stated that he did not have a problem with the car issue as long as it did not cause them to lose officers.

Mayor Price questioned at what mileage other communities were getting rid of the police cars.

Mr. Corcoran said that he did not know about the other communities but said the City was stretching it. He noted that the animal control truck they had just gotten rid of was about 160,000 miles. He stated that they had several vehicles presently that were in the 110,000-113,000 mile range. He pointed out that in most places he had been, 100,000 miles had always been the golden number at looking at switching the cars out.

Council Member Tudor stated that he would go along with whichever way would save the City the most money in order to save officers jobs. He said if the figures proved that sharing the cars was the best way, he would go that way.

Mayor Price asked if they had done anything regarding a utility study for the City, power-wise.

Mr. Corcoran noted that the system at the city hall was antiquated, but improvements would cost over \$100,000.

Mayor Price asked about analyzing the water and sewer plants.

Mr. Corcoran noted that they been in discussion regarding diesel and electric. He said that he thought electric was still the way to go presently. He pointed out that the electric rates were going up because of the economy, but they could look at that.

Council Member Tudor asked if there were any studies regarding the police car policies.

Mr. Corcoran replied that they could probably find studies that went both ways. He pointed out that if the figures were the same, the concern needed to be the capital costs, and the capital cost on a lot of vehicles is more than a fewer number of vehicles. He explained if they were not saving a ton of money operationally, then how was it paying for itself.

Council Member Epps asked what that would do to the take home policy, change it, to which Mr. Corcoran replied when they get to it. He explained that the Council would need to decide as he did not know that they would go out tomorrow and park thirty some cars, it could be a gradual phase in as they need to start getting rid of cars, they could roll the fleet back. The operational cost would be about the same either way the go so they could stay where they are now, with one man one car, and as they have to be filtered out, then they could start cutting it back until eventually they end up with "x" number of cars. . . to which Council Member Vestal added they also needed to look at the surplus pool. . . Mr. Corcoran added he would have to figure out how many cars, but they were probably looking at something like half, noting he had not done a study.

Concerning a strategic plan, Mr. Corcoran explained that a plan and discussion was only so good to the extent they act upon it. He recounted that there had been a wealth of information presented at this meeting. He said that key would be following up and prioritizing the transportation needs, deciding what they wanted to do with annexation, and decide how they were going to succeed long-term financially. He pointed out that there would be additional meetings and there would have to be votes by the Council. He stated that they were going to be called upon in the next year to make some tough decisions. He noted that hardly any of the general fund the previous year were for capital improvement projects. He said they had one year of a five-year payment on a fire truck, three police cars, and a few other items. He stated that the capital improvement budget in the general fund was not even a portion of what they stood to lose.

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Council Member Tudor stated that they did not need to go into the general fund if they could avoid it. He pointed out that the audit had just said that the general fund was in the best shape it had been in years and was even better than the state required it to be. He said that they needed to keep it that way to which several Council Members pointed out that that was the last year's fund. Council Member Tudor replied that they needed to keep it that way and not go backwards.

Mr. Corcoran replied that one of the things that benefited them over the last couple of years was the annexation lieu of agreement started out in year one at ten percent, twenty percent, thirty percent, and then this year was at one hundred percent. He said they were getting more money in the annexation lieu agreements this year than they had in any of the past ten years. He stated that that helped out this year but the next year they were losing two of those companies and were going back to fifty percent on the other two. He noted that in the last couple of years they had reimbursement money but the governor was now saying no more reimbursements. He pointed out that it was great to have a lot of money in the bank if they were earning a lot of interest off of it, but with the economy, they were not getting anything in terms of interest. He stated that they did have more money in the bank, but they were not earning near as much interest income because it had gone from seven or eight percent down to two percent.

Council Member Tudor said that when he came on the board all he heard was people saying that the Council was taking money out of the fund to do things. He stated that they did not need to keep doing that if they were back to where the state said they should be.

Mr. Corcoran said that if that was what they said to begin with, their expenses would have to match the revenue, or raise the revenue, or do a bond issue.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Vestal to adjourn.. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim J. Scott
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Philip K. Price
Mayor