

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

The regular meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:		Philip K. Price
Mayor Pro Tem:		Christine H. Myott
Council Members:		Donna Turner
	(absent)	Billy Vestal
		Jerry Epps
		C.H. Gover, Sr.
		Bruce Nooe
		Wayne Tuggle, Sr.
City Manager:		Brad Corcoran
City Clerk:		Kim J. Scott
Deputy City Clerk:		Sheralene Thompson
City Attorney:		Tom Medlin
Representatives from Departments:		
Representatives from News Media:		Brian Ewing, <u>Eden Daily News</u>

MEETING CONVENED:

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

INVOCATION:

Council Member Jerry Epps gave the invocation.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Price read the following proclamation in observance of the March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Day.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, premature birth is the number one killer of newborns in America, and

WHEREAS, nearly half a million babies are born prematurely every year, including almost 16,000 in North Carolina and the number's rising; and

WHEREAS, premature birth takes an enormous toll on families and costs society billions of dollars every year, and

WHEREAS, most people are unaware of this common, serious and costly problem; and

WHEREAS, during November landmarks across the country will be lit pink and blue to raise awareness and to symbolize hope for premature babies and their parents; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a national effort to save babies from premature birth by funding research to find the causes and by supporting local programs that offer hope and help to families with a baby in intensive care;

THEREFORE, I, Phillip Price, Mayor of Eden declare November 15, 2005, as

PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

And I encourage all citizens to support March of Dimes efforts to fund research and programs to find the causes of prematurity.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of November, 2005

Attest:
Kim J. Scott, City Clerk

Philip K. Price, Mayor

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THANKS AND RECOGNITION:

Mayor Price thanked the Fire Department for the way they handled a situation in his area the previous day.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings scheduled for November.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Tuggle to accept the financial statement. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS:

No one signed up to speak during this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business to consider.

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Consideration of a contract with E Gov Link for E Gov Services.

The memorandum explained that the increasing role of technology in government has provided us with the opportunity to further expand our customer service to citizens, local businesses and visitors. Through the enhanced use of technology, city services will become more accessible, more flexible and more efficient. The use of technology will allow us to connect with our customers and constituents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No longer will customers have to wait until city offices “open” to conduct routine business and to interact with city staff. In addition, technological enhancements will enable us to provide user-friendly access to City Hall. Customers will be able to contact us from a single point of entry and will not need detailed knowledge of the organization in order to get their task/transaction accomplished. Transactions that used to require a trip to City Hall, visits to various departments and possible a return visit will in the future take only minutes to complete from the comfort of a customer’s home or office. E-Government will enhance our current service delivery methods, not replace them.

The recommendation was for Option #2 – One-time license fee and necessary software \$5,000 and \$1,200 for annual maintenance and hosting.

Mayor Price asked Mr. Corcoran if he would like to make comments.

Mr. Corcoran explained that the increasing role of technology in government has provided them with an opportunity to further expand their customer service to their citizens, their visitors and their local businesses. The use of technology will allow them to connect with their customers and constituents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No longer will customers have to wait until city offices officially open to conduct routine business and city staff. Transactions that used to take a trip to City Hall or various visits to different departments or multiple trips to City Hall will in the future take only minutes to complete from the comfort of a customer’s home or office. E-Government will enhance their current service delivery methods, not replace them.

In early August, Ms. Sheralene Thompson, the Deputy City Clerk, began to research the different companies out there that offered e-government services. The Council’s packet gave them a chronological outline of how they came to tonight. Ms. Thompson investigated different vendors and she participated in online demonstrations as well as he (Mr. Corcoran) and Ms. Scott (City Clerk). Later, online demonstrations were viewed by numerous members of staff. Basically, this has brought them to a recommendation of E Government Link’s contract.

He explained that some of the benefits associated with this would give their

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citizens or local businesses a convenient way to use the Internet to make suggestions, request information or action any time of the day or night. Requesters can get email updates and they can also get on the Internet at any time to check the status of their request.

Second, it allows for forms to be completed online. People can apply for jobs, or an insurance agent could contact the Police Department for an electronic copy of an accident report. It also allows access to all of the city's public documents day or night. It also allows for online utility payments or registration for activities.

He noted that basically there were two payment options and they were recommending Option #2, which included a one-time license fee and necessary software \$5,000 and \$1,200 for annual maintenance and hosting. After the initial expenditure of \$6,200 in year one, the annual cost for maintenance and hosting would be \$1,200 per year. He noted that in the contract that amount could not increase for a minimum of five years. He also noted that over the course of five years Option #2 saved the city \$4,000 compared to Option #1. He closed by noting that the enclosed agreement had been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Council Member Gover asked what it would cost the citizens to utilize this service.

Mr. Corcoran replied that to use everything but online payments would not cost anything. For example if you wanted to send in a complaint, a request, or access documents or forms, that would cost nothing. He stressed that tonight was step one and obviously they would not be accepting online payments tomorrow, but in checking around, if you wanted to make a credit card payment, for instance Paypal, they charge 30 cents per transaction plus 2.9% of whatever the fee that was collection. He stressed that again, that was a decision the citizen would make. They could still ride here and pay in person, come after hours and use the drop box, they could mail it with a 37 cent stamp that was about to become 39 cents, or they could do it over the Internet. It was just another avenue that was available to them, it was their choice.

Council Member Tuggle commented that he spent a lot of time dealing with different software programs and the deal they have on this for \$100 monthly maintenance was a fantastic deal. He also thanked Ms. Thompson for the work that went into it. He pointed out that they have an Internet generation now, that was what people use and he thought the city needed to do this type of thing.

Mayor Price questioned how many cities had this service, of comparable size.

Mr. Corcoran replied that there were several. He noted that in their packet, there were several communities that Ms. Thompson had contacted that did offer this service.

Mayor Price stated that in his judgment it was just government catching up with business and it was a natural evolution.

A motion was made by Council Member Tuggle seconded by Council Member Gover for approval of the contract. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

(a) Consideration of a Storm Drainage Assistance Grant Program.

The memorandum explained that during the June meeting of Council the City Manager was asked to assemble a special advisory committee to check into the feasibility of drafting a program whereby the City would share in the cost of drainage improvements on private property. The committee, consisting of Chairperson Tammy Amos, Bev O'Dell, Dennis Asbury, Billy Shipwash, Tammie McMichael, Mayor Pro-Tem Myott, Council Member Gover, Council Member Epps, Tom Medlin and Brad Corcoran, met on July 12, 2005 and began discussing the feasibility of a matching grant program.

The Drainage Advisory Committee recommended that the grant program be approved and initiated as soon as possible.

Mayor Price noted that there had been a change and he asked Mr. Corcoran for an overview.

Mr. Corcoran explained that the change was just some language that the City Attorney had recommended that they add under the “purpose” it was basically a revised purpose statement. They basically wanted to just clarify it and make it a little clearer in terms of the purpose of this program.

Mr. Medlin added that he was addressing that they clarify how it was a public service or a service program for the public at large rather than individuals. He was trying to address the public purpose limitation on spending by governments.

Mayor Price asked if it would change the content of the way it was presented to which Mr. Medlin replied no, just strictly the purpose and nothing else.

Council Member Gover thanked Ms. Tammy Amos, of Engineering, for the work that she did on this project.

Mr. Roger Hodge, 625 Fisher Street, came forward and explained that he really did not intend to speak, but he did think that this program should be in effect and basically the reason he thought that was because of the damage that was done to his property was due to run-off water out of a city storm drain and it had affected his property.

A motion was made by Council Member Gover seconded by Council Member Epps for approval. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(a) Approval and adoption of minutes: October 18, 2005.

(b) Approval and adoption of a traffic study and ordinance in reference to improving traffic safety at the intersection of Friendly Road and Roosevelt Street.

A traffic study request was received in reference to improving traffic safety at the intersection of Friendly Road and Roosevelt Street.

This intersection is a curve with two roadways branching off of the curve. The roadway that branches off eastward from the curve currently has a stop sign for traffic approaching the curve westward. The roadway that branches off southward from the curve does not have a stop sign for traffic approaching the curve northward. There was also brush growing up next to the intersection inside the curve, causing a sight obstruction.

Sgt. Shelton and Ms. Tammy Amos of Engineering came to the conclusion that the city repaint the double yellow centerline and an edge line in the curve approximately 100 feet in each direction from center of the curve, installing some centerline reflectors, installing a “25 MPH” warning sign below and on the same post as the “Curve Ahead” sign and removing brush from the side of the roadway. In addition, the Police Department recommended adding a “25 MPH” warning sign underneath the “Curve Ahead” sign and to increase traffic enforcement at this location.

(c) Approval and adoption of budget amendment #6.

<u>Budget Amendment #6</u>	<u>Account#</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Water & Sewer Fund Revenue				
W/S Rural Center Grant – SSES	73-3831-49700	\$ -	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
Water & Sewer Fund Expenditures				
Smith River Sewer	73-8140-24690	\$ 90,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$36,000.00

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Outfall Rehab	334
	<u>\$36,000.00</u>

Grant from the Rural Economic Development Center for the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study.

General Fund
Revenue

Police Miscellaneous Revenue	10-3431-41700	\$ -	\$187.00	\$187.00
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General Fund
Expenditures

Police Training	10-4310-39500	\$6,000.00	\$6,187.00	\$187.00
				<u>\$187.00</u>

Reimbursement from Homeland Security for Police Department Training.

Adopted and effective this 15th day of November, 2005.

Attest:

Kim J. Scott, City Clerk

Philip K. Price, Mayor

(d) Approval and adoption of General Purpose Funding: Senior Center.

The memorandum explained that the allocation this year is \$5,454. The total match the city will be responsible for in fiscal year 2005-06 will be \$1,818 for a total grant of \$7,272. The funds to match this grant will be derived from the Senior Center account in the Parks and Recreation Department budget. The Department's request for these funds includes purchasing computers and a copier for the Garden of Eden Senior Center. The remaining funds will be used to help pay the salary of the temporary employee at this site.

A motion was made by Council Member Tuggle seconded by Council Member Epps for approval of the Consent Agenda Items. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion.

VOUCHERS:

There was no discussion about vouchers.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kim J. Scott
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Philip K. Price,
Mayor