

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Eden, was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 308 E. Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:		John E. Grogan
Mayor Pro Tem:		Wayne Tuggle, Sr.
Council Members:		Donna Turner
		Darryl Carter
		Jerry Epps
		C.H. Gover, Sr.
		Bruce Nooe
		Christine Myott
		Wayne Tuggle, Sr.
City Manager:		Brad Corcoran
City Clerk:		Kim J. Scott
Deputy City Clerk:		Sheralene Thompson
City Attorney:	(Absent)	Tom Medlin

Representatives from News Media:

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Grogan called the special meeting of the Eden City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance.

He stated that the first thing he wanted to do was to thank the City Council Members for coming out to the announcement Monday. He stated for those present he wanted to apologize to them. He stated that it seemed that lately he always comes up about five (5) minutes late and two (2) minutes short, but he wanted to apologize for not recognizing them as Council Members at the announcement. He stated that without them there would not be an announcement. He again apologized and added that hopefully there will be another opportunity, in maybe next year, to have the same type of function and he could assure them that if he was involved that it will not happen again.

Request for additional Financial Assistance from the Eden Rescue Squad.

Mr. Rodney Stewart explained that this would be his first power point presentation. He stated that he had sent a request in to the City Manager and received a letter stating that he would need to come before the Council to answer any questions. He then began the power point.

Eden Rescue Squad, Inc is a United Way Agency. Approximately 92 percent of their operating funds come thru the United Way of Rockingham County. They are located at 106 Maple Street. He stated they were surprised at how many people are not familiar with where they were located, but they have been there since 1970. He stated they were one of three (3) Rescue Squads located in Rockingham County. Reidsville has a Rescue Squad and currently Madison has a Rescue Squad there.

Mr. Stewart explained that the Eden Rescue Squad was established June 27, 1957 as a Tri City Volunteer Rescue Squad and in May of 1990 the Board of Directors decided to change the name of the Rescue Squad from Tri City to Eden (Rescue Squad). He stated it seemed like every training class they went to nobody knew where Tri City was so they went to Eden (Rescue Squad) after the City of Eden.

Mr. Stewart explained that the Eden Rescue Squad covers all of Eden and approximately 1/3 of Rockingham County, which is their total response district. Referring to the Power Point, Mr. Stewart explained that the area shaded in brown was the area of their rescue district. They cover all the way out to the Caswell County line,

North to the Virginia State line, East to the VA State line and half way to Stoneville. The blue (area shown on the Power Point) represented their first responder district which covers all of Eden and approximately 1-2 miles outside of the city limits of Eden. The Response area consists of 124.12 sq miles.

Some of the services that they currently provide or have been providing for some time are medical first responder, or first responder as they call it. They provide the medical first responder calls to all of the City of Eden, and as he mentioned earlier 2-3 miles outside the city limits. The responders that run the calls are certified as medical responders, too as North Carolina Medical Responders or either North Carolina Emergency Medical Technicians. And these individual's primary job is to get on scene prior to EMS arriving on scene to start any type of life saving care that they can give. They respond in the squad vehicles or in their personal vehicles depending on where the call is. In 2005, they were dispatched to 1213 first responder calls (within that blue area that was shown on the Power Point presentation). Another service they provide is vehicle extrication. They are a primary response for the City of Eden and 1/3 of Rockingham County. They are trained and perform large vehicle extrication, passenger vehicle extrication, and they are also trained in school bus extrication. Of this vehicle extrication, they currently have two fully equipped rescue trucks to respond to all vehicle rescues and other rescues.

Mr. Stewart explained that other services they provide is farm extrication or farm machinery rescue. They deal with overturned tractors; they deal with persons caught in combines, hay balers, anything dealing with a farm. Last week, they had an individual that was run over by his tractor, and they responded to that. Another service they provide is high angle rescue and that is removal of victims from high elevations such as roof tops, towers, and water tanks to a ground level where they can be treated and transported by EMS. Mr. Stewart showed a picture of a rescue in August of 2003. They assisted the Madison Rescue when a painter was painting the water tank there and the scaffolding broke on one side. He was stranded 80 feet up in the air until they could get there and get him down. They provided mutual aid to the Madison Rescue Squad to assist them in that. Another picture shown was training at the Rockingham County Emergency Services Training Center through the college. They train approximately 24 hours a year in high angle rescue. Regarding the Service Water Rescue, the Eden Rescue is the primary responders for all water rescues in their 1/3 of the County and the city limits. The pictures shown on the Power Point was an actual training exercise that they did at Pine Hall Brick. They were there on a Saturday and the very next day they had a 17 year old that drowned at that exact spot in the hydraulics of that dam. The craft they were on and training with, there are only 2 of them that he was aware of in the State, and that was what it was made for, to perform rescues around dams. The way it is designed, it will not capsize; it will not sink. He explained that they were training on the Mayo River and the current. They have been asked thru Fire Marshall Emergency Management of Rockingham County if they would consider establishing a countywide water rescue team which would entail multiple agencies which he agreed that we would attempt to do. Once they get this team up and going, this team would also be a type Fema Team thru North Carolina Emergency Management and would be available to respond to any flooding or water rescues within the coastal area or the mountain and everything.

Mr. Stewart stated they also do trench; all three rescue squads purchased a trailer and equipment with funds that were donated by BB&T. Its sole purpose was for trench rescue and structural collapse rescue. That trailer is owned by all 3 rescue squads, but it's currently being housed at Reidsville's Rescue Squad. They also do standby for community events. They provide medical coverage for those events such as the July 4th celebration, National Night Out at Freedom Park and they also cover JV and Varsity Football games Thursdays and Fridays. They assist law enforcement agencies in searching for missing persons whether it is on land or on the water. Two weeks ago at midnight, they were on the Dan River up above Shiloh looking for missing kayakers. They also provide lights for doing license checks or sobriety check points to make it safe for them. Regarding Hazmat incidents, Hazmat is really a Fire Department

operation, but their role in it is that they provide medical support to the Fire Department. They also provide medical support for any hazmat technicians that might be coming in. They are certified at the operation level and we do assist with the de-conning with responders and patients and also have the ability to transport those patients to facilities. Confined space incidents, they train in that regularly. Their role is to provide support to the City's confined space team if they need it. They also will provide that service in 1/3 of their rescue district, back up the county EMS, support the EMS units on multi-patient vehicle accidents and they can transport also. They provide basic life support ambulance when there is only one or no EMS units in the County to respond. Mr. Stewart stated that happened quite a bit. Regarding Public relations, they work with and do demonstrations for boy scouts, the schools, and also churches doing Vacation Bible School.

In recognizing some of the accomplishments that the Eden Rescue Squad has obtained in the last 2-3 years, Mr. Stewart explained that they obtained the Heavy Rescue Provider Certification, High Angle Certification, and Water Rescue – swift water. They also obtained the Water Rescue open and Still Water and the North Carolina Surface Water Rescue Certification, they obtained that one last year. The organization of the Eden Rescue Squad consists of a Board of Directors, Chief Officer, Assistant Chief, and Captain, Lieutenant Rescue, Lieutenant Medical, Lieutenant Training Officer and, of course, the Volunteer Rescue Members, and without the bottom, none of the top matters. Regarding membership, they currently have 21 volunteers rescue which have obtained a variety of the following State Certifications: 15 of the 21 hold the Emergency Medical Technicians or the North Carolina Paramedic Medical Certification that is anywhere from 120 to 160 hours for the EMT paramedic is now over 700 hours as he recalled. 12 of those hold the North Carolina Rescue Technician Certification. At the initial time that they took that class, it was a 246 hour class, 9 of them hold the National Farm Medic Certification 40 hour class, 16 hold North Carolina Hazmat Certification, a 36 hour class, 7 hold the North Carolina Surface Water Rescue Certification which is a 40 hour class, 12 have been through large vehicle extrication, and 1 has completed Large Animal Rescue. This was just a few of the certifications and training that the members of the rescue squad have. With each of these State Certifications, members also have to maintain their continuing education hours and that can run anywhere from 8 – 24 hours a year. Approximately 8-10 years ago, they were able to maintain a membership of around 30-36 members on their roster; however, that's not the case now. In the past several years membership has declined, it was nearly impossible for them to obtain the volunteers that they need to continue the service that they are doing. In the last 17 years the call volume for the rescue squad has more than tripled. In 1988 when he (Stewart) joined the rescue squad, they were dispatched to around 500 calls a year. In the last 4 years they went back and pulled the call volume. In 2002 they were dispatched to 1399 calls, in 2003 they were dispatched to 1524, in 2004 it was 1612, and in 2005 it was 1622. January 1 of this year to present, they were dispatched to 757 calls. This increase in call volume has continued to place a greater demand on their membership which was why he was there (before the Council) today.

Council Member Gover stated he must publicly exclude himself from this because he is the Board of Directors for the rescue squad.

Mr. Stewart explained with the steady increase of call volume, he wanted to hire a rescue member to work at the rescue squad Monday - Friday for approximately 8 hours a day. He was looking at the overall cost being somewhere around 20,000 a year. This person would be required to maintain certifications such as North Carolina Emergency Medical Technician, North Carolina Rescue Technician, North Carolina Emergency Vehicle Operations, Hazmat Operations, and also maintain current CPR Certification. This individual will primarily be responsible to respond to medical calls or rescue calls within the City and their rescue district. During the times when there is only one EMS unit in the County, they would be responsible for responding to medical calls with an ambulance to meet up with other rescue members on the scene or meet up with the EMS Supervisor or in the event neither of the above, then possibly meet up with a

fireman and have them drive them in. They would be responsible to perform routine checks on equipment and trucks daily. They would also be responsible for entering calls into the computer and handling any other paperwork that is needed. Concerning benefits, the biggest benefits of this would be a decrease in response time that it takes to get a citizen medical help, the ability to provide a quicker response to the citizens, a more readily available resource for the City and for the fire department. Mr. Stewart explained that what he meant by that was on structure fires, they would be able to provide medical personnel to stand by at the fire scenes, provide medical monitoring and rehab for the fire personnel, and also they would be able to provide a mobile air supply unit to refill the bottles on scene. All of this in the past three (3) months has been done several times during the Draper Inn fire, the lumber company fire, and the Ridge Avenue fire. Concerning additional funding, currently the United Way funds the rescue squad approximately 92 percent of their operating budget which will not allow for them to hire a person. Around 6 years ago, they were receiving \$43,900 from the United Way. Since then they have only been able to receive around \$35,494 and that was due to the economy, they are not able to get their funds. They have used funds in the past that they have received from the County and the City to cover their operating expense to make sure they see it through the year.

Mr. Stewart stated at this time he was there to ask if the City would consider increasing the funds of \$10,000 that they currently have been receiving for some time to \$20,000 which would also become an annual allocation. If approved, they would look at starting a person at the rescue squad sometime around the end of July or first of August. He then thanked the Council for their time and consideration of this matter.

Mayor Grogan asked Mr. Stewart if the United Way had cut him back from \$43,000 back to \$35,000 to which Mr. Stewart replied yes.

Mayor Grogan stated he thought the United Way had been meeting their goals each year...

Mr. Stewart replied they have dropped their goals that they were obtaining 6 years ago, they have lowered their goal...but it had been about 6 years. They were receiving about \$43,900 now the way they do it is, they (Rescue Squad) receives \$26,994 on one and then they have to apply for what is called Emergency Services Grants which is \$8,500.

Mayor Grogan asked how much the County contributes to which Mr. Stewart replied around \$20,000 annually. They have split it up. They went under an agreement, a signed contract this passed year with that. \$10,000 is to continue to maintain the status that they currently are involved in, the heavy rescue standard and that is for equipment and protective gear. And the other \$10,000 was based on the number of actual standbys they were actually doing at the time when the EMS were all busy or there was only one EMS unit in the County.

Mayor Grogan asked Mr. Stewart if he anticipated asking..., do a third of the County coverage... did he plan to ask the County for some of the money to help fund this position.

Mr. Stewart replied to be honest; his overall goal is to eventually have two (2) people up there. It takes two (2) people to fully man an ambulance to be able to transport a patient. He stated he wanted to start out with the one (1) person. The largest call volume they have right now is within the City and it is the medical respondent calls that they have had. Putting one (1) person up there during the day would be able to answer these calls that they might not have people available to do. He added that once he could get that up and going, then he would go to the County and ask for additional from them to place a second person on.

Council Member Tuggle asked for the bottom line total budget.

Mr. Stewart replied that they receive \$20,000 from the County, \$12,000 from the City, usually \$250 to \$500 from public donations, their annual portrait drive is around \$13,000 to \$14,000...

Council Member Tuggle replied approximately \$80,000 and asked if that sounded correct to which Mr. Stewart replied yes.

Council Member Turner asked when a call goes into 911 where were they in the order of who's responding to what.

Mr. Stewart replied what the 911 center, in the County, started two years ago was the Emergency Medical Dispatching, and they have a protocol that is set out, depending on what the call tells them; they are sitting there asking the questions, it is depending on if they send an ambulance, or a rescue squad, or the fire department, or a first responder agency.

Council Member Turner asked when he said ambulance did he mean EMS to which Mr. Stewart replied, yes.

Council Member Turner asked if they were going to call EMS first, and they were the back up or what.

Mr. Stewart replied, actually that is where they got into the first responder call, the call goes out at the same time but the EMS unit might be coming from Wentworth or the crossroads between here and Reidsville, so depending on the severity of the call or what the caller tells them, whether it is shortness of breath or cardiac, then they are going to automatically dispatch a first responder agency to respond along with that also to try to get on scene to start treating that patient.

Council Member Tuggle stated it is done at the same time to which Mr. Stewart replied, yes.

Council Member Turner asked where the Eden Fire Department comes into that, do we not have first responders with the Eden Fire Department to which Fire Chief Doug Cline replied, no.

Council Member Turner replied and why is that to which Chief Cline explained that they are not dispatched at the same time for motor vehicle accidents; they are not dispatched until a police officer is on the scene unless they give a confirmed pen-in.

Council Member Tuggle asked if there was a plan Reidsville does a certain part of the County, Madison does a certain part, like a third, third, third – the City plus a third of the County...

Mr. Stewart replied, yes and parts of the County, too. Once they get out of the City Limits they have Oregon Hill and Ruffin Fire Department, they have First Responders Programs also. So, Reidsville who covers part of Oregon Hill, they don't run first responder, but any rescue type calls, hunting accidents, or vehicle accident or whatever, a Rescue Squad goes too, so they could have as many as two (2) Fire Departments, and EMS and Rescue going to one (1) particular call.

In response to a question by Council Member Tuggle as to if they have any paid positions, just all volunteers, Mr. Stewart replied, no.

Council Member Tuggle replied they are to be admired for the job they do.

Council Member Myott asked if they ever go to call where the Rescue Squads from maybe all three places are ever on the same accident or scene.

Mr. Stewart replied, it depends on the type call; the water incident he referred to a couple of weeks ago, that call was in the Madison area, but they called them for assistance or mutual aid response to them. For situations like that, they put in up there in the Madison area to come down the river and we put in Shiloh's area to come down the river so they were trying to cut off some time and save some time, but yes, the one truck incident was a wreck that occurred in the Reidsville area a couple years ago, unfortunately there was one fatality, but fortunately they were able to save a 16 year old girl who was completely up underneath the transfer truck. So they had members from the Eden Rescue, Reidsville Rescue and six Fire Departments, DOT, Highway Patrol, and EMS (two of those) so there were quite a few people there...

Council Member Carter asked how would that work here, as far as the City, the same way he has them dispatched, the guy would just go ahead and get in the unit and respond immediately...

Mr. Stewart replied that was his intentions. Actually he cannot put anything in concrete, but a lot of the County Fire Departments who are running or doing the same things that he was asking and wanting to do, their annual call volume is around 400-500 at the most, but what he found out when he goes around visiting those places is that for some reason if there is one person that is there working, that so tends to bring another volunteers or someone to hang around with them, so they have the potential of getting a full truck once it gets there...

Council Member Carter added plus he will still be alerting the volunteers, too, to respond.

Mr. Stewart replied, right...everything would remain the same, the only thing is instead of, for instance, if he was coming from the Price Road area, which it takes him 10 minutes to get to the base, he would already have an individual responding from the base.

Council Member Tuggle stated on these 1600 calls, how many of them would be from the City of Eden as opposed to that 1/3 plus the city.

Mr. Stewart replied he was going to say between 60-75 percent, because the majority they run, it was 1200 medical respondent calls in 2005, and the majority of their response district is the city limits and in some areas such as, Hwy 700 going toward Ruffin, they cover all the way to the end of the bridge as a first respondent, on the other side of the bridge Organ Hill picks it up at the medical respondent. On the northwest part, the Price Road area past Douglas School, the city limits is right there at the bridge, and actually they will cover from there all the way to the Center Meeting Church House Road which is approximately 4-5 miles from that line. So it was hard to say but he felt comfortable saying between 60-70 percent.

Council Member Carter asked Mr. Stewart, on auto accidents, was he putting sufficient personnel on the scene.

Mr. Stewart replied, average, it depends on the time of the day.

Council Member Carter asked if he was having trouble during the day time to which Mr. Stewart replied yes, and the reason they have trouble is, again a lot of their people or all of their people are working, you can hit some days when we can have 4-5 people off during the day to be available to respond and these people are the ones working for the County EMS or working with the communications, City of Eden Police Department, Madison Police Department when their off days fall on the same day, they have a good response with that, but if something happens and all of those individuals are working it's kind of hard.

Council Member Carter asked presently, Chief Cline, is the Fire Department running auto accidents.

Chief Cline replied that they do not run until they are actually dispatched by the Police Department. Generally, law enforcement officers are on the scene, and generally, they (Fire) are requested in. One of the problems that Mr. Stewart also has is a little bit of a delay, anything in the city comes into the 911 Center and then it has to be transferred to the County and that also creates a little bit of a delay. That is when they get dispatched, after law enforcement is on the scene, and they make the determination whether or not they (Fire) are needed.

Council Member Carter asked Mr. Stewart if this position was to come about and the Fire Department is also there, is this something they could assist him, also. They are primary for fire suppression and hazmat...you definitely have your man there and some other people come; if you need help, would you ask them to help you, too?

Mr. Stewart replied, he had in the past, he currently runs within their district, 6 Fire Departments, he added he did not have a problem.

Council Member Carter replied he had a top notch organization.

Chief Cline replied he would speak on Mr. Stewart's behalf; they were the only Fire Department in the County that did not get a simultaneous dispatch EMS unit to a structure fire. They are the only agency that did not do that, they have to request it.

Chief Cline added that one of the things that he had requested with dispatch through operating guidelines is simultaneous dispatch to any significant instance which includes an explosion, a downed aircraft, or anything that will fit into their scope of practice plus working structure fires. One of the things they did provide an integral piece on the Draper Inn Fire was medical for their personnel and they actually put a large number of personnel on that scene which was above a half a century mark of personnel. Their operation was phenomenal taking care of our people so a collaborative effort, Chief Cline added they have equipment that they can use in certain parts of their operation, and they definitely have equipment that we have. Their cascading will only fill their bottles half way, but they have the ability to pick up our cascade system which has occurred before. In fact, Mr. Stewart has actually picked it up for them so a collaborative effort in that fashion between two agencies is the optimal component in how they deliver service to the community at the best possible level.

Council Member Epps asked who they would talk to about doing that, now that they are waiting for a police officer to call, how would that protocol be changed.

Chief Cline replied under General Statutes for the state under the Fire Protection Law and under the City's Emergency Operation Plan the Fire Department is the ultimate person to be dispatched to hazardous material incidents. If they have antifreeze or oil on the roadway, it is actually our obligation to come and mitigate that hazard under State law. What should occur is exactly what is occurring in the County, there is a simultaneous dispatch of all agencies. There should not be a delay with law enforcement trying to determine what the need is, there has been an incident on highway 14 South, probably approaching 10 years ago, where there was a fire in a motor a vehicle that had a crash that had a delay in fire response which ended up in a fatality. Simultaneous dispatch is a normal standard across the United States and is recognized by the National Fire Protection Standards and EMS standards.

Council Member Epps asked who would have to do something to make that work.

Chief Cline replied part of it would be an operational procedure that would occur in the dispatch center in training the dispatchers to actually do that and to actually be able to get information transferred quicker, any type of delay that they have creates time lapse they do not need...

Council Member Carter, stated, so if its outside the city, it has to be switched over the C-Com, (the City) has to switch it over...

Council Member Epps stated, rescue would have no problem with that, you (Stewart) would have no problem with that, if it were made simultaneous.

Mr. Stewart replied, no as his communications comes through the Rockingham County 911 Center.

Council Member Epps, replied then they might need to look into that.

Chief Cline explained that the biggest thing is they provide them with a lot of benefits and equipment that the city fire department does not have; they have the ability to do some things to provide the city with equipment that can be used. The City also has that same capability, but their high angle rescue with 100ft platform, a lot of times they may not have to hang off of a rope, and collaborative efforts in training have already occurred with that piece of equipment and in the extrication area, in fact this gentleman sitting here was one of the ones conducting the training for us as we worked jointly together.

Mayor Grogan replied that was what he was excited to hear, that you are working together because the last thing the City of Eden, the people up here are interested in providing the quickest, safest service to the public. Eden has no business in the rescue squad business, he added Eden was fortunate to have them do the service that they have been doing since 1957, and correct him if he was wrong, but as the Chief of the Rescue Squad and the Fire Chief are communicating with each other and feel good about what they are doing as far as providing service to the City of Eden.

Mr. Stewart replied that was correct.

Chief Cline added he thought part of it comes back to him and part of what he wrote in recognizing the deficiencies that they have, adding they had the same deficiencies several years ago when the Council put all of the part time people during the day; Council Member Carter was an integral part of getting that program together. Volunteerism in the United States is a dying breed. They have the same issues, part of the problem that they have is that he recognized the need and stated the need very bluntly, when we get these delinquencies in time it only hurts the people that are out there, he added that his wording was probably not the greatest, but he explained that he was one of those people that state what is on his mind and he put it out there; the biggest thing they need to look at in this is what they have to offer and what we have to offer together is almost a complete package. It is not the best package it could possibly be because of the limits on certain things, like ability to respond higher trained personnel. Mr. Stewart actually shorted himself on his paramedics as it was little over 1000 hours now to becoming a paramedic. He stated one of the things in his background was being on a FEMA USE-R Team. So he understands rescue components as well. He is also a paramedic and maintains that certification... He added they could do more but they are limited on what you have to actually work with. He stated if they had 50 people in the Fire Department or 60 people and 30 people in the rescue squad, it would be a lot better.

Mayor Grogan suggested moving on and not involving too many people as they would have so many people on payroll that they would have to close the city down. He stated he guessed receiving the dispatch time at the same time and you guys are good with that and you feel good about cooperating... adding as he understand it once they get there everybody leaves anyway.

Mr. Stewart replied, pretty much.

Mayor Grogan added but if somebody can get there and get somebody prepared for you for when you do get there, it's a win, win situation. He then asked if Mr. Cline and Mr. Stewart would like to shake hands on that....

Chief Cline stated he thought they have worked a lot of things in a year's time; and he added that he thought things are really moving forward.

Mayor Grogan asked Mr. Stewart if this was something he felt comfortable that he could take back to his board and that his board would support this to which Mr. Stewart replied he thought so. He added it was nothing different for them because they work with so many different agencies anyway.

Mayor Grogan stated the question on the table was the \$10,000 for this year. In talking with the City Manager prior to the meeting, if it is the Council's wish to do this, this year that they give the City Manager permission to pay it out of this year's budget because next years budget is already set. He then called for a motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps seconded by Council Member Tuggle for approval with a stipulation that they are going to get this communication problem solved, too. Council Member Epps added if that gets done, he is 100 percent for it.

Council Member Tuggle added that he thought Eden is getting a great deal with this. In looking at the budget and it is \$80,000 and we are getting 60-70 percent of the calls, he thought it was a great deal on our part. He also added all of the guys that are volunteers that spend their time preparing themselves, and all the resources going in it, he had admiration for all of them.

Council Member Myott asked if they have to pay for their own training.

Mr. Stewart replied that they run it through the college. Most of the training, the college does it for free, they get FTE's back in...Federal, to come back in to pay for that, specific type training such as the trench rescue, the supplies that they needed for that they did pay for that, the timbers and the nails and stuff, he recalled that being a little over \$300-\$400 (out of the budget).

Mayor Grogan stated his this request, it is about a continuing thing, if this was approved today which he added that he thought it would be, he asked him to make his request next year and get it to the City by March 1st.

Mayor Grogan noted that a motion was on the floor to pay the \$10,000 to come out of this year's budget.

Action on the motion: All Council Members, with the exception of Council Member Gover who abstained, voted in favor of this motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Grogan stated he wanted to congratulate him as he thought he made one fantastic presentation. He also thanked him for what they do for Eden and the County.

Mr. Stewart thanked the Mayor and Council for their support over the years.

Council Member Tuggle stated it was awfully nice of them to come forward before them as it really educates us and gives a good idea of who they are and what they are doing, and how much resources are going... and it made him feel a whole lot better about putting any type money into any type organization, if they take the time to put into it what he did. Member Tuggle stated he thought he did a great job too....

Update – Comprehensive Sewer Improvements Project:

Mayor Grogan called on Mr. Dennis Asbury, Public Utilities Director, for an update on the sewer improvements project.

Mr. Asbury stated the Council should have in front of them a memo with four maps attached operating under the premise that four pictures are worth 4000 words. He stated he hoped they were self explanatory. The color coding was fairly simple, the red is portions of the project that are complete, brown is in-progress, yellow is scheduled. When they say complete what they are talking about is satisfying the needs of the State as far as they have the sewer line in the ground, it is replaced, it is not leaking any more, that does not necessarily mean they have planted all the grass they need to plant or all the trees they cut down, or whatever happened on property they crossed. He asked them not to get fooled by that term, complete is not necessarily complete satisfaction of the people that they went on their property. He called attention to their being more red than anything else. He stated they are ahead of schedule and they anticipate finishing this project up some time in October, probably about 5-6 weeks ahead of schedule, the next part of the project will be monitoring flows in these lines. They monitored the flows before they started the work and they will do that again, see where they are headed with that. He added they may recall that when the State came to them originally, their recommendation was that we upgrade the pump stations because they wanted an immediate solution to the I & I, overflow problems at Meadow Greens Pump Stations and others. And, the Water and Sewer Committee said they did not think that was a real good idea and indeed it not good practice to go at it in that way, sort of the cart before the horse. So, based on the Water & Sewer Committee's recommendations, they talked to the State and they agreed. So, they have gone at it in the way of actually repairing the leaks first, and now the next section is to determine how much flow is actually in those lines now that they have the I&I out, and to design the pump station improvements will be the next part of the project. So, things are looking good.

Council Member Tuggle questioned one of the hand outs, regarding Panther Lane, he noticed the lines it was really not only where the old lines were, he asked if there were lines in a different place than where the old lines were.

Mr. Asbury replied, yes and stated what happened was when they first started the project and school was out, they got those new lines in and now that school is out, they will be going back to connect and demolish some of that old line. He mentioned he may be aware that some of that line was put in underneath the cafeteria so they are trying to get out from under there.

Mr. Asbury added that the contractor and the engineer have done really well with that.

Council Member Gover asked, on Georgia Avenue and Knott Street, when was that scheduled to go in.

Mr. Asbury called their attention to the next page, they have two sections there on the east and west side of the Dan River that are under construction now, they are in progress. As soon as those are finished, they will move back to this section that he was referring to and he would estimate some time in late July or August.

Council Member Gover stated he had been asked about that and wanted to clarify...

Council Member Nooe asked if they had seen a reduction in bypass or anything already or was it too early to tell.

Mr. Asbury replied they have seen quite a bit of difference especially with the flash rains. They are not seeing nearly the problem they had before. They had also noticed a decrease in ex-filtration. They had actually dried up a few little tributaries by putting in the line and keeping sewer off the ground and out of the creeks.

Council Member Gover added that they did a great job on public relations, he responded real well on the complaint he had...

Mr. Asbury replied that they have felt very fortunate throughout the project, there are always problems, but this had gone better than expected.

COMMENT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER:

Council Member Turner congratulated Mr. Johnny Farmer, Recreation Director, on getting the 2007 Dixie Youth Tournament and the grants. She noted she was really excited about that.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kim J. Scott
City Clerk

ATTEST:

John E. Grogan
Mayor