

CITY OF EDEN, N. C.

A special (retreat) meeting of the City Council, City of Eden was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., in the Eden Room, Eden City Hall, 308 East Stadium Drive. Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor:	Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr.
Mayor Pro Tem:	James Burnette
Council Members:	Bernie Moore
	Angela Hampton
	Darryl Carter
	Jerry Epps
	Neville Hall
	Jerry Ellis
City Manager:	Brad Corcoran
City Clerk:	Sheralene Thompson
Deputy City Clerk:	Deanna Hunt
City Attorney:	Erin Gilley
Department, Division Heads and Staff:	
News Media:	

MEETING CONVENED:

Mayor Tuggle called the special meeting of the City Council to order and welcomed those in attendance. He then introduced City Manager, Brad Corcoran.

Consideration of Recommendations Concerning Audit Services Contract for the FY 2016-17 Audit. *(Brad Corcoran, City Manager and Tammie McMichael, Director of Finance & Personnel)*

Ms. Tammie McMichael, Director of Finance, explained that the Council had before them the 2015-2016 audit contract to compare what they paid last year. She also wanted to comment that the decrease is primarily due to Ms. Amy Winn, (Assistant Finance Director) actually writing the audit. It was the staff's recommendation that the contract for FY2016-17 be awarded to Rouse, Rouse, Penn & Rouse.

A motion was made by Council Member Epps seconded by Council Member Ellis to award the contract for the FY2016-17 audit to Rouse, Rouse, Penn & Rouse. All Council Members voted in favor of this motion. This motion carried.

Review of City Council Priorities for FY 2016-17 & Budget/Planning Retreat Materials
(Brad Corcoran, City Manager)

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Mr. Corcoran explained that each of the priorities that were listed by the City Council as well as some members of the staff would be brought up one by one. They would have the opportunity to make any points and bring up any type of discussion on those matters. If it was something that involved the expenditure of funds then that would be their opportunity to try to convince them why money should be spent on those items.

He explained that after they review the whole list they would then move into a prioritization and they would try to rank the top 10 priorities moving into next year.

Discussion & Consideration of the Following Possible Priorities for FY 2016-17. (*Brad Corcoran, City Manager*)

1. Economic Development Issues

Mr. Corcoran stated that during their January City Council Meeting, Mr. Dougherty made a very comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the city's economic development efforts. He gave each of them an update on what he has been doing in some of the areas that he was working on.

He then opened the meeting to those members of the City Council who listed this as a priority or to any of the other members of Council to bring up anything they may have on their mind in terms of Economic Development.

Council Member Ellis stated that they needed to make sure that people coming to this area knew that they had many opportunities and they had a lot of water and the quality of water was one of the most important things and that Miller Brewing had received awards in the past because of the water quality.

He also stressed the importance of communication and to continue to find ways to communicate and also by using social media by involving their area churches, merchants, and civic groups. He stated that there was a lot of social media out there and there were ways to get information out there.

He also thought that it was important to let people know about the upcoming Connect NC Bond issue and that it would be really good for their city.

Mr. Corcoran asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Mike Dougherty, Director of Business & Economic Development, stated that Council Member Carter had mentioned Certified Retirement Communities. He just wanted to provide some background on that. Mayor Grogan had asked them to pursue that designation. He explained that there were about 15 communities in North Carolina who have this designation, including Reidsville who had just been designated.

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He explained that he worked only according to what the City Manager or City Council wanted him to do. If there was a problem with being a Certified Retirement Community then they could back off designation if they felt that it was causing issues.

Council Member Carter explained that in years past they thought that people from the north would come south and retire. Now, they need industry bad and if you have an industry looking to move somewhere, would they want to be labeled a retirement community. He questioned what the industries would think and would they be able to supply the younger workers or was everybody in the community in the fifties to eighties range. He just did not want to send the wrong message to an industry who may be looking to move here that Eden could not provide sufficient personnel. He questioned if they were shooting themselves in the foot.

Ms. Kelly Stultz commented that when they first talked about this she would admit that she was skeptical about it but one of the things that they have learned was that the quality of life issues were the same. There were a lot of things that they could do to make themselves more attractive and she heard some of the same things he did.

Council Member Carter stated that he understood that and she hit on something right there that was the problem. They need the quality of life things for their citizens here but they have to have the money from the industries to replace the people who were not working to supply that money to have that quality of life. He added that he was open for ideas.

Mayor Tuggle questioned why they could not do both. He stated that he thought it would be a great thing to be able to get out there and say they were a Certified Retirement Community and they were doing this and this and they were taking care of the elderly and if somebody calls and you talk about the workforce then maybe they need to emphasize that side of it more too but he thought the Certified Retirement Community has been a good thing.

Council Member Carter stated that he had listed this for a couple of years but he firmly believed that you have to get out and knock on doors, get on a plane or a train. He suggested that they put a packet together showing what Eden had to offer and what great citizens they had.

Mr. Dougherty explained that it would be easy for him to do that from a commercial perspective because he knew where they were. He pointed out that when companies look to relocate it was a very sophisticated process. He explained that as an example, when Loparex wanted to expand they came to him in 2009 and in 2012 they expanded in Eden and closed in Alabama. Last year he was told that Karastan would either keep the Eden facility open or close it. He explained that once they were told they were pretty aggressive and were on the phone with those people. There was no say to incentives because the General Assembly at that time could not get along with each other but he immediately contacted Senator Phil Berger's office and they held an emergency meeting and saved that plant adding jobs with more coming. He explained that currently they were working with a company out of Montreal Canada along with 200 other companies and they were a large water user.

He stated that he wished he could get on a plane and fly to Con Agra headquarters and sit in the lobby but nobody was going to talk to him. He explained that it was not done that way but this

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was a sophisticated process where they would be able to identify companies that have indicated they want to expand in the southeast and specifically North Carolina.

He was right, he was not on a plane every week because he would be wasting a lot of the city's money but they were doing everything they could in the proper channels to do that. It was frustrating but they were trying to do everything they can to identify water users but they want to do it in a way that makes sense.

Council Member Carter replied that he understood that and thought he did an excellent job. He agreed that if he went up there and sat in a lobby they were not going to see him, but he was sure if they were interested in our area, if he went through the proper channels and made an appointment they would see him.

Council Member Burnette agreed that he was right, he thought they needed to do something different and if they listened to what they had heard earlier this week about economic development, they were looking at GIS, everything on the internet, their web page, and those type things. That was what they have to do different. Then once they get a lead, Mr. Dougherty could go, but until then, they have to put something out there that says, here we are, here is what we can offer and make it as attractive as possible.

Council Member Carter agreed and he stated that he thought that was one of the other points he had made about putting a packet together.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he would tell them that at that meeting and then a strategic planning meeting at the county, 70% of companies that were looking to locate somewhere were looking for a building. He explained that there were 6 buildings in this county that have 24' ceilings. In Eden they have parts of 3 buildings on the market. Those included part of the HanesBrand building, 80,000' of Pete Osborne's building, and what was left of MGM, but none of those buildings have the ceiling heights that they need. They do have good sites such as the 2 Duke Energy sites and the Buist site but if you look at this objectively their best opportunity was with Virginia, whether that was by selling water and they have also included Eden as part of marketing the 400,000 workforce in this area. So really other than the certified site they have in the Eden Industrial Center, there was not a whole lot to sell. He pointed out that their future was really tied to Virginia as much as it was to anything else.

Council Member Epps stated that he was sure that he did the demographics on the different aspects that they do have such as age groups and things of that nature so they would know that Eden was not all just a bunch of old folks.

Mr. Dougherty replied yes and Virginia was marketing 400,000 potential workers within driving distance to the Mega Park which was right outside the city so people were certainly aware of that and the Goodwill Resource Center was working and training.

Council Member Ellis commented that one of the positive things about their town was that they have a high quality of manufacturing here. He pointed out Karastan, Gildan, and Miller and if you were a company you see the stronghold that these people have. He stated that they had to be

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patient and invest in the Mega Park in Virginia. He also pointed out that Eden was in a sweet location four hours from the beach and two hours from the mountains. The important fact was that if people want to come here and retire then that was great. If they want to come back here and live and a lot of people commute back and forth now to have jobs then it was important for them as a group here to understand that.

Council Member Hampton stated that she felt that he was doing a very good job and people do not know all the aspects. She explained that they all have visions about things. They had a diversified group right there and all of them have different qualities of life. She was the only minority in the room, so she could speak for minorities. When they look around, everybody thinks differently. They need to take those ideas that people throw out there and she liked reading it and seeing how people were thinking because they would not have known if this information had not come out.

They need to take that into consideration as a retirement community. She explained that she was a grandma and when her granddaughter was small, they took her out of town to amusement parks. If they could do something as a retirement community for people who have young (grand) children. As an example, children love merry-go-rounds, they love little stuff, just anything to entice them and it was something that none of their neighboring cities had.

She stated that they would not believe the comments that she had heard about the Kaboom Park that was built. She explained that the black communities were livid because it was put up there in Spray rather than put where children actually go and play. They asked why it was not put on Bridge Street or Draper (Mill Avenue) or Freedom Park where there were kids playing all the time. She stated that you saw no one at Spray so why was it. She questioned if it was because people did not want it torn up because black kids would be playing on it. She explained that those were the comments she got and they may not have heard those comments.

That was what she was saying, they do not look at the whole thing. She thought it was great when she was up there working that Saturday. She thought it was so great because she could take her grandchild up there and then people come and tell you things and you look at it a different way. She had thought the Kaboom Park was just wonderful and then people came and started bringing her that idea. She questioned why they did not put it at Bridge Street where there were children there all the time. She questioned why it did not go to Bridge Street or down in Draper where there were kids all the time, low income that could not get on the Skat bus and go by themselves because their mama or daddy would not take them. This was what they need to look at, everybody's way of living.

She also stated that she worked at the homeless shelter and there were vacant buildings around here. She wanted to bring that out at some point in time, to see if the Council would allow them to get a permanent homeless shelter. She went over to The Boulevard looking around. There were buildings on The Boulevard that would be wonderful. It was so hard for them those months.

She appreciated that the Fire Department allowed them to be in the bottom of the building for the homeless shelter but there were seven ladies, and there were actually three of them that build it up and take it down. Those carts were heavy. They wipe them down, wrap them up and store

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them in a storage building and then they take them out. That was a whole lot of work. If they just had a building they could store them in so they would not have to move them, or somewhere permanent. Maybe if they had a permanent building somewhere they could keep their supplies and still keep the four months that they run it that would be better than having to put those carts up and down and wiping stuff down. That was a lot of work for three women.

Mayor Tuggle reminded everyone that they had 30 items to do so they need to finish up on this item.

Council Member Hampton stated that she also appreciated the city's police department too because they have made Eden a pretty safe place to live and that should draw people.

Mr. Corcoran asked if there were any other comments or discussion about economic development.

Mayor Tuggle pointed out that for the most part industries choose us, we do not choose them and Ruger was a perfect example of that. Garner Economics said that the top five things were highway accessibility and Eden was certainly at a deficit with highway accessibility, number two was occupancy or construction costs, and as Mr. Dougherty mentioned, the availability of land, buildings and skilled labor. He thought they emphasized over and over how important it was that they had to be ready whenever the industry decided to choose them.

Mr. Dougherty stated that 30% of companies use site consultants while 70% do not. He explained that what they looked at was websites and what people were talking about. They were looking at people who visit your community and letters to the editor. He explained that Mr. Jay Garner with Garner Economics was a site consultant, and essentially they were in the site elimination business. They try to narrow it down with the best location for their people. It was a very sophisticated process and highway accessibility was the number one criteria.

2. Sidewalks & Connectivity Issues.

Mr. Corcoran stated that the next item was sidewalks and connectivity issues. He noted that one of the suggestions was a sidewalk from Fieldcrest Road to Freedom Park. He explained that the cost estimate from Edgewood to New to Fieldcrest and tying in with the existing sidewalks was \$718,264. Another sidewalk listed was from Mill Avenue Rec Center to High Street at \$13,395. There was another suggestion of a sidewalk on Stadium Drive to Pierce Street all the way to Edgewood Road to Freedom Park. They broke that down in two ways. First, if you wanted to look at constructing a sidewalk from Pierce Street to Country Club Drive where you would tie it in to the existing walking trail at Freedom Park, that cost would be \$261,046. If you wanted to go from Pierce Street all the way up to Edgewood Road and tie into the entrance at Freedom Park that cost estimate would be \$740,900. He then opened up the floor for discussion.

Council Member Burnette stated that he was interested in Pierce Street to Edgewood with an entrance on Stadium. That was just one that he had heard. He did think connectivity was very important. He added that he was not saying that that particular one needs to be the one. He thought there were some other suggestions in there and if they were the ones then that was what

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they should look at, whichever one was used the most. He thought what they want was something that was going to be used and something that would have payback, in terms of safety and usability. The ones that were larger, he understood that they may not be able to do them in one year but he did think connectivity was very important to this city.

Council Member Moore stated that he was the one that put Mill Avenue. He explained that the kids from Draper school, they can walk across the ballpark over to the rec but when they head home, they were in the middle of the street going down Mill Avenue.

Mayor Tuggle agreed that was a safety problem as he had seen it firsthand when he was the principal at Draper.

Council Member Moore stated that this would just give them a way to be safer, to keep them from walking down the road or on the edge of the road. That was his concern, the safety of the kids because there were a lot of kids that walk.

Mayor Tuggle stated that he knew they have tried to phase things in over the years. He added that it was prohibitive to do too much at one time. He stated that he would like to see them sit down and maybe have an ad hoc committee just on sidewalks to try and prioritize and do them over a five-year period because obviously being a principal in school, he was always concerned about safety. He suggested that they look at their priorities and if it needs to be done in a neighborhood to make sure it was safe for children, do it.

He also agreed with the connectivity issues and he thought they were important too. He stated that he wished they could at least sit down and try to phase this in over a five or six year period, and stick to it and put money aside and make sure they were getting things done. He stated that he had been on the Council for 12 years and he had seen them fall behind in streets and dilapidated buildings. They put all these things in place and they just do not follow through with them.

He suggested they maybe do an ad hoc committee, and he could appoint one, with council members and staff members, and try to come up with priorities and actually start doing some of these things. He stated that one thing they can do is sidewalks and the citizens see that you were doing something. You can do all the infrastructure in the world and spend millions of dollars and nobody has any idea that you did that. At least you can see sidewalks, and people walking, and you were concerned about the safety of the citizens. Also, for connectivity with the city, bringing Draper closer to Freedom Park, he expected that they would see a lot of people from Draper walking toward Freedom Park or vice versa, and it would be safe for the kids.

Council Member Epps commented that he had noticed Kings Highway and C Street had not been done and they had passed that a good while back. When they did do some work there on Kings Highway, it was really noticeable. A lot of people have really enjoyed that. He suggested that they work on Mill Avenue now. It was the least expensive one and they could try to see how they could get funds for the others. He had noticed that during the storms a lot of the sidewalks, curbs and gutters get torn up pretty bad so they have a lot of repair, unless it belonged to the state.

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Mayor Tuggle pointed out that the sidewalk that goes from Morehead High School to the library, it gets used all the time. He asked them to imagine how many kids used to walk from the school to the library or where the shopping areas are that used to walk on the street. He lived on that street and of course he has had people to say that the only reason they got that was because he lived there. For safety, he stressed that they needed to continue with the sidewalk process.

Council Member Ellis noted that the pool in the summer brings in a lot of children from the area and there was nowhere to walk.

Mayor Tuggle asked if they would want the City Manager to put the money aside and try to prioritize where they need the sidewalks and at least get the process started. He suggested that they sit down and set some priorities and get some stuff done. They could see what money they have and do as much as they can this year.

Council Member Epps agreed that they did not have to do the whole sidewalk this year, they can do portions.

In response to Council Member Ellis' comment about not doing all of the sidewalk at once, Mayor Tuggle explained no, in general you cannot do some of the big things at one time, but you can get part of it done this year and connect it next year maybe.

Ms. Tammy Amos, Engineering Projects Manager, commented that she had helped the Street Superintendent with those estimates. The Mill Avenue sidewalk was fairly easy because it was on a city maintained street, it was the city's right of way and it can be done in-house. What they have to think about with the other estimates, those were state roads. She explained that there were certain requirements and regulations they have to follow. There were also a lot of obstacles they will have to overcome even to do what was written up. The section from Fieldcrest back to Freedom Park, they would have to cross a railroad track. She explained that you have to have a pedestrian bridge in order to do that, unless they will agree to let them use that tall narrow walkway on the bridge on Stadium Drive.

Mayor Tuggle asked Ms. Amos what the easiest one to do right now was to which she replied the one on Mill Avenue. Mayor Tuggle suggested that they put it in the budget and do it. Then they could take a look at the others. He asked what they all thought.

Ms. Amos added that they have had several requests from the senior citizens at Hidden Valley Apartments to connect that short 200 feet from the apartments down to East Harris because those people walk to Walmart and they have had some falls in that grass. She had spoken with the Street Superintendent about that as well and they had agreed that the Street Division was going to take care of that one.

Ms. Kelly Stultz, Planning & Inspections Director commented that both the greenway master plan and the sidewalk plan have suggestions of segments they can do to promote connectivity and they could start with those.

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Mayor Tuggle asked if they all wanted to start with these two.

Mr. Corcoran asked them to keep in mind that they were getting ready to discuss 30 items. At the end was when they were going to prioritize these items. The Council would pick the 10 items that they want to focus on. They may want to hear them all before deciding exactly which ones they will choose. He added that just because an item was a big ticket item did not mean it should never be done. If they adopt that type of philosophy, nothing will ever get done. The greenway would have never been done if they had that philosophy. The decision was made that even though it was a lot of money, they would borrow the money because the Council felt it was needed. He stated that if they believe as members of Council that one or two of these big ticket items should be done, they should vote for them when it was time to prioritize these, and then they can worry about how to pay for them.

Mayor Tuggle also pointed out that Freedom Park would have never been done with that philosophy. He remembered how much conflict there was over trying to get Freedom Park and what a jewel it is to the community.

Mr. Corcoran explained that once they get done discussing all of these items, then they would have the opportunity to rank them and see where it was at. They could certainly, for a long-term thing if that was what they want, have the mayor create an ad hoc committee to look at the longer term projects. That did not mean that they could not do something this year. Again, that was the thing to remember, for the people that have listed things here, it was their opportunity whether it was a Council Member or member of staff, to sell their desire to the other members of Council. The cost of doing one thing was the cost of not doing something else. It was just like a household budget, there was a limited amount of money and you can only spend it on so many things.

Council Member Moore questioned the sidewalk on Kings Highway and if grant money was used for that.

Ms. Stultz replied that was done with stimulus money and they were able to get all of that except for 30' on either side of the bridge. She explained that it was a state owned bridge and the walkway there was narrow. She added that the stimulus money was now unavailable. She stated that either way, if they were allowed to cross there on Stadium, across the railroad, they would have to pay for one section to the other.

3. EPA Administrative Order & Other Water/Sewer Infrastructure Needs.

Mr. Corcoran explained that first of all as far as the EPA Administrative Order, as each of them were aware they initially submitted their remediation plan at the end of June as was required. As a result of the MillerCoors announcement in early September they then asked for permission to resubmit their remediation plan specifically the financial data information because obviously the loss of that industry severely impacted their revenue estimates moving forward. The EPA gave them that ability and they resubmitted the remediation plan in October. Since that submittal they have been contacted most recently by the EPA with follow-up questions to their remediation plan submittal.

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So, they were still in a holding pattern in terms of awaiting a response from the EPA on what they have submitted. As a reminder, they submitted an outline for a 20 year implementation period, even though the law stipulates a five year implementation period. So, they were waiting to hear back from the EPA and once they hear back they will proceed.

Second as a reminder about the NC Connect bond issue. He explained that \$309.5 million of that was specifically for water and sewer. There was \$100 million in grants and that was money that never has to be paid back. That was \$50 million for sewer and \$50 million for water. If you read the requirements to be eligible for the money, on the sewer side you have to meet 2 criteria. First you have to be under an Administrative Order by the EPA or a Consent Decree. The Consent Decree was important because a lot of times the EPA may come back and they may say they were not going to give them 20 years but they were not going to make the 5 years either, but they would give them 10 or 12 years and move them under a Consent Decree. That carries all sorts of additional enforcement ability for them, penalties on Eden if they did not comply. Either way if you are under Consent Decree or an EPA Administrative Order you have to be under that to be eligible for the grant. In the entire state of North Carolina right now there are only 3 communities under an EPA Administrative Order. If you keep reading it says of that \$50 million the most any one community was allowed to get was one third. There were three in the state and legislation says you can have one third. If you take 50 and divide it by 3 that comes up to \$16.67 million.

The second requirement which is fairly easy is that you meet all the state regulations so Eden is in a very good position to be the recipient of over \$16 million towards our EPA Administrative Order that will never have to be paid back, if that bond is passed. Then the remaining sewer money, over \$100 million, was in the form of low interest loans. He was not saying they knew for sure they would want to pursue those loans because they have been very successful in getting a variety of loans at 0% interest. Obviously, if they could get a loan at 0% interest they would prefer that. The ones through Connect bond will not be 0% but they will be low interest. But, again if you read the criteria it says that first for those communities under an EPA Administrative Order or Consent Decree who still have a need after receiving grant funds shall be the first entities eligible for the loan funds and it says that the maximum loan that any one community can get is \$15 million. That was why he had said at the last Council Meeting that the total potential for Eden and its EPA Administrative Order was \$31.67 million dollars. That was over 10% of all the Water & Sewer money in the bond package. So, the bond package was not going to be made one way or the other by what Rockingham County does but it surely would be embarrassing for Rockingham County or even more important for Eden to vote this down. A lot of people do not come out and vote in these primaries. They need to encourage their friends and family to come out and vote because it was very important. It would make a huge difference in the future of their community if this thing passes so he wanted to make sure everyone understood what was at stake.

Council Member Carter stated that it might be good to advertise or do a town hall type meeting.

Mr. Corcoran explained that one of the things they were getting ready to do was the mayor and the president of RCC were getting ready to do an interview on Star News as well as the RCC channel. It will be rebroadcast several times. Mr. Dougherty has also prepared an article to run

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on the front page of Eden's Own Journal. They were also running some ads and they also know that the Governor and the State was about to unleash millions of dollars of tv commercials that will start running in early March as well. He stated that he thought they would see more and more publicity as they get closer to it but they would be happy to do whatever they thought would help.

Mayor Tuggle added that just this week he went to the Rockingham County Realtor's Association to give a presentation. He stated that he was trying to get out to different groups and tell them how important it was.

Council Member Carter stated that he was glad he was doing that because a tax increase was what a lot of people thought.

Council Member Hampton stated that she went to the African American Caucus on Thursday night and passed out flyers and it was very well received.

Mayor Tuggle stated that certainly if it was in the ETJ and any part of the county that was getting water and sewer from the City of Eden it would probably behoove them to vote for this to not have to increase rates. All they would be doing was helping themselves.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he had a copy of the ad and copies of the Eden's Own Journal he could get to her.

Mayor Tuggle also stated that he could get her a summary for all of that that she could have to which Council Member Hampton replied that she would get with them.

Council Member Burnette asked if they had received any questions from the EPA indicating when they could expect a response.

Mr. Terry Shelton, Director of Public Utilities, stated that in his discussions two weeks ago with Ms. Lori Jones who handles the city's case, he had asked that question. He had made a request for more information and he was told that they run this whole process up through multiple committees and that was how they evaluate them and decide how they were going to proceed. She referred to it as multiple committees and right now it was still in the first committee as far as he could tell. Her comment to him was it would be no less than a month out from that point but probably more in the two month range which at that time would have put it Somewhere around April 1.

Council Member Burnette asked if there were any surprises or questions they were asking.

Mr. Shelton explained that most of the questions they were asking were things in that submittal they had made. He explained that this week they had asked how they pick 5% for long term debt service. He explained that was not really in there it was 5% that was applied to their cost of things going up year to year, but 2.5 was used for the debt service and all of that was in the submittal and Mr. Mark Fisher (W.K. Dickson) had helped him with it.

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Council Member Burnette asked if the final came from Washington.

Mr. Shelton replied that as far as he knew it would be out of Region 4 and the last phase would be when it would go to their lawyers but everything that they have said so far leads him to believe that it will be in the form of a Consent Decree. He explained that they keep reiterating that Administrative Orders only run for 5 years generally speaking and from 2012 when the City of Eden's was issued it would reach that 5 year mark January 1st of 2017 so he was fully expecting it to be a Consent Decree. He explained that the biggest difference between an Administrative Order and a Consent Decree was that the Consent Decree has built in penalties, fines, whatever you want to call it when you do not meet deadlines or you continue to have problems with what they cited you for to start with then basically there was a set penalty for those and you mail in a check when you do not hit those things.

He noted that currently Wilmington has received a Consent Decree and the first notable thing in it was right out of the gate when they received it they had to pay \$325,000 when it was issued as a penalty starting off. There were other schedules for penalties and such imbedded in the document when deadlines or requirements were not met. He thought that the good news was that if the money that the City Manager was talking about in the bonds could be applied toward those penalties.

Mr. Corcoran asked if there was anything else about the EPA Administrative Order or other water/sewer infrastructure.

Council Member Ellis asked that if that bond passes what would that do to the water rates.

Mr. Corcoran replied that it would help on the sewer side but it would not do anything on the water rates.

Council Member Ellis suggested that they could also go to their local media to let them know.

Mayor Tuggle stated that even when he talked to the realtors the other day and a lot of those people were from Eden.

Mr. Corcoran added that it will impact future rate increases not the ones they have already voted on. He explained that it would not eliminate what they had just done, but it would eliminate what they do in the future.

4. Cook Block Improvements.

Mr. Corcoran asked Ms. Stultz to remind everyone about what that project would and would not include.

Ms. Stultz explained that several years ago they began trying to do the Cook Block improvements. Mr. Mike Mills (NCDOT) had assured them that they were going to redo all of Morgan Road to Aiken Road and if the city paid for the design of the streetscape portion and the city's attorney doing all the legal work and they would take care of everything else.

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Once they (city) finally managed to do that they were told that they (NCDOT) were a huge amount of money short and were not going to be able to do it. Since then staff has been trying to figure out a way to make it happen and she had nagged them to death. They have done projects in downtown Leaksville and downtown Draper, this particular one was a fairly short sidewalk. There was a temporary sidewalk that was put in at the Dollar General, just to keep it from becoming a gaping hole and also the Street Department removed a traffic island that was there at the church and the city had to landscape that too.

She explained that this project would take out all the sidewalks on both sides of that business area. The last time they opened up a set of sidewalks there were many repairs that had to be made to various drains and other things to water and sewer. Then run the conduit and all the electrical stuff there so that the decorative lighting could be installed and then the sidewalks would be reinstalled. They have options with Duke Energy, so they could either pay the entire price for the lights up front or they could do as they have done in other areas and pay a monthly fee. She explained that her personal opinion was to pay a monthly fee because it would be better in the long run.

She thought that this particular project was extremely important. It needed to be done as those sidewalks have not been repaired in many years. There have been lots of smaller repairs done to them but the merchants there were promised it was going to happen and she did think that they have had the good fortune to have a number of downtown developed areas in their community and this one has thrived for a long time and was still doing pretty well so she hoped that they would all consider this to be a big priority.

Mayor Tuggle asked if the city had put \$30,000 into it to which Ms. Stultz replied that they had already put \$40,000 in to it.

Mayor Tuggle added that when the bids came in they were originally at \$130,000 over what they had asked so NCDOT decided to stop the project to which Ms. Stultz replied that was correct. They had told them they would go ahead and do this that they would do the milling necessary.

Ms. Amos asked them to keep in mind that Morgan Road was resurfaced a few years ago and the downtown section was taken out because the sidewalks had not been completed and the merchants were very upset because everything else was paved so they were waiting on the city to do this before they will pave the road.

Ms. Stultz added that they want them to mill and do what they have to do before curb and gutter because it just makes a mess.

Mr. Corcoran stated that he had forgotten to mention that the projected cost estimate for the work was \$150,000.

Mayor Tuggle added that just for their information he had sent a letter to Representative Bert Jones and asked him about this and about trying to put money into the State's budget to try to complete this project since the city had already put \$40,000 into it to see if they could follow

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through and do it as they had made that promise that it would be done and he did not getting anything from Representative Jones but he did find \$100,000 for Reidsville's downtown.

Ms. Stultz stated that she would make that pitch that she was all for the state paying for it but at this point either way it desperately needed to be done.

As there were no other comments Mayor Tuggle called for a break.

BREAK

Council Member Epps wanted to make a comment about the Cook Block before moving on to item 5. He stated that no one had fussed about the water rates but they have certainly fussed about the Cook Block. He stated that if they could add this to their prioritized list he would like to see this get done. That area has been neglected for years and he did not think that it was done on purpose but we would appreciate everyone's support to get this done.

5. Construction of a New Swimming Pool Complex.

Mr. Corcoran opened the floor.

Council Member Ellis explained that he had asked in his letter to first re-tile the Mill Avenue Pool, across the top of it. He suggested that if they go and look at the pool at Oak Hills, it was re-tiled for \$2,300 and it was a little larger than Draper. Then go over the pool with a sandblasting before painting it to remove all of the layers paint. That was under \$5,000. Also, when you enter the pool area to your right you have concrete and a dip in the sidewalk that runs to a drainage ditch to where the water would not run back into the pool area. Move that fencing back to the knoll of the field there to where more people would have access to sit around. He was not asking for more concrete there, just paint the fence and move the back away from the concrete 12 to 15' for more chairs and lounging because that place was used just about every night for a pool party.

For the bath house just allow more piping for showers. You could put in a couple of urinals or baby changing place for children and parents and that type of thing. For chemical storage, get the chemicals from out of that pool area and put them in a secluded place because people walk through there to enter the pool.

He explained that what he had received from Cirrus on July 1st was not what he had asked for. He added that they had about 100 or some odd people who could be used for that. He noted that it said there to demo old pool out, pool house and concrete. Then install new pool, which he did not ask for, new concrete area around pool, which he did not ask for, install a 200 square foot bath house which he did not ask for that either, or the new pump house and the new fencing. The only thing he wanted done was painting.

This was a 3 months of organizational money that they get in their city. He did not see where they were going to increase a lot of funding. He stated that the lifeguards there were paid more than he made an hour running the pool for Oak Hills and he did not understand that. Those

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lifeguards need to make either minimum wage or a quarter more. If they taught swimming lessons or things like that, you know but the wages for lifeguards make need to be addressed. He stated that they made snack money there and they had probably a capacity to make....to which Mr. Johnny Farmer, Director of Parks & Recreation replied that the fee was \$3.00 for residents and \$4.00 for nonresidents. Council Member Ellis pointed out that was \$300 a day minimum for 90 days which would be \$27,000.

Mr. Farmer replied that was if they had 100 there every day.

Council Member Ellis stated that he thought they did for the first 2 months then it slowly slacks down.

Mayor Tuggle commented that they have had discussion before about having a major recreation complex as well as a swimming pool go there and he wanted to say that they had a jewel at Freedom Park and he would say if they were going to do anything with a swimming pool they should build that swimming pool at Freedom Park with the idea of adding something later. It would be a centralized location, include the high school, they could hold swimming events there. He thought long term it would be better to put it there just for that reason.

Mr. Corcoran stated that for clarification the July 1st estimate from Cirrus Construction was not requested based on a request that Council Member Ellis had made but was requested by another Council Member.

Mr. Farmer agreed and explained that was why he and other members of the City Council were given information on the price for re-doing the entire Mill Avenue pool or for building a new pool at Freedom Park. The price for doing the entire facility at the Draper site was roughly \$962,000. That would include demolishing the entire site and putting something back that was very similar to what it was now.

The other facility was the pool that was designed a couple of years ago. The City Council instructed staff to get a cost on designing a new pool as well as a new indoor recreation facility about 2 years ago. They did that and he had pictures of that new facility and their idea would be to put that at Freedom Park and the cost of that was roughly \$3.3 million.

He stated that his job a Parks & Recreation Director was to look at where they needed to be 10, 15 and 30 years from now, to look at what the trend was going to be. He stated that he had been here a little over 11 years now and 80% of the activity that was taking place in the City of Eden takes place at Freedom Park. That was where most of their recreational activities take place since it was in a central part and it would be obvious if you were going to build new facilities and compliment what you were doing you would put those in the same location.

If you were going to spend \$1 million to revamp a facility at the Draper facility it seemed better to invest that \$3.3 million to put all that at Freedom Park. You already have a crowd of people that go there every day. There were probably 2,000 people that go to Freedom Park or 10,000 visits almost every day from about April through November. He pointed out that today was February 20 and he had 15 ball teams playing at Freedom Park today and there was a tournament

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scheduled every weekend from now until mid-November so they have a crowd there, those people were going to give them more folks utilizing that pool. If they were playing softball, when they were not playing they may come over and utilize the pool.

With this new facility they would also have a splash pad area that would make it a lot easier for parents to bring their small children and a zero depth entrance for folks who were handicapped. Those were the reasons that they felt that a new pool would be to their advantage. As Council Member Ellis said, the pool they have now was over 50 years old. He had been with the city for 11 years and for 11 years Facilities & Maintenance had to work on it to get it going. He noted that some years were harder than others because they have to change out the different mandates that the State and Federal Government require they have to go in and refit drains and things. He also knew there had not been any new sand filters in there for at least 10 years and they were constantly having to go in and redo different things to the pump house. It was just a matter of time before they get into some really major problems.

He stated a couple of years ago the City Council directed them to look at developing a new indoor recreation facility with a pool at Freedom Park. The cost came in at roughly \$7.7 million. Later on they would be discussing quality of life issues, event centers, campgrounds and things and Freedom Park was already a state of the art facility in Rockingham County.

You would have an indoor facility there that would meet your needs for not only your local league games but it would also allow them to bring in additional revenue in to town where they could do basketball or volleyball tournaments in the summer time. Currently they could not do that because their facilities were not air conditioned. They had also discussed the relocation of the senior center. The existing center was short of space. A new center would meet the needs of the senior citizens and youth and adults. It would meet the need of a swimming facility and would include an indoor walking track. As director, he would prefer not to have people walking the tracks at night for safety reasons. The indoor facility would allow residents to walk year-round in a comfortable, supervised setting. He would like for the Council to revisit that facility at some point in time. In 2013, a study done by the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Recreation and Parks Association found that parks and recreation facilities at the local government level had a \$140 billion economic impact on the United States in one year, as well as an impact of over one million jobs. North Carolina did a study and said each resident had an economic impact of about \$307. Multiply that by the approximately 15,000 people in Eden and that was an economic impact of more than \$4 million. The benefits of parks and recreation in a community were unreal. Half the communities across the state were building new facilities, including pools and indoor recreational facilities to position themselves to attract new residents and businesses.

The banquet area alone with round tables would seat about 240 people and with 6 foot long tables about 300 and have a commercial kitchen. The architect who did the preliminary plans said it would take about 8 months to do construction drawings, then they would bid it out. It would take anywhere from 28 to 36 months for the whole process.

Council Member Epps questioned if it would be appropriate to do maintenance on the existing pool.

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Mr. Farmer replied that they would always do all they could to maintain the Draper Pool until they had something else.

Mr. Corcoran asked Mr. Paul Dishmon, Public Works Director, if he could speak to the condition of the pool.

Mr. Dishmon said that the biggest issue with the pool was the water line underneath and plumbing issues. The galvanized plumbing was installed in 1957. There were problems with the pump. The exact parts for the pool were no longer manufactured. There were problems with the filter. They did pressure wash and paint the pool each year. They decided not to put tile back in the pool because they popped off during the winter season. He said a company could x-ray the pool to see what else was going on with it, but it would cost more than the property was worth.

Mr. Corcoran explained that the point was that the pool had serious problems. If they were going to have a pool, they needed to move forward eventually with a new one. He agreed with Mr. Farmer. The reality was that the hub of recreation in the community was Freedom Park. If something was going to be developed, it should be developed at Freedom Park. In his opinion, it made no sense to spend a million dollars to put back exactly what was there. They needed to have things for seniors, for children, for families, for visitors who come in from out of town. They needed to look long term. Communities were building comprehensive facilities. Reidsville was building a massive facility. They may not feel like the time was right, but fixing the pool they had now was not an option. It was not a long-term option, but a waste of money. Replacing the pool where it was, in his opinion, was a waste of money.

Council Member Ellis stated that he did not think it was a waste of money.

Mr. Corcoran stated that they could not keep band-aiding it. He explained that Facilities and Grounds come to him every year to tell him about the pool's condition. They were the experts and they did not paint a pretty picture.

Council Member Ellis said it was not about band-aiding the pool or anything like that. It was about sixty days out of the year. They could at least make it presentable until they may be able to find the money for a facility at Freedom Park. That was all he was asking for. You could paint tiles that fall out. Why not do them all the way around. They were not looking at \$100,000. The pump goes out, it costs about \$1,000 to replace it.

Mr. Dishmon said the last time they had to replace a part alone in the pump, it costs around \$3,500. That was for the pool to run two more weeks.

Council Member Ellis said he did not see any estimates the way he had asked for it.

Mr. Farmer replied that he had not received the information that Mr. Ellis wanted something different.

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Council Member Epps stated that when they still had the old City Park on Highway 14 he had not been on the Council very long. He explained that it was a struggle to move the park from the former site on Highway 14 and when it was over with, everyone apologized for the trouble they had made. They realized that the Council had the foresight for Freedom Park. He suggested they needed to do the same thing for the pool. He said that as Mr. Ellis had suggested, they may need to do some work on Draper Pool, but they did need to plan for the future. To begin, some people may be against it as they were when Freedom Park was started. Communities that had such facilities were busy and making money. Often they discussed things and did not follow through. They needed to make a decision that day for the future.

Council Member Ellis said the cost they were looking at was \$33,357,000. They were told last budget meeting they were looking an indoor pool at \$14.7 million. He asked Mr. Farmer if that was correct.

Mr. Farmer said they had two projects. The first came in at \$14.7 million with indoor pool. The second was an outdoor pool and it came in at \$7.7 million.

Council Member Ellis stated that he would go back to what he had said the previous year. Until they decided as a City Council that they wanted to spend \$14.7 million and the complex was \$33,357,000 ...

Mr. Farmer explained that was the outdoor pool with the bathhouse, game room, a complete pool facility. You could add a recreation center beside of it if you wanted to do that. He stated that Council Member Epps was right they needed to have vision and as Council Member Carter had noted earlier, they wanted to position themselves to get more businesses to this community, to get more people to move here, people look at what you are doing and how you maintain what you have in your community today.

He stated that he thought that everybody in here works very hard to make the City of Eden the best it can be but sometimes to make the quality of life for citizens the best it can be you have to spend some money to do that for your residents and he just did not want to fall behind. If you look around all across North Carolina people were building these things. They were probably borrowing the money because they know down the road these facilities will not only help their local citizens but it will bring people into their community just as Freedom Park has done over the past ten years. He stated that they knew Freedom Park was a success and suggested that they build on that success and try to keep the momentum going.

Council Member Burnette asked if they knew what the annual average maintenance cost on that pool was.

Mr. Dishmon replied that right now he did not but it was high. He explained that the pool paint for that pool was a special paint to be able to sustain the water and they have to put two coats on it. He pointed out that because it was an outdoor pool you will run into freeze and thaw. He stated that he bet they get off two 5 gallon buckets of chipped paint every year once they pressure wash it and they were constantly just wearing on the bottom of the pool. He stated that a crack has developed in the baby pool this year and he was not sure how it would affect them

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but he was sure they could survive another year or two. He also added that he could not tell them about the plumbing underneath.

Council Member Burnette stated that he could have that at any type of pool to which Mr. Dishmon agreed if it was not designed properly. He explained that for that tile, they used to pay people to clean it every year. He stated that when you hire a contractor to put on tile that was high maintenance knowing next year you have 10 to 25 at the bottom of the pool again. It was an ongoing maintenance problem and the bathroom drain in the shower was starting to be a problem so they were trying to maintain them and keep them flushed out.

Mayor Tuggle stated that they needed to make a decision to either do something or build something or try to do something for the future long term at Freedom park and make a decision this year and not put it off another year because there was only so much more you can do to the pool to even maintain it. They need to make a decision one way or the other.

Council Member Hall suggested that they could make progress by planning for it, not necessarily deciding today to build it but they could start planning today to get the funds to do it. He thought everyone agreed that Freedom Park was the place to build the pool. Even with the estimate here, to rebuild what was down there now, they would be crazy to spend money to tear the old one down when you want to build it at Freedom Park anyway. He stated that they could do what he was talking about at Freedom Park for the outdoor or all the way up to \$14 million.

Mayor Tuggle stressed that really at this point they needed to make some kind of decision today and move on.

6. Skat Bus System.

Mr. Corcoran explained that specifically, other than just to continue to support the Skat Bus System, the only action would be the possible construction of a shelter at the bus stops. He noted that each of them have a photo at their seats of what a proposed shelter would look like. He added that the projected cost to build one was \$9300.00 installed.

Mayor Tuggle added that he had talked to quite a few folks who had ride the bus and he thought they averaged 1200 to 1600 a month. They were so thankful because they now had a way to go to the doctor or the grocery store so this has really been a wonderful thing.

Mr. Corcoran explained that one of the things they as a staff have discussed was that if they did not start somewhere then bus stop shelters may never happen. One of the possibilities would be to identify the one, two, or three locations that have the most ridership and go ahead and do them. He added that the hope would be that once you do them and saw how they were used you then may be able to go out to area civic clubs whether it was Rotary, or Kiwanis, or Lions and they may agree to do one. He added that The Leaksville Downtown Merchants Association or Draper Downtown Merchants Association may agree to do one. You could even look at doing advertising on them to try to reduce the cost. So their thought was that clearly there was not sufficiently enough money to go out and build one at every single stop but there may be enough

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money to go ahead and plant seeds so to speak and do one, two, three or whatever and then see if it catches on.

Council Member Epps pointed out that every one that he had ever seen in cities had advertising so he thought that would be an asset and he would be in favor of it.

Council Member Moore asked how many stops there were to which Mr. Corcoran replied 19.

Council Member Hall noted that some of those stops would be covered anyway, such as Kingsway shopping center.

Mr. Dougherty agreed. He added that he had checked on the two most popular stops and those were both Dollar Generals, the one on Stadium and the one on Morgan Road and there were no shelters there.

Council Member Ellis stated that the merchants on The Cook Block have asked to help out on one.

Council Member Hall questioned doing something like a frame and a cover.

Mr. Dishmon explained that it would be sort of like being under a carport and the wind was blowing. He stated that you would be soaking wet. You would have to put something in it to shield wind and rain.

Mayor Tuggle agreed they would need some type of protection in the winter.

Council Member Ellis added that he had gone online and there were different types and different prices ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

7. Strategic Plan & Visioning Process.

Mr. Corcoran explained that there was \$30,000 in the current budget for a strategic plan type process and he thought the information they had received was that they were looking at something around \$90,000 over a three year period.

Council Member Burnette explained that when Mayor Clark came to speak with them that day, all the Council Members were there along with some of the staff. Mayor Clark talked not only about what they did and the procedures they used but how they involved the people and the successes they achieved as well as they had a plan.

He explained that today they were talking about things that were all important and the right things to do but they were operating year to year. Every year they come in and do this. They did not have a plan. They had talked about making some plans for certain things but at this point they did not have a plan.

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He asked them if they would not feel better if they involved the community in helping put together a plan that they wanted to see things done in this community. He also talked about once they achieved these things and what they were successful in doing, each project and each part of the plan, then they would publicize this as it was what the community wanted to do so here is what we have done.

He explained that community involvement was a win-win. Council Member Hampton mentioned about not hearing certain things from certain people. They all hear from a select group of people in this community but they did not hear from everybody. This would not guarantee that they would hear from everybody but it was a much more strategic approach. They would have a group of people and they would want their focus groups to go out and collect this information from other groups within the city as well.

He asked them to think about the things that they were talking about. They were all very important, but for this “roughly” \$90,000 he asked them to think about their return on investment from doing something like this. He did not think there was probably anything that you could pick that the return on your investment was going to be greater.

Council Member Epps stated that he thought anything like this would be a help to the city and he thought it could be combined with the Mayor’s Commission they would be discussing next.

Council Member Burnette pointed out that he saw that basically anything and everything could fall under it quite honestly, it was whatever this community wanted. He asked the question, what do all successful communities have in common. He explained that they have a common vision, with a future by its citizens. So this was what they need to remember. This would give them a long term plan.

He had his ideas about how he was going to prioritize some things this year and he would tell them right up front this was going to be his number one priority. Not because he submitted it but because he thought that it would be the most important thing to get started and he would have other things listed as well, but he was just going to feel much better in the future as he saw this as a way for future City Councils to be able to look at the things it makes it a lot easier he thought on them when they have that total community input. So he wanted to do this on a long term basis rather than a year to year.

Ms. Stultz commented that she thought that for the last one hundred plus years until Fieldcrest finally closed its last plant that this community’s plan was to rely on Fieldcrest to provide whatever their needs were. They provided jobs, they built ball fields, they helped build a hospital, they did everything and citizens got very comfortable with that sort of paternalistic way of their community to thrive in. That will never happen again. So they need to have a plan that their community develops. If they knew from year to year that a pool was what was needed you start putting money aside for that. Or you pick smaller things like the Mayor of Lexington said that you could see right away. One of those would be something like sidewalks, their land use regulations, where their new infrastructure was run, streets they take care of, all of those things. Ms. Amos could tell them about how much money had been reduced in Powell Bill funds since she had been working at the city. They have to keep their streets going. All these things could

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have a place and a priority and it seems to her that the best way to figure that out would be to involve their citizens and the City Council and come to an agreement and do like Mayor Clark said. Update it and keep on with it and it seemed that would make it easier.

Council Member Carter agreed and he thought the City of Lexington was doing a great job. He added that one thing he would like to add was that their City Manager in this plan. He had a wealth of knowledge that he brings to the table.

Council Member Burnette agreed and any of their staff members that have that information or has information to share and input into it he thought that has to be a part of it. He thought the selection of getting the right people in it was not about the same people but about different people who were going to be involved to share this information.

Council Member Moore asked if he understood correctly that when they picked these people that they came up with 5 or 10 ideas that they wanted to see happen and they tried to do that over a ten year period.

Council Member Burnette explained that if he remembered correctly, their plan was based on ten years. They do a full strategic plan every ten years, it was updated, but they pick the items every year that goes into their budget.

Ms. Cindy Adams, Tourism & Events Coordinator, added that another reference to the Garner Economics presentation that was done last week, in their summary they said that communities need a long term executable strategy and have a strategic plan.

Council Member Burnette added that part of agreeing to do the strategic plan would be a commitment for future years to fund those priorities.

Mayor Tuggle stated that he just thought they need to have something in place that they were all committed to fund, whatever this group came up with. He did not need to tell any of them that when you first come on Council you do not have a lot of information and he could assure them that when he first became mayor he heard from everybody all over the city and nobody gives you any guidance and tells you where to go and how to do it. You have to figure it out on your own. If you have been here long enough, certainly experience does help but he could tell them it sure would be nice to have a guide, to come in when you sit down as a council member or as a mayor to say these were priorities that we know was good for the city and you can never go wrong with enough guidance.

8. Creation of Mayor's Commission.

Mayor Tuggle explained that what he wanted to do here was to have a committee that would meet every quarter and be representative of the different aspects of the community to give guidance and it would be a two way communication back and forth. That way every time there was discussion about raising water and sewer rates, if you are talking to a group and providing information as to why they were doing this then they were going to go out into the community

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and network. He had actually thought of doing this before Council Member Burnette suggested the Strategic Plan and this would fit right into that.

Council Member Burnette agreed that he thought they certainly could make these work together and you may even want to consider bringing in a few additional people in specialty areas.

Mayor Tuggle stated that he just felt like this would be a good communication tool for the whole community and it would be two-way communication back and forth as to what was going on.

After some brief discussion about the possibility of holding special council meetings Council Member Hall pointed out that the Strategic Planning Committee would require some monthly meetings and he thought that the City Council would be involved somewhat so they would be meeting there too. Plus this committee would be from the citizens to the City Council providing input as to what they want to see done. He would feel better if that group told them they wanted to build a \$14 million pool complex, this was what the city wanted.

Council Member Ellis asked if they could hold some special Council Meetings to get the word out about to which Mayor Tuggle stated he would be glad to do whatever and he had talked with the mayor's association in the county and to every municipality about how important it was (NC Connect) and they had some that he did not know if they really cared that much about it, but he thought it was really important that they made sure that Eden people knew about. He told them to just let him know and he would go to Draper, Leaksville or Spray and he would do it any way they wanted him to.

Council Member Epps stated that it would be good for them to set up certain times for anybody to come and listen and get the info to which Mayor Tuggle stated that he could even come to the churches and speak.

9. Personnel Issues

Mayor Tuggle stated that he had looked it up and the last time the employees had gotten a raise was 2013. He explained that they received 3% and the time before that was in 2008-2009. So for the last eight (8) years the employees have gotten a total of 6% or less than .01% per year. He added that there were a couple of years where they had gotten so far behind that it was hard to find people to fill the jobs that they had.

Council Member Epps stated that he thought it was time.

Mayor Tuggle asked if it was about \$81,000 for each 1% to which Mr. Corcoran replied that it was \$89,361.

Council Member Epps stated that he thought they should go with the traditional 3%.

Mr. Corcoran explained that on their prioritization sheet were all the personnel issues. For instance, if you think that a raise should be given it was in there and it tells them what 1% was. If they choose that box it will ask them what percent to recommend and it gives them another

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option if they think something should be done in lieu of across the board raise in terms of compensation and they could list that. Each one of them will have the opportunity to do that when they do their ratings.

Mayor Tuggle asked them to keep in mind it has been eight (8) years and the employees have received about 6% in that time, that was not very much. He pointed out that it looked like that every 4th year they tend to give 2% or 3% and most years they give nothing.

Ms. Gilley added just for clarification they would need a vote.

Mr. Corcoran agreed and explained that this was just a prioritization not a vote. It was guidance for him as to what to put in the budget.

Council Member Ellis questioned the holidays and that they close early and things of that sort. He asked how the fire and police departments were compensated.

Mr. Corcoran explained that it is what it is. He added that was how it was everywhere as it was the nature of the job if you work in what was considered an essential job and there were some that have to be open 24 hours, 7 days a week. He stated that also included the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant.

Mayor Tuggle added that most people did not know that every time it snows, Public Works was out there working 12-hour shifts.

Council Member Burnette asked if they knew the cost of living index for the last few years to which Mr. Corcoran replied not at this time.

Mr. Corcoran stated that there were a couple of other questions. One was posed as to what would be done about future premiums as it relates to retiree health insurance. They were given a handout about that they have three options presented. One option was to do nothing and leave as it is. The second option would be to cover the difference and a third was somewhere in between. He stated that if they looked at their material, in 2015 the total cost for all plan members, retirees and active employees was \$1,103 a month. The current premiums being paid through the city and the retiree was \$850.00 so that was a deficit of \$253 a month. He stated that 30 year retirees pay \$300 (there were 19 of them) and 25 year retirees paid \$437.50 and there were 2 of them.

Council Member Carter questioned putting a ceiling on it.

Mr. Corcoran explained that basically the increase from \$300 and \$437.50 by the additional \$253 would go from \$300 to \$553. That was number 2. He explained that number one says leave it where it is, \$300 and \$437.50 and the city pick up the difference. The third option says he would like to see it go from \$300 to "x", sort of in between. He stated that they may want to see it increase by \$50 or \$100. There was no ceiling in here. He explained a ceiling would require them to make an amendment to the City Code.

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Ms. Gilley added that amendment was something that you can never take back. So in 30 years when the cost of health care has skyrocketed you are still on the hook for that ceiling.

Council Member Burnette suggested that they be real careful with ceilings because they have no idea where healthcare was going.

Council Member Carter agreed but added that they could put 5 years on that ceiling...to which Ms. Gilley stated that she was not sure how they could do that, but there was a possibility, she would have to check on that.

Council Member Carter questioned what the other municipalities in the county were doing for their employees to which Mr. Corcoran replied that they were not required to pay a dime.

Council Member Epps stated that they were going to look at some insurance changes after the election so they should be careful.

Council Member Ellis asked that out of 19 employees, how many were getting ready to go off of it.

Mr. Corcoran replied that he did not know but he could tell them they have 19 heading into the next year. He could also tell them that they have 69 active employees that can retire right now and get benefits. So that was the other thing to remember, it was cyclical. He explained that this time last year they had a total of 36 retirees, today they have 23 so that has dipped but it can go back up. He stated that when they looked there were 69 active employees right now and if they retired today they would be entitled to either the 20, 25 or 30 year benefit.

Mayor Tuggle stated that it seemed like last year they were at \$200,000 on the shortfall.

Mr. Corcoran replied that it was 253 times 201 which was a \$600,000 shortfall. He explained that he had included that information. The retirees represented 16.7% of the membership and 20.1% of the cost. The active employees represent 83.3% of the membership and 79.95 of the cost. The average cost last year for the retiree was \$1,333. One of the things that they sort of vetted out in their discussion last year was to quit really even talking about what retirees cost and to put them all in the same basket and divide it by a number. So when you throw everyone in the same basket and you divide it by the fixed and claims that were paid in 2015 it breaks down to a net cost of \$1,103 per plan member. They were currently contributing \$850 so that was a shortfall of \$253. There were 178 active employees today, there were 23 retirees and that was 201 people times \$253 and \$610,000.

He explained that another item that was raised was the health coach and they were in the process of exploring what options were out there. They were paying \$45,312.00 for 20 hours a week. They are looking at other possibilities and have met with the insurance representatives and waiting for a follow up meeting.

Mr. Corcoran also pointed out that another item was the feasibility of restoring the daytime part-time fire fighter program and that cost was \$54,772.

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Council Member Ellis explained that this was very important to him. They had made some cutbacks but he thought for the citizens the important thing was coverage. Their volunteer system was nowhere what it used to be. Their qualifications was different than the rural departments and they set a higher standard than rural departments. During the day time he would like to see a part-time daytime funding program be created. That was a small amount of money to protect the citizens in this town.

Council Member Burnette stated that he did not disagree that they need people at fires but they need to consider that it needs to be part-time night-time, not day-time because that was when the fires occur.

Mr. Corcoran explained that he was going to speak to them about that to remind them why this was done. From September 1st, 2014 to August 31, 2015 they had 20 incidents out of 550. That was 3.63% that happened between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays through Friday when these 3 people were working. Out of those 20 incidents only 13 were actual incidents that involved the use of the additional personnel. That was barely more than one a month. After Miller-Coors closed they discussed the need to look inward to reduce costs across the city in all of their departments. This was what was recommended and this was what the City Council agreed to at that time to save the money. He agreed with Councilman Ellis that coverage was important but as Mayor Pro Tem Burnette said it was important for it to be when it was effective. He pointed out that \$54,000 for 13 calls was questionable.

Council Member Carter stated that after looking at it, if you brought it back it would help alleviate one of the problems there with fire services if that personnel was used correctly it would eliminate the problem of needing someone to get the ladder truck. One person assigned and that would be his duty to drive that ladder truck.

Council Member Moore stated that he thought they needed to put these back because even with volunteers, it takes 3 volunteers to make one person on your sign sheet according to the Department of Insurance. They need to look at it when they were needed the most, but it was important that they have these guys back. He added that he had been there himself, driving the truck.

Chief Tommy Underwood explained that they had just been through an ISO rating a few months ago. He explained that ISO has promised that they would be back in here within the next 2 years to do the overall big rating. They had obtained an ISO rating of 4 less than a half of a point back around 2002. Council Member Carter was very instrumental in starting this daytime program. He explained that he called them volunteers but they were part-time employees. As Councilman Moore stated it did take 3 of those men to make one fireman. He explained that was just the ruling of the ISO. Councilman Carter and Chief Overby were instrumental in creating this program to make up for their response. He explained that was because the day-time people were scheduled to be there and they count as 3 firemen. He explained that the way ISO grades you now was totally different than what it was years ago. Fifty percent (50%) of your grade comes from the fire department personnel and equipment. Years ago it relied on your water supply. It was very important that they could provide their citizens the best coverage they can. They will

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look at a call that was dispatched as a structure fire, whether it was or not, and they did not have a lot, but they would look at it as a structure fire because that was what you were dispatched as. That was how they will grade you. He said some of those figures were not impressive to him since this program has been cut, especially during the day. He added that night-time could be better, he knew of nothing that could not be better, police coverage could be better, but it takes people to do this. He also added that your ISO rating was one thing that would attract industry.

10. Removal of Old Dilapidated Buildings

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Mayor Tuggle pointed out that since he had been on Council for 12 years this list never ends. The six buildings that she gave really needed to come out now. His suggestion would be that over a 2-year period of time to take reserve money and just put the money aside and take care of those six. In his opinion they needed to do something immediately.

Ms. Stultz replied that she could get it done by the fall if they had the money to which Mayor Tuggle stated that he hoped they would keep this as a top priority. The list just keeps getting longer and longer. Ms. Stultz pointed out that these were just commercial buildings.

Ms. Gilley added that the buildings would have to come before the City Council before each one gets done.

Mr. Corcoran stated that was on their priority sheet as well. It said that \$150,000 was suggested for the demolition of dilapidated buildings. Was this a top priority, if “yes” how much do you feel should be spent next year on this. They can worry about the figures once they get the budget done. If there was enough money in the budget to not use the reserves then they put it in the budget. If they do the budget and there is not enough money they could show it using fund balance, but they will not know until they get into the budget.

11. Build A Campground

Mayor Tuggle explained that this was a low priority however he did not think it was such a bad idea and to ask that Ms. Adams and Mr. Dougherty take a look at it for the future. They have two rivers and a lot of tournaments so that could be a possibility and there may be even a possibility that a private person might have some interest in it.

12. Identify Location & Develop An Event Center.

Mayor Tuggle explained that he had just spoken to some people in Stoneville who had said they have just opened an event center and they were booked six months ahead. Reidsville also had a downtown event center. He felt that every time he turned around the Pottery Festival was moving here, or some other event has to move somewhere else so it certainly would not hurt for them to be at least work on developing something at Freedom Park.

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Mr. Corcoran stated that Ms. Adams shared with him a document called Spray Cotton Mill Design Center. The new owners of the Spray Cotton Mills building have indicated that they intend to create a wedding or special events center in that facility. Obviously they were not sure it would come to fruition but they have put out a document about that.

13. Maintain Tax Rate

Council Member Carter stated that he would like to see us maintain the lowest rate in the county. He thought that was attractive to not only industries but to people moving into their city.

14. Recreational Facility Needs

Council Member Ellis suggested the possibility of using one of the Draper or Spray Ball Parks for practice and things of that sort or to possibly use one of these fields as a possible football or soccer field. He pointed out that the walking track at Freedom Park was very dark and also he thought about the possibility of having some electrical points at Freedom Park where you can provide electricity over to teams or campers. Also, if they were looking at a recreational center there with a pool, it would be another asset think about adding more parking. Lastly he mentioned that there was grant money out there and that the tennis courts need resurfacing.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

15. 50th Anniversary Celebration Plans

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Ms. Cindy Adams explained that the celebration would last a yearlong and would be splitting two budgets. She added that if they agreed to do the strategic plan they could launch it along with the 50th Anniversary. She thought it needed to be fun and history related.

16. Animal Carcass Dumpster

Council Member Moore stated that he had since spoken with Mr. Rodney Carter, Superintendent of Solid Waste who told him that they did take animal carcasses and dispose of them, such as the ones that are hit by a car. He was thinking about just during hunting season. If you kill a deer and you dress it out, you have to have some place to put it.

Mr. Carter commented that they did not take anything from the general public at this time but animal control with the police department used to take their animals directly to the landfill. The EPA stopped them from burying them in the designated area that they had because it was unlined. So they put those dead animal right into the landfill and they were buried right with the garbage. So he told Chief Pyrtle to tell the animal control personnel to just bring those animals to the transfer station and they would just pack it in with the garbage. They could work with the hunters on that. They could advertise in some way. Someone from his staff would have to be there to direct them as to where to go.

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Council Member Ellis asked if this was for city residents only to which Council Member Moore replied yes.

Mr. Carter stated that they could advertise that it was for city residents only. He explained that they had 15 to 20 tons of garbage going in there anyway so one or two animals in there would not cost extra.

17. Beautification Initiatives.

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Council Member Moore stated that again this would not cost the city hardly anything. He grew up in east Eden and he got sad every time he drove down Stadium Drive. When he was growing up there, people took pride in places and he just thought they needed to try to get some of that pride back in their communities and clean up some of these areas. They needed to make sure that the landlords or the renters cleanup their properties. It was in certain areas of town and it was not just Draper but also in Spray and Leaksville,

Mayor Tuggle stated that it was all over, he heard it all the time and he saw it. He was not really sure what you do to make people want to have pride.

Ms. Stultz commented that as far as the things that were being done, they do send notices and Facilities Maintenance and Grounds help when they can and if nothing was done otherwise, they hire contractors to clean up various places.

Council Member Burnette stated that 5 or 6 years ago the city started something called Beautification America to which Ms. Stultz replied yes, they were a Keep America Beautiful City. Council Member Burnette asked how they could enhance that program.

Ms. Stultz replied that some of the failure in it was that their Appearance Commission was not functioning extremely well. They have an Adopt a Street program and an Adopt a Spot program that they have had for a long time. They do need to keep encouraging people to clean up and one of the ways that she knew was that if they were in a neighborhood and you were sent a notice then somebody cleans it up in fifteen (15) days.

Council Member Burnette asked if there was anything that could be done to that program.

Ms. Stultz replied that the program provides training opportunities, literature, coloring books for children, and a lot of things they do, but the basic job of cleaning up their community costs.

Council Member Moore stated that he thought that could be something in the Mayor's Commission and whenever you talk to groups of people just encourage them.

Mayor Tuggle commented that was the idea behind it.

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18. City Take Over Curbside Recycling.

Mr. Corcoran stated that he had asked Mr. Carter to do a cost estimate and he could address it but the total he gave him was \$897,796.

Council Member Ellis commented that he thought it was great that Waste Management was going to come in and provide this for their citizens (voluntary).

Mr. Corcoran noted that 113 had signed up as of .

Council Member Ellis replied that they had addressed it. He had also spoken to a citizen who said they had rather take it to a box (recycling igloo) than to have recycling in their city (curbside). He asked what that \$897,796 consist of.

Mr. Carter explained that they would probably need 2 trucks instead of one since there were 6,000 residents. They would also need 2 employees. They would need to purchase recycling containers for residents. It would also include service for the vehicles for one year and also tires. Fuel costs would also be included.

He stated that he had gone to the Rockingham County Solid Waste meeting the other night and within two months the county had picked up 276 tons of recyclables. The return revenue for that was \$1,436. In January they got 180 tons with no revenue coming back to it whatsoever. The reason for that was that now there was no recyclable glass so they have to separate the glass and do something else with it as it could not go to the landfill. He explained that they had said it would take a good 6 months to really determine it. He added that right now the market had really dropped.

Mr. Corcoran explained that the next 11 items were actually submitted by staff.

19. Extension of the Smith River Greenway North of the Island Ford Bridge

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Mr. Dougherty presented a display of the extension of the Smith River Greenway. He explained that he currently had a grant into Duke Energy to try to extend this portion of the Greenway as well as to add some overflow parking at the current Smith River Greenway. He explained that this portion of the Greenway would be more like a nature path.

Council Member Burnette questioned that the recommendation was to pursue this through the Duke grant money to which Mr. Corcoran replied in the affirmative but added that again if they did not get that grant money it could be a priority of the Council. Council Member Burnette stated that several years ago all the municipalities joined DRBA. He stated that he had understood that they would be involved and working on projects like this.

Mr. Dougherty replied that he thought that Jenny Edwards had been involved in some projects such as a mountain bike trail.

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Council Member Burnette stated that at this point it was in the planning stage and asked if that was correct.

Ms. Stultz replied that Ms. Edwards was applying for the grants.

Council Member Burnette asked if there was the possibility that DRBA could be involved if they did not get the funding for the greenway extension to which Mr. Dougherty replied he would hope so.

20. City Resurfacing Program

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Ms. Tammy Amos, Engineering, explained that their street database was divided up to 614 street sections that they look at every year. Their current condition rating was set up on a scale from 1 to 10. This gives her a high or low rating to help narrow down conditions. Right now these ratings were updated in November. They have 92 street sections or just over 16% of their system that was rated in very poor or poor condition right now. They have 16 that were very poor and 76 that were poor. She added that she must say that of those 16 that were very poor, all but 2 were on the next resurfacing contract. Those 92 street sections make up 225,539 square yards.

She explained that if they went in and tried to resurface those 92 street sections, an average cost right now would be over \$2 million. They also have 83 streets that were backlogged and that just basically means that based on a 15 year program these streets are older than 15 years old. They have 41 sections right now that were last repaved in 1997 that make up over 85,000 square yards at an average cost of \$769,000, just to do those 41. They have 7 sections that were last paved in 1999, just over 23,000 square yards that costs almost \$209,000 to pave just those 7. They have 35,000 sections that were last paved in 2000 that make up almost 77,000 square yards at a cost of right at \$690,000. She explained that 37 of the 84 were in poor or very poor condition, 46 of those 83 that were older than 15 years were still in fair condition. In this group of 83 they do have 4 of those that were scheduled for the spring.

Ms. Amos noted that based on the 20 year program they have absolutely no backlog. They do not have any streets that were 20 years old right now. So that brings her to the next section of what was the average life expectancy of an asphalt pavement. She explained that in all of the classes she had ever taken and in all of the conversations with everybody she had talked with, a good average life expectancy on asphalt streets was 15 years. She explained that they would read things that say that some places try to go 20 and some even 25, but everything that she had always seen an average life was 15 years. She stated that she had been over the city's street resurfacing program since 1998 and she could only remember one or two streets ever being over 20 years old. It has always been, as far she knew, set up on a 15 year program.

She stated that a question had been brought to her about the city going to a 20 year program. She explained that yes, they could go to a 25 year program if that was what the Council wanted to do, but it would not change the need. They still have \$2 million worth of work. Basically the only

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thing that would change was the dollar figure that she puts in the budget every year. It would bring that figure down if they start trying to make their streets last 20 years. They have had some streets that have made it 20, 21 or 22 years and she has had some street sections that have not made it 10 years.

She explained that if they look at the different programs broken down, for 15 year programs based on a 15 year cycle they would need to resurface just over 92,000 square yards of pavement every year at an average cost of \$829,000. For a 20 year program they would need to resurface just over 69,000 square yards at a cost of right at \$622,000. On a 25 year program they would need to resurface approximately 55,000 square yards at an average cost of \$497,000.

The cost today that they were paying, based on the average of the last 7 street contracts they have completed, they were paying right at \$9.00 per square yard. That includes their structure adjustment, milling, surface treatment, shoulder recon, incidental stone, and paving.

They did get a Powell Bill allocation every year from the State. Last year they received \$486,485. That amount of money would on average, would do approximately 54,000 square yards. So, if they continue on a 15 year program that means they will have a short fall and would need an additional almost \$343,000 every year. On a 20 year program they would need another \$135,406 and basically a 25 year program, what was received from the State that would just about maintain a 25 year program.

Her concerns are that their streets were going to continue to deteriorate, and their backlog was going to continue to grow, the need was going to continue to increase and the funding would become impossible unless they start putting a little bit of extra money in their General Fund every year. She was afraid they would find themselves in the same situation they were in right now with their sewer system and they would have millions and millions of dollars of upgrades that were going to be needed.

She recommended they stay on a 15 year program and of course she would like to see, if any way possible to start allocating \$343,000 a year, which she knew was probably impossible, but if they could not at least do that she would like to see at least \$135,000 in the budget for some extra streets.

Council Member Burnette asked what she did if she came to a street that just needed to be paved.

Ms. Amos replied that she paved it. She would postpone another street that she thought could make it another year. She added that she had to do that every year

Mayor Tuggle pointed out that it was a never ending cycle.

Council Member Burnette asked that in her evaluation if she also evaluated them from the point that it made it 15 years, could it go another 2 or 3 years.

Ms. Amos replied that if it was 15 years old and she had streets that were in worse condition, then it may be crack sealed, if it was still sound, she would let it lay. That was why she would

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like to leave it at 15 years because if they do 20, then they might say this street was not of age yet, it was only 18 years old. She explained that every year that you let that lay after even up to 15 years it would cost more to repair it before you can upgrade it. So it would need more milling needed or surface treatment or crack sealing. She had always heard that you want to try to pave them when they reach the 12 year age before they start having the severe cracking and things to cut down on the repair costs. If you have to leave them until they were 20 years old then you were going to pay more money to repair them.

She explained that she was also going to look at trying to do a slurry seal this year and she had already met with a rep. The City of Reidsville started doing some last year. She explained that a slurry seal was an application they put on made with sand and some small stone. It was not like a surface treatment where they put down tar and gravel. They put the slurry seal down but you have to crack seal before you put the slurry seal down. It was basically like seal coating your driveway. Now, a street that was 10 years old, if it was in a good, high fair condition, and it has some cracking on it and you slurry seal it, then it may help you get a few more years. She explained that it had gotten to the point where she may have to start doing that when she did not have the money to pave it. So it was an option, but she did not particularly like the looks of it. It can look messy, even though it does put black back on the road and some people think you have actually come out and paved it. It could buy them a little bit of time.

Council Member Burnette questioned the cost to which Ms. Amos replied she thought it was somewhere around \$2 to \$3 a square yard. In response to a question about the streets at Northridge she explained that they had severe cracking but she did not think that they needed any crack sealing, they just went in there and put the sealer on it.

Mayor Tuggle asked if the asphalt prices have come down as oil prices have dropped to which Ms. Amos replied that right now the price has stabilized. Mayor Tuggle asked how much was it a ton.

Ms. Amos replied that they were paying right at \$84 a ton now. She explained that the City Council had just approved a contract and with fuel prices being way down, she had expected that those prices would come down but they did not and in fact she had 3 bids and 2 that were at \$120 a ton. She also noted that 18 years ago they used the old I2 asphalt and it seemed a lot better then. The asphalt today had more liquid and sand in it and they were taking the stone out. She stated that even though they want to call it a super pave, any of them would know that she could go out there and pave a street and after the first cold season they were going to see cracking. She had tried everything, the BST, scratching the roads, crack sealing and nothing they do was helping.

21. Grogan Park – Concrete all of the remaining trails

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Ms. Cindy Adams explained that she had talked with Paul Dishmon, Director of Municipal Services and Mr. Darren Gatewood, Superintendent of Streets, about why they believe concrete was better. She noted that concrete was maintenance free, it costs a little more up front but it

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would save lots of money in the long run, it was usable all the time, it provides a solid walking surface and it also simply looks nicer. She noted that the cost also included 2 bridges as well.

Council Member Burnette stated that everything so far in Grogan Park has been funded by donations. He asked if she was talking about doing this with tax payer money.

Mr. Corcoran replied this would be tax payer money.

Council Member Burnette stated that he liked the idea but he personally thought they should stay with donations.

Ms. Adams explained that they were maxed out with that and at some point they thought it needed to be a city maintenance issue as well.

Mayor Tuggle stated that if it was maintenance free that was the best way to go if it can be done.

Mr. Corcoran stated that the cost would be \$43,696 in-house and that included concrete on all the remaining trails and the construction of 2 bridges.

22. Construction of New Entrance Signs at City Hall.

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

Mr. Corcoran pointed out that the cost for this would be \$27,500.

Ms. Adams explained that the signs at City Hall were dated and needed to signify the improvements to Grogan Park and the price that they have includes 3 signs. The demolition of the existing signs would be done by city staff and the other signs will just be resurfaced and built around what was there. All three signs that are demolished will be rebuilt and faced with stone to match the entrance signs at the city gateways. The letters will be different, it will be more of a formal masonry, with bronze lettering and all signs will be lighted and eventually they will be landscaped but that price was not included.

23. Engineering Design for New Digester at WWTP.

Mr. Corcoran explained that this was \$241,000 for the engineering and then eventually an additional \$3 million for construction. The \$3 million was not included in the FY 2016-2017 budget.

Ms. Melinda Ward, Superintendent of Wastewater, explained that the original digester they have now has been there since 1967 and with age, it was probably past its lifespan. When they did the plant upgrade in 1992 and increased the capacity of the plant nothing was done to the digester, they just added more basins to try to maintain the sludge. At that time from what she had heard there was even a harder job to maintain it then. That was not even putting into account the proper treatment that was supposed to be required. They were technically not supposed to be land applying, they were supposed to be taking it to the landfill.

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She stated that right now the size of the digester is probably able to handle the flow that they having going to the plant, but the problem was the condition of the digester. It continually gets worse and they knew they have cracks in the concrete. They knew that there were voids all around it. They have seen heavy equipment just sitting there for a short time and just start sinking into the ground.

They know there were some areas that needed to be addressed at some point. They also know that the piping underneath was already blocking up. They have had times when they have had backflow water and had to try to unstop the pipes because they were not able to pull the sludge out. When they backflow, all they were seeing was just a couple of areas that are still open compared to what used to be there.

They knew there was a whole lot of sludge going up and they cannot really get it out. The only way they can do the proper work to clean it out was to have another digester as a backup. This other digester could then serve as extra capacity if they ever get to that point. So, they were hoping to at least to build another digester so that they have something in place that we can clean the current one out. Then eventually work to get it back in service.

They knew there were a lot of issues with getting the money, especially with the EPA taking up so much of the Water & Sewer Fund right now, but at least having an engineering design would help tremendously if anything does go wrong. Some of the issues that they have was working fine today but it could go tomorrow and they could have a major catastrophe happen and not have any way of really dealing with the sludge problem.

We would like to have that redundancy as well as just the potential for future capacity if that does come into place. They would have that extra amount of flow coming through it. You would know it was going to increase the amount of flow production that they have and they were going to run into that same problem again if they did not have something built for back up.

In response to a question by Mayor Tuggle about what could happen Ms. Ward explained that they were going to have to find a replacement and it was going to be extremely expensive because they were going to have to find ways to pump this sludge somewhere else. We have a basin that will hold it if you get it pumped up to it but it has no treatment in it whatsoever and it is a membrane line so she was not even sure how you could put any type of aeration or mixing in it.

Mayor Tuggle stated that if they did not do something now, in the future they may be really in trouble.

Council Member Burnette asked how long that engineering design was good through to which Ms. Ward replied she did not really think it had any (time) as long as nothing changes on it to which he asked if she saw it 5 years or 10 years.

Ms. Ward replied that she really did. She added that she had also been working with North Carolina State Engineering students. In their senior year they were required to do actual practice for engineering design. She submitted their facility for one of their projects and in fact they were

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going to be one of the competitions for state as well as national levels. The plan was to hopefully be able to come up with some ideas to get a better idea of what exactly they could do and kind of simplify it.

Council Member Ellis asked if she had said it was built in 67 to which Ms. Ward replied yes and it was not designed properly for a basin. It was acceptable back in 1967 so there were no formed walls, no concrete bottom, there was only a special mixed concrete solution there. So, there could be holes they did not know about. That was why they had added all the additions at the basin for the overflows but they were still not getting proper treatment, but by the time it was set in the other basins and moved it passed the test well enough.

Council Member Ellis stated that it had been working through Hanes....to which Ms. Ward explained that they were able to handle the volume with no problem now but it was still the condition of the basins that was deteriorating equipment. A second digester would basically just be replacing the first one to begin with. Having that would also enable them to be able to rehab or even build a second one somewhere else. But, they were looking at rehabbing the old basins.

She explained that with rehabbing they were talking about knocking down everything and starting over from scratch and making them brand new. It would give them the extra capacity to be able to handle it. Even if they had a couple of extra digesters they did not necessarily have to run them all.

Ms. Ward stated that what they were seeing at the plant, they were fixing a lot of problems with the infrastructure but they were still seeing the heavy flows in their plant. She explained that the biggest thing was she was trying to have a shovel ready project so that if something does happen they would already have something to where they could step in right away.

Council Member Ellis asked her how many times in her career had she seen digesters get replaced to which she replied 3 or 4. He asked if they could use the plans from the students to which Ms. Ward replied that they could not necessarily use whatever the students come up with because they would not have a license.

Mr. Terry Shelton commented and stated that this had always been a problem and it was a problem in 1986 when he was at the wastewater plant. The reason it was not done in 1992 was because of lack of money and engineers saw that as a place where they could cut some costs. He thought that at this point it was a good idea to go ahead and get the engineering work done and have a shovel ready project so that if the money becomes available or they get an opportunity to apply for grants then they would have something ready to go.

24. Additional Investments Needed to Insure Wi-Fi Works Consistently in the Two Downtown Areas and Grogan Park.

Mr. Corcoran explained that the cost would be right at \$8,000.

Mr. Kevin Taylor, IT Director, explained that they have learned a lot of lessons with Wi-Fi in the downtown areas. He explained that the original plan was for one central access point and to wire

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this up links to 4 additional ones. The coverage was not adequate and the speed was not adequate.

He explained that as a trial in Leaksville, they took down the access point at the fire station and put up a really high gain antenna with what was called a rocket receiver. That does point to multi point connections. So they have been adding a station that talks to that antenna and it has wire that comes off that to their access point. This allows them to get a lot denser coverage.

He explained that they originally went with outdoor models on the Wi-Fi access points themselves but since they were putting them inside the businesses they instead went to a model that saved about \$75 per access point. So for another \$3,000 or so was for an investment in Leaksville, \$5,000 in the other areas and he thought they would be at a point where not only were they adequately covering those areas they should be able to handle additional traffic with Riverfest.

Council Member Burnette asked what kind of usage they had.

Mr. Taylor replied that it varied. Currently there were 9 people on the public access and there were 7 in Draper and about 8 in Leaksville at those access points. Going back to about 3:00 yesterday they reached about 30 here (public) and 15 to 20 in Leaksville and 9 to 10 in Draper.

He explained that Draper has been difficult because they ended up with a bad batch of outdoor cabling that cracked. So they had to completely re-cable all the way up to the antenna mast in Draper to get it back up. Draper was off to the side so they have had to add an additional point to point radio system just to get internet to the top of Jerry's restaurant.

25. Informational Newsletter (Monthly, Bi-Monthly, Quarterly)

Mr. Corcoran reminded everyone that they had discussed this a couple of years ago. A newsletter would keep citizens updated as to what was going on. They would do it in-house but obviously there would be postage expense. Once they started it if people wanted to sign up to get it delivered by email then you could cut back on postage. It would be right at \$2,950 to mail out over 6500 newsletters.

26. Complete Makeover for the City Web Site

Mr. Corcoran explained that they ran some costs and it depended upon what was done. Ms. Thompson (webmaster) got a quote of \$7100 from ECLink for a custom design. Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Adams also had seen a lot of websites in their work. A lot of economic development was being done now without you knowing about it. So having a very interactive and forward thinking and up to date technological website was important.

He explained that if this was something they all felt had merit, then he would get the three of them to work together. He added that \$7100 may not even touch it.

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Mayor Tuggle stated that it goes back to where they were talking about earlier, where people can go to your website.

Ms. Adams stated that it was absolutely essential. She pointed out that Gardner Economics had said that your website was your number one marketing tool.

Mr. Dougherty added that 70% of companies do not use consultants so 70% were looking at you when you were not aware of it.

Mr. Corcoran asked if they had any comparable estimates to which Mr. Dougherty replied that when Bouiver Kelly looked at prices it was about \$7,000.

27. Construction of Boat Ramp at Berry Hill Bridge Site.

Mr. Corcoran asked Mr. Farmer to provide an update on construction of the boat ramp.

Mr. Farmer explained that this was something that was started a few years ago by Mr. Richard Grubbs who had recently passed away. He and his buddy fished along the river. They would get on there at the Draper landing access and not get off until they got all the way up to the Dan there in Danville. Mr. Grubbs approached him and they approached the NC Department of Wildlife and the property owners who own property right beside the Berry Hill Bridge on the North Carolina side. This was about three years ago. The owners were interested in putting the ramp there and all the city would have to do was try to work out a lease with the county to the NC Department of Wildlife or the city lease it from property owner and then lease it to the Wildlife.

He explained that now, because of the coal ash spill, this was something that Duke Energy was looking at as a project. It was about a \$250,000 project. They would clear the area, put in boat ramps, put a parking lot in there and maybe even a little restaurant. All the city would have to do was get with the real estate people and after that meet with the property owner and see if they will sell to Duke Energy who will give it to NC Wildlife and if not, they may want to just lease it.

28. Seek a Part of the Smith or Dan River on which to locate a beach or swimming area

Mr. Corcoran explained that after this had gotten on the agenda Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Adams came to him and they feel now that the Greenway extension that they talked about earlier might be a first step. They intend to go out and see if there was another site that may be better suited.

29. Eden – The Friendly City – Pursuing and Building on the Positive Eden Campaign.

Most of this discussion is inaudible due to background noise.

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Ms. Adams explained that this seems to be what people have talked about for the past couple of years. National surveys are absolutely untrue and spreads like wildfire on social media. They would like to counteract that by using positive testimonies extensively placed on video that could be used on websites showing what Eden has to offer.

Mr. Dougherty added that there was an estimate of \$2,000 for a video.

30. Other

Mr. Corcoran stated that Mr. Bill Moody sent an email suggesting they hold an Art in the Park type of event in Grogan Park, a juried type art event. He also suggested looking at ways to market Eden's mascot the Otter. He had already shared with Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Adams and they would be exploring those options.

Wrap-Up Discussion and Consideration of Priorities

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sheralene S. Thompson City Clerk

ATTEST:

Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor