



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

DATE: January 13, 2006

REF: FYI

PC: Departmental Directors, etal

1. During the Solid Waste Committee meeting of January 12, 2006, the Committee toured what is called the former "Fairgrounds" site, which is located just west of the railroad tracts between the former Friskies building and Parsonage Street Extended. In the mid-1990's, the City and County created the Joint Redevelopment Commission to address substandard housing conditions that existed in this area. A search of the records indicated that thirty-one homes were located within this approximate 14-acre area. Thirty of these homes were dilapidated. The County received an \$850,000 CDBG grant, which was used to purchase the homes and relocate the residents living in this area. The City and County then tore down all the homes. Over the last decade, both the City and County have, on numerous occasions, had to go out and clean up the illegal dumping that has occurred within this area. In addition, this area has been used by drug addicts and prostitutes for illegal activities. The Solid Waste Committee's tour of the area indicated that the illegal dumping is very prevalent in the area. City and County employees, with the help of our inmate labor, will clean up the area starting today. In addition, the Committee believes that the Joint Redevelopment Commission should be reactivated to work at removing all vegetation in this area and replant with fescue grass. This should stop most of the illegal dumping. Mike Etheridge, Pasquotank County Solid Waste Director was instructed to contact contractors to secure a cost estimate to do the work.
2. City staff met with representatives of Peters and White, Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and TAMSCO to discuss the problems with the gravity

section of the TAMSCO sewer line project. It was determined that three segments of the gravity sewer project were improperly installed. This will necessitate replacing the entire gravity sewer line. The City has been granted a variance from DENR to use the improperly installed line until the new line can be laid. This will allow TAMSCO to begin using the hangar. Peters and White will begin mobilizing next week and the project will take approximately sixty days. The City is requiring that Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates provide a full time inspector at no cost to the City. The City will be withholding \$200,000 from Peters and White to insure that the City is financially protected and that the project is completed. The City will allow Peters and White to utilize the existing manholes after they have been inspected and approved by Eric Weatherly.

3. Work continues on the sewer main rehab projects along Church Street and Southern Avenue. The sewer main on Church Street has been replaced from Road Street to Pritchard Street except for a short section at Griffin Street. About three and one half blocks of sewer main remains to be replaced and resurfacing the street has to be done. Work on Southern Avenue includes slip-lining the sewer main (repair of the sewer main without having to dig it up) and some replacement. The slip-lining portion of the project is complete, which included the area from Edgewood Drive to about White Street. Contractors are now working on the sewer main replacement portion of the project and have started on Southern Avenue at White Street and will continue along Shepard Street about two blocks. After completion of Shepard Street, the contractor will begin replacing the sewer main on Roanoke Avenue.
4. A total of \$11,427.97 was distributed to the Department of Social Services this week to provide assistance to City utility customers with winter utility bills. The funds are distributed based on need, as determined by Social Services, to include assistance to elderly and disabled customers who may not qualify under other programs. Of the \$11,427.97, the City contributed \$10,000 and City customers contributed \$1,427.97.
5. The Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance staff has been working on the installation of the new playground structure at Gosnold (Sunset) Park this past week. They will continue working in this area around the swing set to incorporate all the structure with an eight-inch deep fall zone. Work should be completed by next week if weather permits. The structure at the Pete Hooker Park will also be replaced with the same equipment as is being installed at the Gosnold Park.
6. The Elizabeth City Fire Department was notified this week that the department had been selected to receive a Safety Grant from Sam's Club

- in Chesapeake. The grant will be used to purchase smoke detectors for our "Free Smoke Detector Program." We were not notified of the exact amount of the grant. Chief Pritchard will be going to Sam's Club on Wednesday to accept the check.
7. The George Wood Park located on the Camden Causeway received a face-lift over the past two weeks. All of the decking and rails on the "T" section of the main pier was replaced with new salt-treated wood.
 8. The City of Elizabeth City has completed another successful United Way campaign among its employees. This year's campaign, chaired by Chief William Anderson, netted a total pledge of \$11,334.48, with 48% of all city employees participating. This amount does not include the annual budget appropriation made by the City Council. This year's campaign resulted in a 56% increase over the City's 2004 campaign, which totaled \$7,947. I would like to thank all the employees who opted to participate in this worthwhile community cause and Chief Anderson for his work in spearheading the effort.
 9. The next meeting of the Board of Zoning Adjustments will be on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. There have been three items submitted for review and action as follows: (1) Special Use Permit application by Debra C. Swain to open a tavern at 216B North Poindexter Street; (2) Special Use Permit application by St. James AME Zion Church to construct a church, and; (3) Variance application by St. James AME Zion Church to reduce the minimum front and side building setbacks.
 10. As a reminder, the meeting with the residents of the Hugh Cale community will be held on Tuesday, January 17 beginning at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 611 S. MLK Drive. This meeting was requested by Council to provide an opportunity to discuss plans for the Community Resource Center and the Revitalization Strategies Grant with the community's residents.
 11. City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16 in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday holiday. Monday's garbage collection route will be worked on Tuesday, January 17.

RCO/vdw