



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
DATE: January 27, 2006
REF: FYI
PC: Departmental Directors, etal

1. The yearly close out of estimated new construction valuation for 2005 was the highest the City has ever experienced. A lot of this can probably be attributed to the sharp material and land cost increases. Except for the County's new public safety and library buildings, which just recently got under way (\$11,904,910), there were no other single major projects. The majority of the construction valuation was for single-family dwellings at \$15,680,261. Multi-family dwellings were estimated at \$4,883,710. It is expected that 2006 will also be a high valuation year, especially with the proposed Super Wal-Mart, Fairfield Inn, Ruby Tuesdays and the new subdivisions, which have already been approved. Below are comparisons for the estimated construction valuations over the last four years.

<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
\$44,124,950	\$27,683,397	\$26,753,872	\$22,803,417

2. The renovation of the Customer Service area will begin in the next few weeks. The workstations have been ordered and should arrive in four to five weeks. Painting will occur prior to the installation of the workstations and carpet will hopefully be installed over a weekend to eliminate customer inconvenience. The workstations will be installed during the work week and will require Customer Service Representatives to move their operations to the Council Chambers for three to four days. We will schedule this renovation to take place at a time to cause the least amount

of inconvenience for our customers, but there obviously will be some disruption.

3. The City has received two quotes from paving companies to pave the following streets: Byrum, Madrin, Ball and Scott. These streets are the ones that staff has identified as not being hard-surfaced. Also, one other street, Pinewood Avenue, needs to be asphalted. This street is a Department of Transportation road and a letter will be sent to the District Engineer's office requesting that the street be asphalted. (Due to anticipated drainage work within the Oak Grove Community, Pinewood Avenue will not be addressed this year.) There is money available to do the paving work this year. Once a third quote has been received, this item will be placed on the City Council's agenda for approval.
4. The Chamber's annual Business Expo will be held on February 22, 2006. This year, the City of Elizabeth City will host a booth to spotlight the special programs and services currently being offered, such as the ceiling insulation and water heater rebate programs. We will also use this opportunity to provide energy saving ideas to the public through demonstration and literature.
5. I will be out of town from Wednesday, February 1 through Friday, February 3 attending the NC City and County Management Seminar. During my absence, Sarah Blanchard will serve as Acting City Manager. As always, I may be reached by cell phone if necessary.
6. Albemarle Hopeline will celebrate the opening of its new facility with a ribbon cutting and open house on Monday, February 6 at 9 a.m. The facility is located at 1802 W. Ehringhaus Street in the former Carolina Living Retirement Home.

RCO/vdw