



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

DATE: April 21, 2006

REF: FYI

PC: Departmental Directors, etal

1. Over the last six months, City staff has been working with Integra Development Partners on the purchase and rehabilitation of the units at Elizabeth Manor. At the City Council meeting held on March 13, 2006, the Council adopted a Findings Resolution, which spelled out all the different entities who would be involved in the issuance of the bonds. I have received notice from Integra that CharterMac has decided not to go forward with the issuance of the bonds. Integra had arranged for all the bonds to be pre-placed with CharterMac. Due to this development, the project has been delayed for a period of time. It is still Integra's desire to purchase and rehabilitate the units at Elizabeth Manor. Integra hopes to put together a new team within the next six months.
2. On April 20, 2006, I spoke at the Public Hearing held by the North Carolina Division of Facilities Services (DFS) on Albemarle Hospital's proposed upgrade to its emergency and surgery facilities. The Hospital is considering a \$26,500,000 upgrade to these facilities. The upgrade will both modernize and add capacity for emergency and surgery patients. Over the last few years, the Hospital has seen a dramatic increase in the number of visits to the emergency room and would like to create a Pod System layout to better handle the patients. This is known as an "ER One" concept. In addition, modernization of the surgical suites is being proposed. The Hospital will be adding 85,000 square feet of new facility. My comments, and those of Randy Keaton, support the Hospital's request to receive a Certificate of Need (CON). DFS should complete the analysis of the Hospital's application for a CON by July.

3. City Staff is very close to resolving the housing rehabilitation incident involving Mrs. Beulah Respass, which has caused Mrs. Respass to be displaced from her home since February 2003. Mrs. Respass approached City Staff at the Community Meeting held on January 17, 2006 and requested that discussions begin again regarding the matter. I am pleased to announce that the City has executed an agreement with Mrs. Respass to tear down her old home and rebuild a new three bedroom, two bath home on her existing lot. Mrs. Respass and her family will begin immediately to remove personal belongings from the home before the City moves her furniture and other items into a storage unit. It is anticipated that the home will be demolished soon after that and then turned over to Bay Island Construction Company. After the lot is cleared, it will take Bay Island approximately 150 days to construct the new 1270 square foot home.
4. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Technical Review Committee will be held at 10 a.m. on April 25, 2006. There are four items on the agenda. The first item is a preliminary plat by Hamilton Commercial Properties, LLC for the Mill End Center located on US 17 South. The subdivision consists of 7.45 acres and will have five lots zoned Highway Business. A 240' long cul-de-sac will provide access to the lots. The second item is a site plan application and conditional use permit for Rivers End Development Corporation for a seven-unit condominium project on .45 acres on North Poindexter Street. The third item is a site plan by D & R Construction, located at 137 Jordan Plaza for an office building. The building will have 2,480 square feet and will provide 14 parking spaces. The final item is a rezoning application for 31.68 acres from R-15 to PUD-PDM located at the east end of Asbury Lane. The project was in the queue prior to the moratorium. The project will consist of 162 units of residential zoning on 21.65 acres and 2.89 acres of commercial property. The owner is 3 N 1, Inc.
5. The Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Police Athletic League's (PAL) first Police A-Kid-Emy concludes today with 161 kids traveling to Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia for a day of fun. Thirty chaperones, including 13 police officers, accompanied the kids to Virginia. This concludes a week of activities where kids ranging in age from 8-15 participated in all types of activities including educational programs such as gang awareness, anti-bullying, alcohol and drug awareness and how it affects the ability to operate a motor vehicle, K9 demonstrations, arts and crafts and horseback riding. The Fire Department participated in the Police A-Kid-Emy on Monday, April 24th. The Department demonstrated different rescue techniques to show the children how they would be

helped if their house were on fire. The smoke machine was demonstrated to show children what it might be like if they were in a building that was on fire and what they should do. Arson K-9 Sheba was also introduced to the children. During the week, several local businesses including the Food Bank provided lunch, drinks and snacks for the kids with the Police Department hosting a cookout on Wednesday. Overall, the program has been a tremendous success with over 180 kids participating. Preliminary feedback from parents, staff, volunteers and especially the kids indicates that all have had a great week. Kudos to PAL, the Elizabeth City Police Department and 21st Century Learning for an outstanding job with its first ever Police A-Kid-Emy. I am sure they can't wait until next year!

6. City Planning staff and Councilman Stimatz met with Buddy Blackburn of the Wooten Company this week to start the process for revisions to the Joint Pasquotank County/Elizabeth City Land Use Plan as requested by CAMA. Mr. Blackburn also met with Pasquotank County staff while he was in Elizabeth City.
7. The Board of Zoning Adjustments reviewed two applications at its April 18, 2006 meeting. The Board approved a side yard setback variance for 524 South Road Street. This is the site of the Community Resource/Training Center in the Hugh Cale neighborhood. The Board approved a second variance application for Mrs. Beulah Respass of 513 White Street for side yard setbacks. Both of these applications are part of the Hugh Cale Revitalization Strategies Grant.
8. In observance of April as Fair Housing Month, the Community Development Officer and the Energy Department's "Cycle & Save" program staff will be participating in a Fair Housing Forum focusing on "Tenants Rights" Thursday, April 27, 2006 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Cooperative Extension Office, which is located at 1209 McPherson Street. The guest speakers will be Renee Smith from the North Carolina Commission on Human Relations discussing Fair Housing Laws and Adelcio Lugo of Self Help discussing the importance of financial literacy and the emerging Hispanic population's needs. Additionally, several local agencies will be displaying information on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities and first-time homeownership opportunities.
9. The Elizabeth City Fire Department will hold its last orientation for applicants that have applied for the vacant firefighter positions on Saturday, April 29th at 9:00 a.m. in room C-213 at College of the Albemarle. Persons interested must have their application on file before attending an orientation session. The session will include a video explaining parts of the hiring process and a competency exam.

10. The Elizabeth City Fire Department is pleased to announce the promotion of two of its personnel. Mark Rogerson has been promoted from the rank of Firefighter to Engineer. Karl Benton has been promoted from the rank of Engineer to Captain. I would like to congratulate these two individuals on their promotions and wish them well with their new duties.

RCO/vdw