

**MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2003**

Mayor Garland S. Novosad declared a Special Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 8:10 a.m.

Councilmembers present were: Mayor Garland S. Novosad, Councilmembers V. L. Wiley, Jr., Darryl Darnell, Ken Freese, Don Mueller, Domingo Montalvo, Jr., and Bryce Kocian.

Staff members present were: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Finance Director Joyce Vasut, Deputy City Secretary Lisa Stavena, Assistant to City Manager Jackie Jansky, Police Chief Tim Guin, Building Official Ronnie Bollom, Public Works Director Phil Bush, EMS Director John Kowalik, Community Services Director Jo Knezek, Facilities Maintenance Director Bob Baker, Fire Chief David Copeland and City Attorney Paul Webb.

Visitors present were: Ron Sanders-Wharton Journal Spectator, WEDCo Executive Director David Schroeder, Lou Fox, Shirl Thomas, Carlos Cotton, I.O. Coleman, Skip Holman, James Kuykendall, Billie Jones, and Mike Wooten.

The second item on the agenda was City Council Workshop and Strategic Planning Session. Mayor Garland S. Novosad welcomed the City Council, City Staff and visitors to the City Council Workshop and Strategic Planning Session. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. introduced Mr. Lou Fox, Chief Executive Officer of Urban Advisory Services. Mr. Lou Fox introduced Vice President Ms. Shirl Thomas.

Presentations by Department Heads:

a. Phil Bush, Public Works Director, Public Works/Utilities.

Phil Bush addressed the City Council and presented the following:

Sanitary Sewer System Facilities:

--There are a total of nine lift stations in different locations throughout the City. Each station has an individual collection area in which it lifts the waste and pumps it into other mains that run to 2 separate Waste Water Treatment Plants.

--There are approximately 3,042 service connections in the City.

--There are approximately 77 miles of sewer lines running throughout the city to lift stations and Treatment Plants. Many of these lines are in need of repair. Heavy infiltration is most apparent in the Ahldag & East side additions.

--There are 2 WWTP Operators in the Sewer Department and 2 additional employees that work on the maintenance of the collection system.

Waste Water Treatment Plant No.1

- Designed Capacity: 1.5 million gallons per day
- Operating at 1.0 million gallons per day (over 75% of capacity)
- *Completed Installation of de-watering wells to stabilize river bank.

Waste Water Treatment Plant No.1

- Designed Capacity: 0.5 million gallons per day
- Operating at 180,000 gallons per day
- *Reconstruction of Treatment Basin currently in progress.
- *Rehabilitation of older sections of plant in progress.

Pump Station A (NANYA)

- Installation date: 1985
- No additional work had been done.

Pump Station B (Milam Street)

- Installation Date: before 1974
- Last reworked 1 pump in 1995 and 2 motors in 2002

Pump Station C (Industrial Park)

- Installation Date: before 1974
- Last reworked 1 pump in 2002

Pump Station D (Park Lane)

- Installation Date: before 1974
- Last reworked 1 pump in 1992 and 1 pump in 2002.

Pump Station E (Alabama Street)

- Installation Date: 1978
- No additional work has been done.

Pump Station F (Jr.. College)

- Installation Date: before 1974
- Last reworked both motors and 1 pump in 1995.

Pump Station G (Lake Net)

- Installation Date: 1990-91
- No additional work has been done.

Pump Station H (Lane City)

- Installation Date: 1981
- Last reworked both pumps in 2002.

Pump Station I (Hinze's)

- Installation Date: 1993-94
- Last replaced 1 pump in 1999-2000.

Sanitary Sewer Department Projections:

- Complete WWTP No.2 Project
- Work on WWTP No.1 flood-proofing
- Correct issues at WWTP No.1 by:
 - A. Infiltration Study
 - B. Re-routing Milam street lift station
 - C. Plant Expansion Plan
- Run flow & capacity analysis on lift stations
- Begin lift station Replacement/ Rehabilitation Program
- Correct infiltration issues by:

- A. Flow monitoring lines
 - B. Televising lines
 - C. Smoke Testing lines
 - D. Manhole inspections
 - E. Pan Installation in manholes
- Begin Sewer line Rehabilitation/ Replacement Program

--Additional personnel

--Replace the 1974 Bean Pressure Sewer Machine & the 1993 Ford F-150

Water System Facilities Department

--There are 4 Water Wells in the City.

--There are 3 Elevated Water Storage Tanks in the City, and 4 Ground Water Storage Tanks in the City. The total storage capacity of the City is 3.3 million gallons.

--There are 2 Booster Pump locations in the City.

--There are approximately 78 miles of water mains in the City.

--There are approximately 3,128 service connections in the City.

--The Daily Average Consumption of the City is 1.6 million gallons per day.

--The Maximum Daily Capacity of the complete water system is currently 5.0 million gallons.

--There are 5 employees in the Water Department: 1 supervisor, 2 meter readers, and 2 utility maintenance workers.

Water System--Wells

--There are 2 water wells located at the Water Plant on Alabama Road. The first well was installed in 1949, but both wells have been rehabilitated within the last six years.

--There is 1 water well located at the intersection of Caney Street & Cloud Street. This well was rehabilitated in 2002.

--There is 1 well located on Valhalla Drive, behind the Gulf Coast Medical Center Complex. This well is scheduled for rehabilitation after completion of the current Water Tank Rehabilitation Project.

Elevated Water Storage Tanks

--There is one 500,000 gallon Elevated Tank located on Wayside Street behind the High School. It was installed in 1972 and reworked and painted this year. With good maintenance, it should last 50 more years.

--There is one 500,000 gallon Elevated Tank located on the Hwy 59 by-pass at the Treatment Plant No.2 site. It was installed in 1986 and is scheduled to be reworked and painted this year. With good maintenance, it should last 70 more years.

--There is one 300,000 gallon Elevated Tank located on Cloud and Caney Street. It was installed in 1953. Three years ago, it was inspected and deemed in poor condition with a running estimation of less than 10 more years.

Ground Water Storage Tanks

--There are three 500,000 gallon Ground Storage Tanks located at the Water Well site on Alabama Road. These tanks will require repair in the next 6-8 years. If maintained properly, they should last an additional 50 years.

--There is one 500,000 gallon Ground Storage Tank located on Valhalla Drive, behind the Gulf Coast Medical Complex. It was installed in the 1980's. If maintained properly, it should last an additional 70 years.

Booster Pumps

--There is one Pump Station located with the Water Well and Ground Storage Tank on Valhalla Drive behind the Gulf Coast Medical Complex. This Station contains two booster pumps. Each pump was installed in the 1980's, but neither pump has had any substantial work done to it since that time.

--There is one Pump Station located by the Water Well and Ground Storage Tanks on Alabama Road. This Station contains two booster pumps. One pump was rehabilitated in 1992 and the other pump was rehabilitated in 2003 at a cost of \$2,500 each.

Water System--Fire Plugs

--As identified, there are approximately 377 fire plugs in the City. Of those plugs, 348 are Mueller plugs and 29 are old Corey plugs.

--As per the City of Wharton Fire Code, all fire hydrants should be set no more than 500 feet apart in residential areas. This distance would require each fire hydrant to cover an area of no more than a 250' radius.

Projections:

--Approximately 203+ additional fire plugs must be installed. Many of these plugs will require the installation of a new 6" water line or the up-sizing of an existing smaller line.

Water System Department Projections

--Complete system analysis, including studies on well capacities, storage capacities, booster pump capacities and line sizes and loops.

--Implement a Semiannual Well Testing Program

--Begin a system for collecting and efficiently recording accountability data & repair history data

--Implement a program of Operational Procedures, including Plant controls, Elevated Tank controls and Plant coordination

--Implement a program of Emergency Operations, including Right-angle drives, Emergency generators (Alabama Road WP), and Dialers

--Prepare for future expansion, including additional water plants and major trunk lines

--Prepare a Replacement Plan for the Cloud Street Elevated Water Tank.

--Additional personnel

Streets Department

--The city has approximately 95 miles of concrete, asphalt and gravel streets.

--\$150,000 per year budgeted for street work, but \$30,000-\$40,000 are used for regular street maintenance.

--Department has 11 full-time employees & 1 part-time employee: 2 for mowing, street signs & spraying, 3 for drainage, 2 patching streets, 1 sweeping, 1 mowing & weed-eating main entrances, 2 help on all jobs.

--Streets to be reconstructed, sealed or overlaid are selected by the City staff and presented to the Streets & Drainage Committee for preliminary approval and the City Council for final approval.

--To reconstruct a street, at least 3 City employees must be utilized.

--All asphalt work is bid out to private contractors

--All indicated streets have been reconstructed and sealed since 1997.

--Helms Street & Junior College Blvd. are currently pending on the Streets & Drainage Committee's list of streets to be widened, curbed & guttered.

Street Department Projections:

--Begin a Curb & Gutter Program to improve the streets & drainage.

--Begin a Street Rehabilitation Program

--Need a budget of approximately \$200,000 per year for street rehabilitation, including reconstruction, seal coating, overlaying & curbing.

--US 59 Service Road Construction Project

--FM 1301 Extension Project

--FM 102/US59 Intersection Project

--Halford Road Acceleration/ Deceleration Lanes Project

--Texas-New Mexico Railroad Service Road Crossing Project

--ADA requirements on Parking & Accessibility of Downtown Area

--Additional personnel

--Replacement of the following equipment:

*1981 Inter. 12 cy Dump truck

*1981 Case Back Hoe

*1983 International Tractor

*1983 Rhino Shredder Flex 15

*1983 Ford F700 Flat Bed truck

*1983 Ingram P-Roller

*1984 Bucket Truck (Chassic)

*1985 Ford F-350 (Old Ambulance)

*1985 Ford F-800 Patch Truck (Chassic)

*1994 Ford 4630 Tractor

*1983 Ford Pick-up

*Rhino 10ft. Shredder

*Cushman Mower

Streets Department-- Drainage

--All drainage work is done with the Streets Department's personnel.

--3 full-time employees consistently work on drainage, and others are assigned as needed.

--A list of drainage issues is kept as complaints are received. Problems are evaluated and prioritized as new issues are addressed.

--The following drainage projects are currently in progress:

Mahan Street

Mayfair Addition

LaDelle Street Ditch

Crestmont/Chapel Heights Inlets

Ahldag Addition Outfall Ditch

Wal-mart Outfall Ditch

Alabama Road Outfall Ditch

NANYA Outfall Ditch

Drainage Projections:

--Lake Net Outfall Ditch Project

--Down stream Caney Creek obstructions Project

--Caney Creek East of US 59 (Outlar Lake) Project

--Baughman Slough Diversion Project

--Storm line replacement across block @ Richmond & First Street Project

--Second outfall to Colorado River along Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way Project

--Downtown Storm lines Project

--Acquire additional personnel

Wharton Municipal Airport:

--Capital Improvements Project (Total: \$1,280,896)

- A. Building parking pad in front of new hangar.
- B. Building new parking pad for planes between new hangar building and Schlumberger building.
- C. Slurry seal runway, taxiway, & parking areas
- D. Replace lighting on runway
- E. Install new wind sox
- F. New fencing

--Ramp Program (State & City funding: \$60,000)

--Built truck parking pad (120ft. X 150ft.)

--Built truck parking pad at Schlumberger building

b. Joyce Vasut, Finance Director.

Joyce Vasut addressed the City Council and stated that she is over the following departments:

Accounting

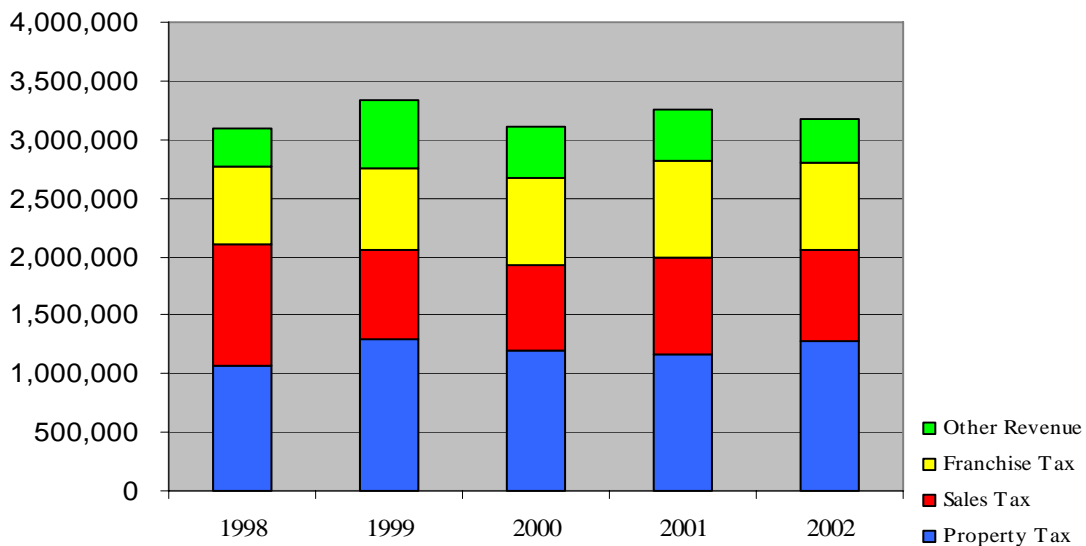
Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable

City Secretary

Municipal Court

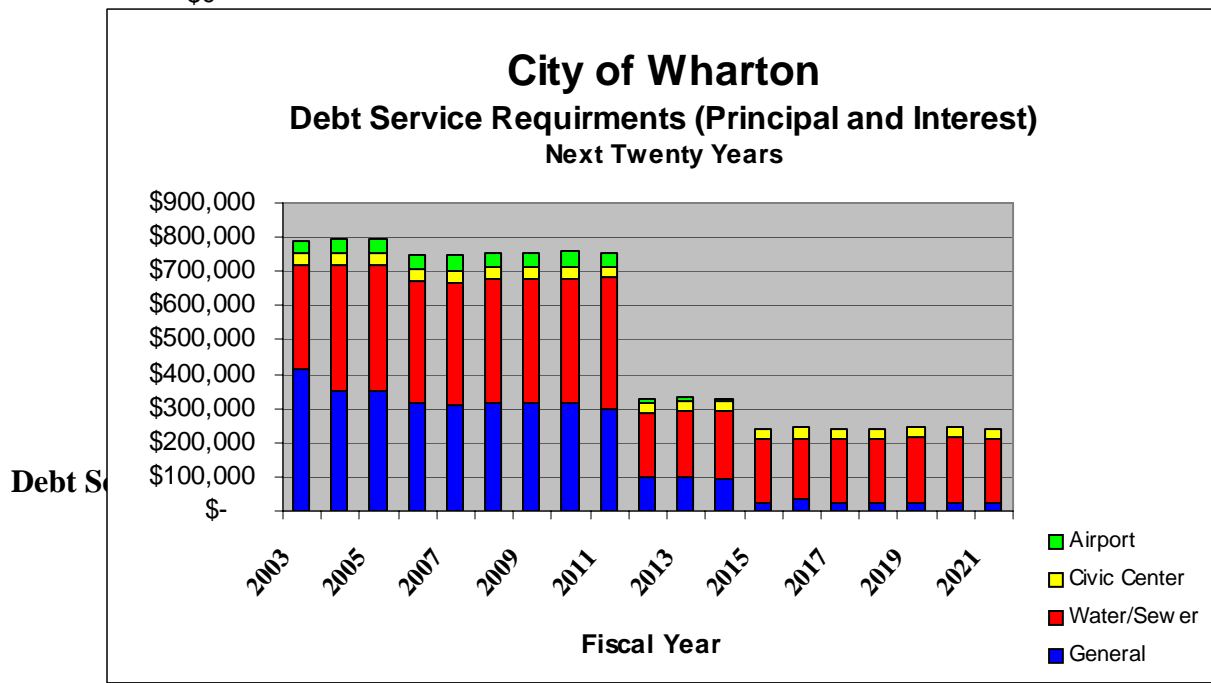
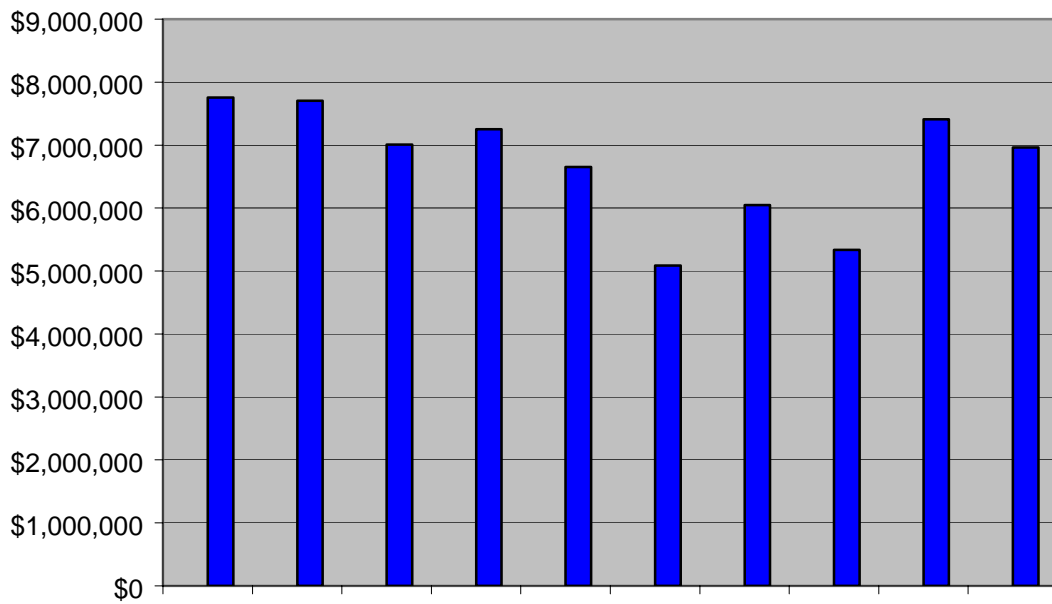
She stated that the future needs for Municipal Court would be to purchase a new computer system in order for the Municipal Court collections to be integrated with the accounting system at City Hall and to improve the technical support, which was currently very poor and has caused a lot of manual processes. Finance Director Joyce Vasut presented the following information:

**City of Wharton
 General Fund - Revenue Sources
 Last Five Years**



	Property Tax	Sales Tax	Franchise Tax	Other Revenue	Total
1998	\$ 1,073,408	\$ 1,034,632	\$ 653,186	\$ 331,065	\$3,092,291
1999	\$ 1,294,577	\$ 757,404	\$ 693,821	\$ 592,140	\$3,337,942
2000	\$ 1,197,190	\$ 735,539	\$ 733,900	\$ 444,866	\$3,111,495
2001	\$ 1,172,237	\$ 811,674	\$ 830,621	\$ 439,032	\$3,253,564
2002	\$ 1,272,437	\$ 785,000	\$ 738,950	\$ 385,347	\$3,181,734

Total Long-Term Debt Last Ten Years



Summary of Projects

	Funding				Total
	Federal	State	City	Local	
<i>City Projects</i>					
Wastewater Treatment Plant # 2	\$ 800,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 1,650,000
HOME Program	-	495,000	-	-	495,000
Disaster Relief Fund - WWTP # 1 Bank Repairs	-	291,500	-	-	291,500
Disaster Relief - Unmet Housing Needs	390,000	130,000	-	-	520,000
Disaster Relief - Hazardous Mitigation	407,452	-	100,000	-	507,452
Supplemental Property Elevation Assistance	375,000	125,000	-	-	500,000
Richmond Road - Line Relocation	-	-	800,000	-	800,000
Water Line for Hinze's	-	-	435,000	-	435,000
Water Tank Painting	-	-	495,000	-	495,000
Civic Center Building Improvements	-	-	354,250	-	354,250
Airport Capital Improvement Grant	-	1,147,227	97,000	-	1,244,227
Structural Hanger Improvements	-	60,000	168,500	-	228,500
Restoration of Railroad Depot	1,030,000	-	-	260,000	1,290,000
Flood Feasibility Study	515,000	257,500	257,500	-	1,030,000
Civic Center Restrooms	-	-	69,000	44,000	113,000
Total City Projects	\$ 3,517,452	\$ 3,256,227	\$ 2,876,250	\$ 304,000	\$ 9,953,929
<i>State Projects</i>					
Expansion of Highway 60	-	5,100,000	-	-	5,100,000
Expansion of Highway 1301	-	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
<i>County Projects</i>					
Restoration of Historic Courthouse	-	2,300,000	-	900,000	3,200,000
Restoration of Buildings for County Use	-	-	-	1,900,000	1,900,000
<i>School District Projects</i>					
New Jr. High Gymnasium	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Dawson Gymnasium Improvements	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
High School Gymnasium Improvements	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
<i>Community Projects</i>					
Boys and Girls Club	-	-	-	1,100,000	1,100,000
Grand Total Projects	\$ 3,517,452	\$ 13,656,227	\$ 2,876,250	\$ 5,704,000	\$ 25,753,929

c. Tim Guin, Police Chief.

Tim Guin addressed the City Council and presented the following:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

■ Current Needs

◆ Two Patrol Officers

- ◆ Reduce call ratio
- ◆ Promote Pro-Active Policing
- ◆ Community Oriented Policing
- ◆ New Scheduling Options

■ Future Needs – Growth

- ◆ Adding 2 to 3 Officers per 1000
- ◆ Additional Detectives
- ◆ Additional Records Clerks

■ EQUIPMENT

■ Future Needs

- ◆ Individual Equipment – Additional Officers
- ◆ Radio, Uniforms etc....
- ◆ Equip Additional Police Cars
- ◆ Emergency Equipment
- ◆ Two Way Radio Communication System
- ◆ Current System – Over Eleven Years Old
- ◆ All Public Safety Departments
- ◆ Computer Aided Dispatch Upgrade
- ◆ Mobile Data Terminal

■ FACILITIES

■ Current Needs

- ◆ Sub Floor- Old Council Chamber Area
- ◆ Carpeting

■ Future Needs

- ◆ Paint Building
- ◆ Building Settling Issues
- ◆ WPA Building
- ◆ Constructed during the depression
- ◆ Firing Range Target System Replacement

COMMUNICATIONS

■ PERSONNEL

■ Current Staffing – Seven

- ◆ At times only one TCO on duty

■ Goals

- ◆ Two TCOs per shift
- ◆ Three additional TCOs

EQUIPMENT

- ◆ Two Way Radio Communication System
- ◆ Current System – Over Eleven Years Old
- ◆ All Public Safety Departments
- ◆ Fixed Equipment
- ◆ Recording Equipment
- ◆ Emergency Telephone Lines
- ◆ Two Way Radio Traffic

■ FACILITIES

■ Current Location

- ◆ Adequate for two TCOs per shift
- ◆ Additional TCOs will require larger area

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PERSONNEL

■ MAYOR'S OFFICE

■ EQUIPMENT

■ Additional Siren Locations

- ◆ Two recommended

■ Low Power AM/FM Transmitter

- ◆ Cost?

■ FACILITIES

■ Currently Housed at the Police Department

ANIMAL CONTROL

■ PERSONNEL

■ Equipment

◆ VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

- ◆ Scheduled for next budget year

- ◆ Eleven years old

■ ADDITIONAL TRAPS

■ OTHER CAPTURE EQUIPMENT

■ FACILITIES

■ New Shelter

■ Fixtures For Shelter

DARE

■ EQUIPMENT

■ Currently Recycle Patrol Units

■ Show Car

- ◆ Funding?

d. Jo Knezek, Community Services Director, Community Development/Recreation.
Jo Knezek addressed the City Council and presented the following information:

PRESENT NEEDS:

Civic Center

- ADA Compliance.
- Complete remodeling of entire Center.
- Additional restrooms and meeting rooms.
- Additional chairs, tables, etc. for meeting rooms.

Grant Administration

- 2001 TDHCA HOME Investment Program Grant 9 homes
- 2002-2003 TDHCA HOME Program - April 2, 2003 (apply for 9 additional homes)]
- 1998 Colorado River Flood Hazard Mitigation & Elevation of Unmet Needs Grant (50 homes elevated, recent requirements lead testing)

Section 8 Rental Assistance Program

- 35 Families receiving rental assistance - 15 additional vouchers March 2003

Pool

- A covered seating area for guests.
- Additional picnic tables, and chairs.

FUTURE NEEDS:

- Replace 3 computer systems.

- Update copier.
- Phase IV of the Civic Center.

e. Paul Webb, City Attorney.

Paul Webb address the City Council and presented the TML Legislative Update, January 17, 2003 Issue Number 2. He stated that he had concerns for the following House Bills and Senate Bills:

H.B. 355 (Dutton) - Time Away from work: would provide that an employee with at least six months on the job may take unpaid leave of up to ten hours per year to meet with a teacher, school counselor, or school principal of the employee's child.

H.B. 356 (Dutton) - Time Away from work: would provide that an employee may take paid leave of up to two hours per semester to meet with a teacher of the employee's child or to participate in a school activity.

H.B. 361 (Dutton) - Sales Tax Holiday: would (1) extend the duration of the sales tax holiday for certain clothing and shoes from 72 hours to two weeks, (2) exempt from sales taxes the sale of school supplies during August, and (3) allow cities to repeal the exemption on school supplies by council vote.

H.B. 378 (Dutton) - Public Nuisance: Would allow a resident of a city to bring a lawsuit against the city to require the city to abate a public nuisance that is occurring within the city. The bill also provides that if a court finds that a public nuisance is occurring, the court may, among other things, require the city to purchase the property in order to remedy the nuisance.

H.B. 396 (Mowery) - Property Taxes: would permit property owners, but not taxing entities, to challenge certain property tax disputes in small claims court rather than district court as current law requires. The bill would also provide that an appeal could be taken from the small claims court's judgment by the property owner only, and not by the taxing entity.

H.B. 397 (Mowery) - Certificates of Obligation: would require a city to conduct an election prior to the issuance of certificates of obligation for amounts in excess of \$2 million. For other issuances, the bill would lower the petition requirement from five percent to two percent of qualified voters.

H.B. 426 (Christian) - State Agency Rules: would prohibit a state agency from adopting rules that impose costs on local governments unless the legislature specifically authorizes the rules.

S.J.R. 10 (Janek) - Property Taxes: would amend the Texas Constitution to authorize the legislature to impose a statutory cap on annual increases in a homestead's value that is less than the minimum of ten percent currently allowed by the Constitution.

S.B. 180 (Janek) - Property Taxes: would lower from ten percent to one percent the maximum yearly increase in taxable value of a residential homestead. (Note: this legislation would become effective only if S.J.R. 10 is approved by Texas voters.)

f. Bob Baker, Facilities Maintenance Director/Park Maintenance.

Bob Baker addressed the City Council and presented the following:

Facilities Maintenance Department

--The Facilities Maintenance Department is comprised of four full-time employees who are responsible for the maintenance of nine City Parks and sixteen additional City Facilities. A large portion of time is spent mowing parks, etc. which total approximately 85 acres.

Facilities Maintenance Projections

--Meet requirements of the new ADA Standards for all City facilities. The total cost will be approximately \$180,000, with the Fire Station being the most costly at approximately \$85,000.
--Replacement of the following equipment: two 72in. Rotary Mowers and one 3/4-ton pickup truck.

g. Ronnie Bollom, Code Enforcement Department.

Ronnie Bollom addressed the City Council and presented the following information:

Proactive Code Enforcement

- Strengthen the enforcement of codes and ordinances.
- Issuance of citations by code officials for violations limiting additional notifications, and documentation.
- Qualified personnel - emphasis on training, certification and/or licensing.
- Additional staff to compensate for additional workloads resulting in better efficiency.
- Continue to review current codes and ordinances amending where necessary with special consideration to the flood ordinance utilizing Senate Bill 936 which empowers the City to penalize for non-compliance of flood standards.
- Make application for the Community Rating System (CRS) which would upon acceptance, enable property owners to receive a reduction on their flood insurance premium.
- Better access to code utilizing CDROM in the office and by using a laptop in the field, one could research data without having to return to the office. This would be beneficial for the purpose of time management and as a service to the customer.
- Create a more advance record keeping system by implementing Laser Fiche programming.
- Create and retain a good library within the Code Department for customer access to the codes and code-related items.
- Improved acoustics for offices in City Hall, which would incorporate better concentration for staff (improving productivity) and privacy for customers.

h. John Kowalik, EMS Director.

John Kowalik addressed the City Council and presented the following:

Where were we?

8 Full-time Paramedics and 1 Director

6 Paramedics covering 24 on 48 off with the remaining two covering Monday thru Firday and splitting Wednesday into two 12 hours blocks. this was done on a rotational basis. (Every seventh week). EMS Director M-F 8 to 5.

Reason: One extra person on-duty M-F (24 hours) for transfers and second out units.

Result: Still needing one more person to cover the second unit.

Certification of service at the MICU level.

Paramedic and an EMT must be on board at all times.

Pro's: You are considered certified at the highest level.

Con's: Inability to transport any patient unless a Paramedic is on board. Lack of Paramedics to staff vehicles for transfers or second out units. Must require personnel to live within a time limit to be able to cover the second out units.

Billing company in Houston.

Pro's: Reduction in staffing costs. Professional billing agents and collection processes.

Con's: Company is in Houston. Difficulty for customers to go to billing office for claim payment or disputes. Reports sent via mail or courier resulting in slow processing.

Where are we now?

Staffing Shortage.

4 Full-time Paramedics employed with availability for 4. (Open paramedic slots currently being covered by full/part-time Paramedics and Director.)

6 Paramedics covering 24 on 48 off and utilizing the funds available for the 2 unfilled openings towards part-time employees.

2 part-time employees (EMT and above) are scheduled Wednesday thru Sunday 24 hours. Part-time employees also cover overtime openings of the full-time staff when possible to reduce cost.

Pro's: Two ambulances on-duty 24 hours Wednesday thru Sunday at the MICU level. Better coverage for transfers and second out calls. The Director is usually available to staff a second unit two days a week or a third if needed three days a week.

Con's: No fully staffed seconded truck available Monday and Tuesday.

Working on EMS Provider License at this time with consideration of changing certification levels from all MICU, to two units at the MICU level and two at BLS with MICU capabilities.

Pro's: Better usage of available resources without compromising patient care. Any unit on any given day or call can be staffed at the MICU level. By department standards the primary and secondary trucks will be staffed at the MICU level.

Con's: None that we can identify at this time.

Billing service in Wharton.

Pro's: Reduction in staffing costs. Professional billing agents and collection processes. Better software on the billing side for collection data and QA statistics.

Con's: New company.

Where do we want to go?

Personnel

6 Full-time Paramedics

Need: Better pay to keep and attract quality individuals to the department.

Staffing for 2 units 24 hours 7 days a week.

Want: Increase in part-time personnel budget to cover cost for the extra two days a week.

Lieutenant in the office M-F

Want: Create new position.

Create active volunteer training program.

Want: Create a program between the City of Wharton and Wharton EMS to defray training costs to attract volunteers.

Equipment

Remount one unit each year with total replacement every 5th year.

Remount cost: \$66,000

Replacement cost: \$90,000

Supervisor vehicle

Estimate cost: \$25,000

Upgrade EKG monitors to 12 lead capability with blood pressure monitoring.

Estimate cost: \$14,000 per monitor x 4 \$56,000

In Summary:

Enough staffing to meet the needs of the community.

To be the best by exceeding current standards in pre-hospital health care.

i. David Copeland, Fire Chief.

David Copeland addressed the City Council and stated that the future needs for the department were as follows:

- Ladder Truck with a minimum 100' aerial.
- Rescue Truck.
- 2 Pumper Trucks within the next 5-7 years.
- Communication system.
- Fire Station bring up to ADA compliant.
- Possible sub-station with access to freeway directly and to serve all emergency stations at that location.
- Build new training field.
- Support personnel at department to maintain record keeping on fire calls and training.

j. David Schroeder, Wharton Economic Development Corporation.

David Schroeder addressed the City Council and stated that WEDCo had been in existence for four years, which had provided ADA compliance grants, infrastructure and tax abatements for existing and new businesses in the City of Wharton. He stated that the City Council would need to address a Housing Abatement and a Design Ordinance establishment design requirements for new businesses. He also stated that the City Council needed to place deed restrictions on the property and buildings the City sells, since the City did not have Zoning. Mr. Schroeder expressed the concern to expedite agreements rapidly for the businesses.

k. Skip Holman, Mayor's Local Committee for People with Disabilities.

Skip Holman addressed the City Council and stated that the City Council needed to address parking spaces at the Civic Center during Special Events. He stated that the front row could be blocked off for handicap parking or valet parking. He also stated that the Pool could be utilized year round for Aqua Therapy. He stated that Aqua Therapy was not offered in Wharton County, and WEDCo could make a donation to provide Aqua Therapy at the City of Wharton Municipal Pool.

Group Discussion. Lou Fox asked the Group for input on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

The following were added to Strengths:

Political strength - assess to all levels of government.

Gulf Coast Medical Center and South Texas Medical Clinic.

Designation of Champion Community.

Diversity of Population.

Parks/Pool system quality.

Close to Houston.

Entertainment.

The following were added to Weaknesses:

Lack of wireless assess - high speed communication.
Major trauma center not available.
School facilities.
Aging infrastructure in parts of City.

The following were deleted from Weaknesses:

Retail leakage.
No vision to meet needs.
Lack of restaurants.
School System.

The following were added to Opportunities:

I-69 moving quickly.
Renovation of County Court House.
Neighbor Revitalization.

Lou Fox asked the group "What specifically should we, the City organization do during the next five to ten years to improve and promote the quality of life in Wharton and provide efficient, effective services to our citizens?"

City Staff and visitors discussed the question. The following was addressed by the City Council, City Staff and visitors:

1. Long range plans for expansion & growth – infrastructure; Infrastructure & rehabilitation plan in place.
2. Internet payment of bills - utilities.
3. Zoning to protect community.
4. Proactive Code Enforcement; Improve appearance of community, i.e. entrances to city, codes on apartments and for buildings; improve land use planning and design-retainage and drainage; provide a clean City with high quality standards; better enforcement of existing ordinances; and expand and improve development of ordinances and standards.
5. Improve housing stock through grants; more government investment in neighborhood development.
6. Continue to create more and better jobs.
7. Put City Code of Ordinances on Website.
8. Continue to encourage public feedback and participation i.e. newsletter; newsletter to the public for better community relations/information.
9. Greater involvement with ministers at all faith based process.
10. Buy more newspaper ads.
11. See, WEDCo for expansion of businesses or industry.
12. Raise revenue through expansion and development through population investments i.e. move school.
13. Regional outlook for future needs and future funding.

14. Improve cooperation between government organization to improve training.
15. Better focus on customer service because of friendly efficient employees.
16. Maintain senior staff and improve rewards.
17. Develop stronger public/private partnerships.
18. Improve youth programs and recreational opportunities.
19. Improve strategies for making Wharton visitor friendly.
20. Develop a policy for buying and selling of public/private property.
21. Better intergovernmental cooperation to reduce costs and improve efficiency.
22. Better river access - through improved surface water and resources for the future.
23. More innovative structuring of utility services costs.
24. Change statutes on agricultural property.
25. Create a drainage district for improved revenue development.
26. Downtown master plan and city wide master plan update.
27. Corp of Engineers floodproofing project.

The question helped to prioritize the top five priorities the City Council and Staff could accomplish. The top five priorities were:

- 1) Proactive Code Enforcement, improve community entrances, improve land use planning and design, clean city with high standards, and better enforcement of existing ordinances.
- 2) Long range plans for expansion and growth, infrastructure and rehab plan in place.
- 3) Continue to create more and better jobs.
- 4) Raise revenues through expansion and development and population increase.
- 5) Develop stronger public private partners for expansion commercial and industrial.

After some discussion no action was taken. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. stated that the next step would be to develop action steps and a timeline to achieve goals. He said that the City Staff would prepare the action steps and a timeline to achieve those goals. He said they would then be submitted to the City Council for their review and approval.

Mayor Garland S. Novosad publicly thanked Mr. Lou Fox for facilitating the Strategic Planning Session for the City of Wharton.

The third item on the agenda was adjournment: Councilmember Don Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Councilmember V. L. Wiley, Jr. seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
GARLAND S. NOVOSAD
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOYCE VASUT
City Secretary