1.0 Purpose

1.1 Aging infrastructure is a growing nationwide problem which demands increased attention. Currently, the estimated cost to maintain and repair the nation’s infrastructure is at least $853 billion.

1.2 Virginia Beach is a relatively young city, established in 1963, which has now become a mature urban area with a population of approximately 430,000. Over the years, a large public investment has been made in building the City’s infrastructure. The estimated replacement value of the City’s investment is currently $5.38 billion. A large portion of that infrastructure, such as public buildings, roads, water and sewer lines, and schools, was constructed during the 1970s and earlier, and these facilities are now reaching ages where major maintenance and repair, if not full replacement, should be planned.

1.3 For the last several years, City Council, the School Board, and the City and Schools staffs have recognized the need for this increased commitment to repair, renovate and replace the City’s older infrastructure. Council has addressed this issue by including additional funds in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for maintenance and repair projects.

1.4 Competition for City resources is keen while the City’s infrastructure maintenance and repair needs are growing. Since it is in the public interest to plan now for the future maintenance and repair of this substantial public investment, City Council desires to establish a policy on infrastructure maintenance and repair to focus attention on the unseen but growing infrastructure issue and to prevent large and costly replacements in the future.

2.0 Council Policy

2.1 It is the policy of City Council to support the planned maintenance and repair of the City’s infrastructure in a manner which provides the best facilities at the least cost and maintains the value of the City’s investment.

2.2 It is the policy of City Council to treat infrastructure maintenance and repair costs as fixed costs for new projects.

2.3 It is the long-term goal of City Council to achieve maintenance and repair levels which insure that the City’s infrastructure is functional and maintained in good condition by allocating the resources required by condition assessment surveys or generally accepted industry funding standards.

2.4 It is the policy of City Council to seek the expansion of resource capacity of these purposes.
3.0 Procedure(s) to Accomplish Policy

3.1 Staff will continue its planned infrastructure inventory and assessment until a complete and accurate inventory and assessment of the City’s infrastructure is complete. The inventory and assessment will be maintained thereafter so funding requirements can be identified.

3.2 The City Manager shall, in the annual budget document, report the amount of the City’s resources being applied to infrastructure maintenance and repair, and its relationship to replacement plant valve.

3.3 The City Manager shall, in concert with regional efforts, pursue increased resources for infrastructure maintenance and repair with emphasis on increases in State allocations for the maintenance and repair of roads, schools, and other infrastructure.

4.0 Responsibility and Authority

4.1 The City Manager shall, be responsible for submitting a budget which adequately funds the maintenance and repair of City infrastructure, and for reporting progress toward achieving Council’s goals.

5.0 Definitions

5.1 “Maintenance” is defined as the recurrent, day-to-day, periodic, or scheduled work required to preserve real property in such condition that it may be used for its designated purpose.

5.2 “Repair” is defined as the restoration or in-kind replacement of real property to such condition that it may be used for its designated purpose. This would include projects like the replacement of Cooke Elementary School or the Social Services building.

5.3 “Expansion” or “new construction” is defined as the installation or assembly of a new facility, or the addition, extension, alteration, or conversion of an existing facility for a new or expanded use.