

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **May 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

### **NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

After the introductions, Libby Anderson asked Councilman Stephen Murray if he had anything to add. Councilman Murray reminded everyone that Council sessions on Tuesdays will be about the budget and how they are moving forward with the City, Boundary Street, and other projects.

**Waste Pro, Lamar Taylor**, said there has been more changes with Waste Pro's management. Mr. Taylor said we are beginning our hurricane season. Yesterday we had between 3-4 inches of rain and our systems cannot handle it. He said to call Public Works if you see any obstructions to prevent flooding. We checked today to see what was blocked from last night's rain to make sure everything was open. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone, "no plastic bags" are allowed in the recycle carts; we are still seeing them. We will put out another flyer referring to the bagging ordinance.

**The Greenery, Chris Newnham**, said he is working on the Waterfront Park and core district. Drains are becoming an issue with the rain. The Waterfront Park gets torn up every day and we clean it up every day. Battery Point Resident said the park is beautiful. Mr. Taylor said Chris Newnham is responsible for the park. Councilman Murray asked Mr. Taylor to speak about the Waterfront Park Committee. Mr. Taylor said this committee has been formed to get the park back to the way it was. The committee includes myself, Linda Roper, Chief Bertholf, and Ivette Burgess. It's a 5-step program with the following steps:

1. meeting weekly with the committee;
2. meeting monthly with Jerry Ashmore and Public Works;
3. quarterly meeting with the committee;
4. yearly meeting with council and city manager; and
5. then have citizens involved.

Fred Mueller asked if the marina was included. Mr. Taylor said there is an annual inspection. Divers were just out there the other day and we're waiting on the data to come back. Councilman Murray said council agreed to \$3.5 million for the Waterfront Park which includes the marina.

Christina Wilson said she lives at 910 Wilmington Street and told Mr. Taylor about her drainage issues that occurred a year ago. She said the orange cones are still there. Mr. Taylor thought they were picked up already.

Broad Street resident said the drainage issues in her area continue and emailed Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor said he did receive her email, but the existing pond needs an outfall connection which

we will have to create. She asked when this would happen. Mr. Taylor said 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July, if the budget is approved. What can be done in the meantime, she asked? It was bad yesterday and will only continue to be since the forecast is rain. Councilman Murray said in the past, it was private developers who did not properly build and now it's the city's responsibility. Edie Rodgers, said this is all in writing I'm sure. She said Jericho Woods has the same issues. Councilman Murray said we are now looking closely at projects that want to come into the city. Resident asked, "Is anyone else impressed with Lamar as I am"?

Mr. Taylor gave an update on projects:

- Signed contract for Southside sidewalks.
- Signed contract for the Post Office drainage work.
- Hancock Street drainage contracted by June.
- 319 Grant.

Ms. Rogers commented that the sidewalks all over down have been done fast; great job. Mr. Taylor said we're doing a lot of other areas as well as curbing.

James Ruhf asked about paving for 500 block of Carteret. Mr. Taylor said we are doing Church to Carteret and Bay to Prince. Why is the 500 block excluded, Mr. Ruffin asked. Mr. Taylor said we only have so much money.

Dave Easton mentioned that the sidewalk is half gone on Church & Harrington Street near Knights of Columbus.

Ms. Woodhead asked if Waste Pro will still be on schedule to replace the trash cans? Mr. Taylor said yes, they're available.

Mr. Easton said there is a pile rotting on the left of Washington & Greene for 3 weeks now.

Josh Gibson said the gooseneck light is out that is across from Catholic Church on Duke Street. He called SCE&G but nothing happened. Mr. Taylor said we will need the pole number.

Mayor Billy Keyserling thanked Mr. Taylor and said, "great job". The Mayor talked about the city's budget and projects such in Battery Shores and Cottage Farm. For state owned roads, we are using our money to maintain them and Public Works has taken over a big responsibility from the state. This is the new reality, the Mayor said. We have a huge amount of projects and council feels people don't want the city to loosen up on maintenance, so we need to find a way. If we don't do it, it won't get down. We're looking at some type of fee like the stormwater fee.

Councilman Murray asked Mr. Ruhf to speak about the Hunting Island renourishing effort. Mr. Ruffin said they had received money for Hunting Island but then the funds were cut in half; not sure why so we started we started a petition. He encouraged everyone to sign the petition that is on their website and social media. Phil Hodges asked about the sand. Mr. Ruhf said our main focus right now is the funding. Ms. Rodgers she attended her 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as the state

representative years ago to get funding for Hunting Island after the lightning storm; it takes years. She asked if they are losing all of the funding and if money is being set aside this year? Councilman Murray said State Delegation is great; felt it was safe. It's critical we all speak out and sign the petition. Ms. Beer said she moved to Beaufort when she was only 3 years old and then the light house was only 3 miles from the water. Houses were out there too.

**City Fire Department, Tim Ogden**, said the Fire Department is busy with school events. Regarding Codes, the overgrown lots are increasing especially with the recent rain. He said if there are any codes related issues to contact him via email at [citycodes@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:citycodes@cityofbeaufort.org) or by phone at 843-525-7055. Ms. Beer commented that the Fire Department has put in over 100 smoke alarms in the community. They install them for free and can replace the 10-year battery for free, too. Mr. Ogden said we started this a few months ago. Edna Horn asked, does the 10-year battery fit in all types so smoke alarms or just in the ones the Fire Department provides. Mr. Ogden said you do need to have our type. If you call us, we can help you he said.

Ms. Wilson asked if the large pick-ups are through the Fire Department. Mr. Taylor said we are discussing with the City Manager to get this back in. Mayor Keyserling said this can be done by appointment with Waste Pro. Mr. Taylor also said Waste Pro can handle this. Ms. Wilson said there is fee, right? Yes, said Mr. Taylor. Cora Lee Shoemaker with Public Works said if its normal stuff such as bed frames, it will be picked up for free, but not for paint cans, tires, etc. Ms. Wilson asked when is the recycle pick up for computers, etc. Mr. Taylor said this is through the County; had one last weekend. Ms. Anderson said yes this is scheduled through the County and she sent out a reminder last Thursday. Mr. Easton said he will make a copy of the flyer for Ms. Wilson. Jeanne Wood asked how can she get her smoke alarm checked. Mr. Ogden aid to call the Fire Department at 843-525-7055.

**City Police Department, Lt. Charles Squires**, passed out a flyer regarding the upcoming Hurricane Event at Lowes (see attached). Lt. Squires talked about the car break-ins in Battery Point and Pigeon Point. The juveniles were arrested in Battery Point.

James McElhamey, asked if the house in Battery Point was occupied at the time of the break-in? Lt. Squires said he wasn't sure. They found bikes in the unopened garage. Mr. McElhamey asked how many bikes were taken. Lt. Squires said he wasn't sure. He said a weapon was also recovered. Mr. McElhamey asked how many cars are unlocked in the area. Lt. Squires said he wasn't sure. These juveniles are known to us and we are watching them. If we see them on Boundary Street we can't arrest them because they are not doing anything wrong, but we will stop them and talk with them. It's a "cat and mouse game" with them. We are patrolling the areas heavily. He reminded everyone to always call if they seem something suspicious.

Lt. Squires mentioned the Crime Watches that are currently in the Old Commons, The Point and Pigeon Point. It's not a bad idea to start a community crime watch; only takes two people.

Lt. Squires said things that are coming up is the Beaufort Movie Club from June 4 to July 9, Gullah Festival, Water Festival. He said he got a call at the day dock about a sail boat. It leaves

at night so there is not issue right now. Other things going on are we going to the schools; we have now have 49 officers and may add one to Lady's Island and we have 2 new vehicles, he said.

Mr. Hopey said he had to use the non-emergency number and asked if the number is operated by the county or the city. Lt. Squires said it goes through the Beaufort County Communication Center. Also you can go to their website and put in questions. Mr. Hopey said he tried three weeks ago with Skype but it wouldn't accept it.

Mr. McElhamey thanked the police for catching the juveniles in Battery Point. Lt. Squires said it was called in by a neighbor. Ms. Woodhead said after the incident, neighbors were outside talking and the police officers stopped to tell them what had happened; this was great.

Ms. Rogers said she witnessed an almost disastrous accident on Allison Road and the Spanish Moss Trail. A bike raced through a stop sign; car slammed on their brakes. We need signs on the trail. Ms. Horn said she almost hit one too. Mr. McElhamey asked if electrical bikes have an age limit. Lt. Squires said it's a gray area because they are considered a "play" vehicle. They shouldn't be on the main roads. Battery Point is a private road. Mr. McElhamey feels at 8 or 9 years old, you are not very responsible. Ms. Horn asked if young kids are allowed to skateboard down Duke Street. Mr. Gibson said he used to live in Battery Point and a security camera may be needed at the entrance with a sign stating it's there. Mr. Gibson asked about the status of the Waterfront Park security cameras. Mr. Taylor said we are in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase and will start installing them within a month. Mr. Hodges said he saw a police officer at the trail light on SC 170 not moving at the blinking red light. He said the office is just as confused as the people. We don't know when to go and not go. Mr. Hodges said there is already animosity with the vehicles and the trail people. The light is also longer than it should be. Maybe a different light needs to be used. Lt. Squires said he will talk with DOT.

Captain Rob Carson of the City of Beaufort, spoke about the Lowe's Hurricane Preparedness event. He encouraged everyone to attend; its important information.

**City Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, Building Official**, reminded everyone to get permits for any work they are doing. He referred to a current incident where the owner is in contract with a buyer to sell their home and now the buyer found out the garage that was converted into a mother-in-law suite was never permitted and is below flood. Mr. Skipper also encouraged everyone to have flood insurance.

**City Planning Department, Libby Anderson**, gave an update on city projects:

**New Development:**

- Battery Point – 2 new houses.
- Parker's Convenience Store – permit issued.
- Wayback Burgers – CO issued and now open.

### Renovations:

- Joe Loves Lobster Rolls – COC issued; not opened yet but soon.
- Merrill Lynch – moved to 700 Bay; approved to open.
- Beaufort Pharmacy to open on Ribaut Road.

### Historic Review Board (HRB) Projects:

- 808 Newcastle - new single-family dwelling approved.
- 1402 Greene Street – demolitions approved.
- Panini's – New Shade Sails for patio approved.

### Design Review Board (DRB) Projects:

- Harris Teeter – received final approval for the site plan.
- Tidal Wave Auto Spa – 9 Sam's Point Way – received preliminary approval.
- KFC – Lowe's Outparcel – received final staff approval.

### Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA)

- Harris Teeter Gas Station – special exception granted.
- 808 Newcastle Street – variances granted for 2 accessory dwelling units.

### Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)

- Several annexations.
- 302 Burroughs Avenue – temporary classroom buildings for Holy Trinity Classical Christian School.

Also, we are working on the new code. So far we've had 20 public meetings. Now the code is at the stage of being reviewed by the MPC. Tonight we are having a workshop here at City Hall at 4:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room. All the information is online at the [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://www.cityofbeaufort.org). Public comments can be done on the website, too.

Ms. Anderson said the Waterfront Park reservation system will be moved from Ivette Burgess to Liza Hill in the Planning Department. Ms. Hill will also be involved in the quarterly and yearly Waterfront Park Committee meetings. Also, the Dog Park is having some touch-ups. The trail is still under development.

Mr. Gibson asked when the next Short Term Rental Task Force meeting will be. Ms. Anderson said next week, either Wednesday or Thursday; I will email you. Ms. Anderson said at Council's request the Short Term Rental Task Force Committee has started. It's open to the public but we are not on a "regular" schedule yet. Mr. Palmer questioned the size of the Black Chamber building; it's quite large. Did this go through approval? Mr. Gibson said once it's done, you may feel different. Ms. Anderson said this falls in the Bladen Street Redevelopment District. Mayor Keyserling said the building was developed under another builder (John Settles) and approved by the Historic Review Board (HRB) and then the Black Chamber brought the plans. Ms. Beer said it is a huge, huge building. Mr. Newnham with the Greenery said the visibility is horrible; need 4-way stop. Mayor asked if we ever addressed this at Duke and Bladen? Ms. Anderson

said it's very difficult to get a 4-way stop approved. We did ask for a 4-way stop at Duke and Bladen as part of the Bladen I project and DOT denied the request. Mr. Taylor said at Newcastle and King, a 4-way was approved. Ms. Beer said it's so close the street; street signs cannot be seen. Ms. Anderson said she will revisit this with DOT.

Mr. Hopey asked for an update on Allison Road. Ms. Anderson said we are still working with DOT and asked for an extension of the grant. Mr. Taylor said we've gone to Columbia to meeting and they've come here as well.

### **NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES**

**Hermitage Road Area, Jeanne Wood**, encouraged all to come to the Metropolitan Planning Commission Workshop tonight at City Hall in the first floor conference room at 4:30 p.m. They will be discussing the new code and it will be our time to voice our concerns.

**Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton**, said we had a great meeting last month and Councilman McFee did a great job regarding Duke Street. Our next meeting is Thursday, May 26, at the Presbyterian Church.

**Old Commons, Josh Gibson**, said the Sons of Beaufort is having their Fish Fry and also a yard sale that begins at 8:00 a.m. Please come, it's a great event.

**Pigeon Point, Donnie Beer**, said all is good other than the car break-ins. All cars were unlocked. She reminded everyone to lock their cars. She mentioned 2 events: Veteran's Tribute, August 12, Free at the Waterfront Park and 9/11 Ceremony, 9/11 in the early evening at the Waterfront Park.

Phil Hodges encouraged all to get access to the mayor's newsletter; it's great.

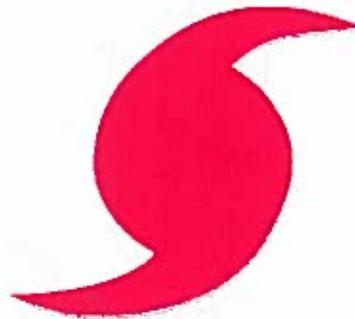
Next Meeting is June 15, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



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# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FAIR



Saturday June 4th, 2016

10 AM – 1 PM

LOWE'S OF BEAUFORT

207 ROBERT SMALLS PARKWAY



- Awareness Prep
- Kids Clinic
- Public Safety Displays
- Prepare Your Family
- Know Your Evac Route
- Pack an Evac Kit



Evacuations are for Pets too



Beaufort County **Emergency Medical Services**  
**Advanced EMS Treatment and Transport**



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