

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **July 15, 2015 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.

Ms. Anderson asked if Councilman, Cromer had anything to add before the meeting begins. Councilman Cromer said last night was our council meeting and we are moving in the right direction. Regarding the issue of docks in Battery Creek, this was ruled in favor of at our June 22 meeting he said.

City Manager, Bill Prokop, announced that Lamar Taylor is now the Director of Public Works. He also read an email that he received stating the Business License and Planning Department assistance was great. He said he was glad to see that our customer service is working well.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP ON BUDGET INITIATIVES – CITY MANAGER, BILL PROKOP.

City Manager, Bill Prokop, spoke about emergency management procedures. He reminded everyone to have a hurricane readiness plan in place. We are working on a brochure, he said. Currently, Robert Carson, Emergency Management Coordinator, is in Columbia for training and when he returns, he can give classes on flood and hurricane preparedness if anyone is interested.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Prokop said last night at Council, there were no questions on the 2nd reading of the budget; this is good. First we will start right away on the initiatives, Mr. Prokop said, starting on July 28 by having a workshop with every committee where they will describe their purpose and state their 12-month goals. By our first council meeting in August, we will have met with all of the committees. We will doing the same thing with our staff.

Secondly we will start implementing Initiative #7 – “Beaufort Pride of Place”. This initiative will be a community improvement and beautification program that we hope will be supported by members of our community, businesses, tourists, and civic organizations. The purpose is to enhance and maintain the appearance and infrastructure of Beaufort while building on the pride and community spirit that has been part of our social fabric for many years. An ongoing donor recognition will be created to thank those who contribute. Mr. Prokop referred to the Pigeon Point Park and finishing the trail there. A separate account has been created so we can keep rolling over the unused funds, he said.

Third thing Mr. Prokop said he wants to cover is about hearing from the public, “what do you want to see happen in Beaufort”? He is working on next year's budget already. He referred to the Civic Master Plan and realized not many people are familiar with it. Bring in information/ideas to Ms. Anderson or me by October because I will start working on the new budget in November. Also, I can come to your neighborhood meetings.

Battery Point resident asked when the City of Beaufort will start on the trail starting on Robert Smalls Parkway. City Manager said this is a County project and the contract has been signed; start in next two weeks. Ms. Anderson said Lywelles is working on all of the phases. Battery Point resident asked how we cross 170. Ms. Anderson said there will be a push station at the light, but will take some time to install. Mike Tomey, who lives in the Bluff, said he is certified for disasters and licensed with FEMA if anyone is interested. He asked to spread the word through the community. He also said he was the Planning board chairman in Georgia for over 20 years and is familiar with comprehensive plans, if needed. City Manager thanked him and said it may be helpful when we're updating our code. Mr. Tomey said he would bring in their code.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Lamar Taylor, said City Manager a signed new contract with WastePro. We also have Southern Palmetto as a new vendor. Rob Scott reminded everyone about bagging, bundling and making sure branches are cut into 4" length, since we may have some more storms. For cart damage, use the Tracez System at www.tracezonline.com. On this system you can also ask for new bins, schedule a bulk pick up, file a complaint and check the status of what you submitted. Ms. Anderson said this site is also accessible from the city's website at www.cityofbeaufort.org and clicking on the Public Works tab. We are bit behind due to setting up for Water festival, but will be back on track Friday, he said. Battery Point resident asked how the roll cart should be located. Mr. Scott said the handle needs to face your house despite what it says on it and 5 feet away from any objects. He also reminded everyone that items "not allowed" in the recycle bins are plastic bags, Styrofoam, vacuum cleaners or shoes. He will put more information on Public Works website. Councilman Cromer asked if yard debris can be in plastic. That's okay, Mr. Scott said. We have a contract that will allow for larger recycle bins and this will be done every other week. Jericho Woods resident said some older people in her area have small garbage cans and asked if they will still be able to use the smaller ones when the larger ones are out. Mr. Scott said he will look into this. Jericho Woods resident said it's easier for the older people to handle. Mr. Scott said if we cannot handle them, then we can put these individuals on the "handicap" list. Island of Beaufort resident asked how long until the recycle bins are available. Mr. Scott said he will have this information at the next Neighborhood Meeting. Battery Point resident asked if they should be on the lawn or street. Mr. Taylor said it's a 10 foot span. Mr. Scott referred to Ribaut Road and they keep them on their lawn. Ms. Sedlacek asked if the larger bins are mandatory because she likes her little one. Mr. Taylor said he will find out what their options are.

The Greenery, Darryl Poovey, said they are working on Water Festival set up. We are also re-mulching the waterfront park and irrigation will be off for 12 days, but we will hand water and use hoses for watering. After Water Festival, we will top dress the park to golf course status. Resident asked about the status of Duke Street, Phase 2. Darryl said it will be done this weekend. Lt. Squires asked if it's open. Mr. Taylor said yes.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, said we have a new vendor, Southern Palmetto doing the right-of-ways and vistas. We've had a lot of falling trees; nine trees since the 4th of July. One fell behind Beaufort County building while he was at a meeting; the other was a tree that fell on the house on Southside Boulevard; and several limbs fell and blocked 170 by Golden Corral. We have in the budget for five hazardous trees to be removed. Robbie Anderson with Public Works did a great job, he said, coordinating to have the tree removed from the house on Southside Boulevard. Good efforts were also made by our community to help fix the house.

Mr. Taylor said regarding resurfacing roads, I have a list of requests for seven streets; Craven Street being #1.

Regarding pot holes, I have Cottage Farm and Spanish Point on my list as pending until complete, Mr. Taylor said. Mr. Hopey said we classified which owners have the sprinklers and have sent letters to them. Mr. Taylor said we can vacuum out the water, if needed. Mr. Hopey thanked Mr. Taylor for helping with the issues at Glendale and Cottage Farm Drive.

Battery Point resident said the Old Salem Road residents said their drainage ditch is overgrown, drains onto Salem Road and our drainage ditch cannot be cleaned out. He thanked Mr. Taylor for being very responsive. Mr. Taylor said he found out it is a County owned road and ditch. He talked to the new Director of County Public Works and engineering and if they don't do something, I will put a crew on it. Battery Point Resident asked what the time frame is. Couple of weeks, Mr. Taylor said. Battery Point Resident also mentioned pot holes and bad erosion issues. Mr. Taylor said is trying to get DOT to pave it.

Joan Sedlacek from Spanish Point referred to the area in her community that has not been paved in over 20 years. She wrote to BJWSA with a copy of the Mayor's email from a year ago. Mr. Taylor said Spanish Point is on his paving list he sent out.

Mr. Tomey asked about maintenance of the landscape strip between the sidewalk and the curb. Mr. Taylor said everyone assumes it's the city's responsibility, but in reality it's DOT's, but the owner(s) should be taking care of it. Mr. Tomey said the tree roots and structures prevent it from being maintained. Cora Lee Shoemaker with Public Works asked if this falls under the right-of-way contract for the Point and Old Commons area. Mr. Taylor said he will look into it. Ms. Anderson said it's at Craven and Newcastle.

City Manager said last night at council the day dock was brought forward. There will be a presentation at our Worksession on July 28 which show where it is going. It is 10 ft. wide, 80 ft. long; 26' large on outside and 80' ramp that is handicap accessible.

Park Beaufort, Linda Roper, said the Parking Task Force gave a presentation to council for changes to the parking program. It was recommended that we look into a parking garage, so our first step would be to advertise for a good company by way of an RFI/RFQ. Regarding the 2-hour parking test, it showed a detriment to the City of Beaufort. The major problem the Parking Task Force observed was that employees were using most of the spots, so we are

looking into how to remedy this. Council suggested a time enforcement of between 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. Also, we are re-programming the meters so you are not wasting your first hour since the enforced time doesn't start until 11:00 am. There will be a token program which will allow you to use tokens towards parking.

Ms. Shoemaker asked what the different cost of parking spots are. Ms. Roper said Bay Street (on-street parking) is \$1.00/hour, back to Craven Street is .50¢/hour. Council would like a 3 tier system (.25¢, .75¢, and \$1.00). Mr. Tomey asked if the city has looked at a private/public garage. Ms. Roper said we did but we are still only at the "looking" stage and where the funding will come from. Mr. Prokop referred to the National Parking. The newspaper once said that Hilton Head Island and Bluffton needed a parking garage and now we look like the bad guys. Mr. Tomey asked how many parking spots would be in the garage. Ms. Roper said 300 because if we go over that, then the structure will be too tall, too big, and not cost effective. Mr. Tomey asked if the parking meters accept credit cards. They accept credit cards on Bay Street, Ms. Roper said. Also, we are considering a Park Mobile App. Currently, she said, we have time limits with a 3 tiers for on-street parking: Bay Street – 3 hours, side streets – 4 hours, Craven Street 8 hours (.50¢), at the marina - \$1.00, playground – 2 hours, and the library is 2 hours.

City Fire Department, Captain Robinson, said things have been good. Our firefighters delivered a baby; we had full cardiac arrest patient which was released two days later. Over the weekend there was a Port Royal structure fire on the 4th floor of an apartment complex. Resident had a candle burning and then tried putting out the fire with a flammable blanket. Because of the fire sprinklers, a 4.6 million building was saved. This is why fire education is so important as well as the Codes and Planning steps, Caption Robinson said. Regarding training, we completed the RIP training which is when we have additional firefighters outside of the structures who are prepared to go into the structure to rescue the "rescuers". We had Firefighter Training 2. We also had Rope Rescue Classes and now some are state certified and lifeguard certified. Last night we rescued a gentleman who jump off the day dock at the Waterfront Park. All of the training that takes place here is free to our students versus going to the Fire Academy in Columbia. Also, we had 4 firefighters promoted to Firefighter 3. We toured the new Fire Department building yesterday and it looks like the roof decking will be up by Friday. Regarding public education, we had 650 elementary students come to the Fire Department and most of them are from daycare centers and summer camps. Our summer program will go until August and once school starts we will start the Severe Weather training. We also work along with Rob Carson, the City's Emergency Management Coordinator and share information with the Neighborhood Association Meetings, and with homeowners. City Manager asked Captain Robinson to talk about his recent certification. Captain Robinson said he received Certification in the National Fire Academy Excellence Program. There were over 12,000 applications. He had a six month research project who he worked along with a Professor. His project will be displayed at the academy.

City Police Department, Lt. Squires, introduced a new officer. Officer Hayes introduced himself saying he is from a small town in Upstate New York and enlisted in the Marine Corp straight

from high school; then became a marine officer, and eventually a civilian officer. He feels it's unfortunate that people he encounters do not know about this community meeting. He will pass along information to them. Lt. Squires said he gave a speech to his officers today about "expectations". He said they had a successful Movie Club this year which ended last Saturday. The only crime trend he is seeing is car break-ins in the Pigeon Point area because cars are being left unlocked. We are also seeing large sums of money and weapons left in vehicles. We have extra patrol in this area. We did have a recent call at 4-5 am Sunday because a person from North Carolina tried breaking into the gas station on Boundary Street. The alarms went off and an arrest was made. We are working on a street light survey with Public Works to have repairs done. Over the weekend a light pole was struck by Walmart and Fred Mueller from Public Works did a great job helping as well as the city and county officers to keep everything under control. Water Festival preparations are going on and the officers on duty for the festival will not take away from other their things around town, there are extra officers. There will be some parking spots taken up, similar to what occurred with the Gullah Festival. National Night Out will be August 4 starting around 4-5 pm at the Washington Street Park. This is a great opportunity for the kids to come and interact with the officers. Mr. Prokop said he and his wife volunteered liked Julie Bachety at the Movie Club which is a similar event to the National Night Out. It gives kids an opportunity that normally would not have one. It also shows that the Police are "good guys". It's a great community involvement.

Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, said currently we have two apartment complexes going up, a 54 unit on Lady's Island and the other one is behind Bi-Lo. A new Taco Bell is being constructed next to Lowe's and a new Starbucks next to City Hall. We may see in the future a new car dealership, assisted living facility, and a big box store on Lady's Island. Since we have so many storms, Mr. Skipper said, please remember if there is damage due to fallen trees to first secure the building, then remove the tree, and secure all utilities such as electric and gas if the Fire Department is not there and then get your permit. He also reminded everyone to check their insurance since its hurricane season. Even if you are not in the flood zone, please get insurance, he said. Check your policy because there is a big difference between rising and falling water; know your risks. Code Compliance policies are available for a bit more money and/or additional rider may be needed, he said. Councilman Cromer mentioned replacement plus and how it will bring you up to code. Mr. Tomey thanked Mr. Skipper and his staff for helping him in his long renovation. A resident said the price for windows is frightening. Mr. Skipper said some of the choices are impact glass which is like the car windshield class, (insurance tries to push this type), approved shutters, and plywood with fasteners only on 1-2 family dwellings up to 2 stories. He said in the older homes with brick, there is only so much you can do and they may not meet egressable; can't be any less than existing.

Codes Enforcement, Libby Anderson, said Fire Marshall Baske is out but asked if there any issues to report to send them to her at landerson@cityofbeaufort.org or call her at 525-7012.

Beaufort Housing Authority is absent but asked Ms. Anderson to let the group they are working on National Night Out. They also opened a summer program which will give out FREE summer lunches.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, said the Anchorage House on Bay Street is under new ownership who are doing renovations to turn it back into an inn. It should be CO'd soon. We are presenting a change to the Ordinance amending permitted use in the Limited Industrial District regarding the Spanish Moss Trail. Once completed, the trail will run from south of West Vine Street in Port Royal, to Roseida Road in Burton, a distance of six miles. There seems to be an interest in allowing activities that support trail uses such as bike rentals and cafes. This amendment will go before the Planning Commission on July 20 then the following week it will go before council. Information was sent out to the neighborhoods and a public workshop was held July 13; we received good feedback. Ms. Bachety will put this information on our web page.

Mr. Hopey asked about the status of Allison Road. Ms. Anderson said we are at 90% plans. To keep with the Civic Master Plan the lane width is a 10' travel lane. It is 11' on the Boundary Street project. DOT said no, we need to have 12' and this will add to the cost, so we need a design exception. Mr. Prokop said do we also need to address the stormwater. Ms. Anderson said yes and all recent projects have involved very intensive stormwater.

Resident thanked the city for sending out the flood brochures. Ms. Skipper said this is part of the CRS Program. Our rating helps reduce the flood costs. Every 5 years we have an audit from the CRS. Ms. Anderson said this is part of the public notification process. There is a 1-10 scale and we're a "7" so you all receive a 15% reduction on your flood insurance.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Battery Point, said the non-residence issues we have with people using our pool and dock at 3:00 am will hopefully be over. Our pool monitoring will start this week and the Police Department has been notified.

Hermitage Road Area, Phil Hodges, thanked the Planning Department for the zoning amendment.

Islands of Beaufort, Jim McAlhaney, said he will be speaking with Chief Clancy about a speeding issue in their area. We are a gated community but feel the recent construction going on is where the speeding cars are from. Ms. Anderson said I can call the general contractor if you provide me with the address.

Mossy Oaks including Twin Lakes, Edna Horn, said the same people are still not taking care of their yard. Ms. Anderson said, send me their addresses.

Northwest Quadrant, Rep, said it's a "great day in the neighborhood" as Mr. Rodgers used to say. The pavement went down yesterday. Ms. Anderson thanked her for her patience.

Pigeon Point, Donnie Beer, said it's been quiet, but there is a new building going up. She mentioned the Veteran's Night FREE event which will take place on August 8 at the Waterfront

Park from 7:00-9:00 pm. Mr. Prokop mentioned the new location for the City Farmer's Market at the Pigeon Point Park. It is every Wednesday from 2:00-6:00 pm. Information is available on the city's website.

Next Meeting is August 19, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.