

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **July 16, 2014 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.

Mayor Keyserling was present. He said it is important for council to hear what is going on at these meetings. He would like to see next year this group grow to a "sounding" board. He said they are ambassadors. Mayor Keyserling encouraged everyone to give Libby Anderson ideas to make these meetings more interesting. He thanked everyone for coming today. Donnie Beer said this is the most important meeting besides council.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN BEAUFORT HISTORIC DISTRICT – Libby Anderson.

Ms. Anderson went over a timeline of activities that have occurred over the last 10 years in the Beaufort Historic District. Last year she said Beaufort was designated as a "Top 10 Great Neighborhood for 2013" by the American Planning Association. Beaufort is the 2nd oldest city in the state. Ms. Anderson showed PowerPoint slides and talked about the Northwest Quadrant and the investments that were made. She referred to the tear down of the structure on Wilmington Street and how it was rebuilt for \$120,000. Councilman Mike Sutton was very involved in this Block-by-Block Program. She also referred to the former Coastal Contracting Building and Koth's. There were several interviews that were presented from residents and developers from the Midtown area. Lastly she spoke about the Duke Street Phases I and II. Ms. Anderson mentioned other activities such as the new downtown lights, mast arms, mooring field, the Bailey Bill, vacant lots in the historic district (over 100), the Historic Beaufort Foundation (HBF) project of stabilization of the house on North Street, the prosed demolition of 711 Bladen Street and the private investment for 912 Duke Street and the old Lipsitz building.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Isiah Smalls, said it is important to get out to the neighbors the bagging ordinance. He said due to the recent rain storm, access to the land fills have been delayed. He said to call him for any overdue pickups. If you can't bundle it, call Waste Pro and they will come take it, but there is a fee. Dave Easton said between Washington and Church Street they put out bags and Waste Pro only took half of them; other half is on the end of Washington Street. Also, Greene Street has a lot of leftover bags. Mr. Whitehead said his yard debris is still not being picked up. This has been going on since January. Mr. Smalls said there are challenges with private industries. Working with a private industry is harder versus using City resources. Mr. Smalls said on Greene Street someone has put out trash, but no one wants to take ownership of it. He referred to Johnny Bee's property. Mr. Whitehead said since the City changed to a single-day pick up, it has gotten worse; it's unacceptable. Can we get someone else, he asked. Mr. Smalls said there will be challenges with anyone. He said Waste Pro is contracted for one more year; In 10-12 months, we will be going out for bid. Mr. Murray asked who do we call. Mr. Smalls said Public Works at 525-7054. Ms. Anderson said Waste Pro has a complaint button on their website that is also forwarded to Public Works. You can access this at

www.cityofbeaufort.org, then click Departments, Public Works, and then Sanitation. The “make a complaint” button is at the bottom of the page. Mr. Smalls said he is meeting with the Waste Pro Regional Manager in the latter part of next week.

Mayor Keyserling mentioned the house in Spanish Point where the resident is not in the house. He asked if the assistance still existed where there is a lien put on a house when the City goes in and cleans the home. Ms. Anderson said there was in 2010. The Mayor said do we have funds so we can help the repeated offenders. Ms. Anderson said we have some funding and we will be using it on the Spanish Point house next week.

The Greenery, Isiah Smalls, said if you see a site obstruction to let him know. He said in the next 60 days they will be cleaning the corners. John Horton mentioned the corner at First Boulevard and Ribaut Road. Mr. Smalls said we are aware of this. Wayne Heath (Midtown) said he was under the impression when he purchased his house that The Greenery would maintain the green space once a quarter. He said in between their visits, it’s bad. Mr. Smalls said given the limitations of their budget he is now encouraging owners to maintain their part of their property. We maintain the main arteries for the City. Mayor Keyserling asked if Waste Pro and The Greenery attend these meetings. Mr. Smalls said yes and they will be at next month’s meeting. Mr. Whitehead said he is setting up a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the issues with Waste Pro.

City Public Works Department, Isiah Smalls, said Public Works consist of 18 people with 14 actually working outside of the office. He reminded everyone to call him at 525-7054 if they have any problems. Mr. Smalls asked how everyone likes the new downtown lights. They said good. He said he was out walking on Craven Street with his wife and the lights looked great and they felt safer. We have a nicer site plan from Mrs. Hopey for cleaning out the storm drainages. He said to call him at Public Works if they see drainage issues.

Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, said we have a contractor forum this Thursday at 6:00 pm at City Hall. He said we will be discussing violations, permit inspections, and revisions to the Building Board of Appeals. He said there are flyers in the lobby. If you are interested, please R.S.V.P. to Martie Kay McTeer at 525-7049. Ms. Anderson said these forums help the contractors through the permitting process.

City Fire Department, Chief Negron, said it’s been quiet. He asked everyone to be more aware of hoarders in their neighborhoods. He said there was a fire a month ago and the access to the home was difficult. The firefighters had to go through a window, which is dangerous. This is an increasing problem here and with other fire departments. He said to please call him if you need help or if you need us to attend a homeowners’ association meeting. Donnie Beer said she works with Red Cross and sees the City Fire Department in action and they are great. She said they also educate the children very well.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, said the follow up to the burglaries last month is that they may have caught them due to another crime of stealing air conditioners from vacant properties and trailers from the road. We have DNA evidence from the residential burglaries. And now we have not had any other burglaries. Chief said this is a busy time of the year and reminded everyone to be aware of their surroundings and lock their cars. He talked about how children are left in hot cars during the summer and said he made an arrest of a woman at Walmart. Port Royal had one case too. Mr. Murray, of Pigeon Point, told Chief Clancy that Officer Justin was great during a recent possible burglary at his business.

Mayor Keyserling referred to the newspaper editorial regarding the Water Festival businesses and the Noise Ordinance Waiver. He said Chief Clancy and Council took a hit. The Mayor said people probably don't understand the complexity of what goes on. Chief said the Noise Ordinance is needed for a special event and then they get the waiver. In this case, there isn't a special event aside from the Water Festival, and they have received their noise ordinance waiver. Chief said in 1995 the Police Department had 43 officers that included 1 school officer and 5 on a patrol team. Now we have 46 officers, which include 3 school officers, 1 victim advocate, and 6 on a patrol team. We now also have more festivals, special events and large parades.

Steve Tully said he was burglarized twice in the last two weeks; one at his home and one at his business. They stole 2 guns from him. He also had some equipment stolen from Duke Street. Mr. Tully said he knows where the stuff is and the man who took lives across the street on Duke Street. He was just released from jail for shooting a tourist in the face 20 years ago. Chief said we knew when he was getting out and thought it was just a matter of time before he did something. Mr. Tully said he went to his house and he was messed up on drugs. He needs to go back to jail, he's dangerous.

Beaufort Housing Authority, Angela Childers, said we are having a public Spelling Bee at Penn Center. We have received 974 Section 8 Applications.

Donnie Beer reminded everyone that on 9/11 there will be a ceremony at 8:30 a.m. at the Waterfront Park and she'd love to see a nice turnout. She also mentioned she is on the National Cemetery Board and they are looking for funding to expand the land. She has pamphlets for anyone who is interested.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton, we are happy to see the house on Newcastle Street coming down.

Next Meeting is August 20, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.