

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **September 17, 2014 at 10:05 a.m.** in City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN – Captain Robert Carson

Captain Carson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Response and Recovery Process for the City of Beaufort. Each City Department has a response plan for emergencies. For example, Public Works has one for the recent flooding issues. Today is the kick-off for the Recovery part of an emergency. Partnerships are important and today is a good start. Captain Carson referred to Katrina and how most of them did not have a recovery plan at the time of the storm but now probably most of them do. He spoke about the post-storm which happens after the storm. He said we will take the community approach. We will need everyone's input and then he will share his ideas with them. He said we need to be very community specific. When the conditions are back to "normal", the recovery time stops. Katrina was 10 years ago and they are still in the recovery period. The timeline starts after the storm, then mitigation, and it ends when things are back to normal (kids going back to school, businesses are up and running, etc.). Captain Carson will be focusing on the downtown area businesses, commercial structures, and retirement homes. Also, to be focused on will be the roads, utilities, and hospitals. Then the Planning Department will come back and do the Damage Assessments. He said we need to look at "how do we rebuild" to be more structurally stronger in the future. Some of the recovery challenges are social, psychological, when homes are not there any longer – what is the alternative, economics, and environmental impacts. We may need field managements set up in the city. Captain Carson spoke with DOT 3 months ago and they are still working in debris management from the ice storms. He will ask in the future Neighborhood Association meetings for information from each neighborhood representative. As we move forward, we will develop disaster relief teams, establish leadership, look at civic government agencies, assess county impact and identify "hot" priorities. The average time for people to come back is 3-4 days. When returning, hot lines will be established. Captain Carson also said we will need to look at the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and make changes that don't currently exist regarding storms. He said he will set up a meeting with the specific departments. Captain Carson had available his business cards and the registration form for the Nixle App. This provides people with a text and/or email with information during emergencies such as hurricanes. Ms. Anderson thanked Captain Carson for his presentation and also mentioned there are other handouts available from Codes and Red Cross.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Rob Scott, said there are a few new employees. The debris and bundling is going good. Northwest Quadrant resident asked if the recycle truck picks up small debris. Mr. Scott said, no. Mr. Taylor said they can't be mixed together. Mr. Mattingly asked is there a larger recycling container for the parks, such as Pigeon Point Landing area. Mr. Scott said there is. Mr. Taylor said Public Works doesn't recycle there now. Ms. Anderson said she will mention this to Isiah Smalls. She said its common in other areas and the city would like it.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, said the rain last night was bad and we had crews out until 9:00 p.m. and mitigated. He said the projects going on now are the drainage issues and maintenance with the county.

Broad Street resident mentioned in the Mossy Oaks area down to Hookstra has draining issues; full of mud and all on Broad Street. Mr. Taylor asked the boxes too? Yes said the resident. Mr. Taylor will send in a crew to fix it. Resident said where the sewer lines stop; ditch is open; not draining. Mr. Taylor said we have to pipe the system, but it's extremely expensive; county may excavate for us. Also, there used to be guard rails and one is down. Mr. Taylor said it was rotting. She said it's not safe now for pedestrians and especially kids. Mr. Taylor said there is a 4-5 foot shoulder, but we will still look into it.

Twin Oaks Resident asked if there were plans to pave Twin Lakes Road because the patches are now coming up. Mr. Taylor said it's the Department of Transportation (DOT) and we have no new paving list. Resident also asked about the sidewalks on Southside Boulevard. Mr. Taylor said we've been budgeted for that. (Note: this is incorrect; there is currently no money in the City FY15 budget specifically budgeted for Southside Boulevard sidewalks). Resident said you can't walk on it or bike on it and people are forced to walk in the street. Mr. Taylor said this may be fixed within a few weeks. The resident said also tree limbs are falling onto these sidewalks. Mr. Taylor said Water Oaks are really bad. He said when his happens, to call him with the location and Public Works will have it removed.

Southside Resident said the underneath is congested with debris. Mr. Taylor will work with County to remedy it.

John Horton of Jericho Woods said there are 2 retention ponds retaining water. He said he's been there for 9 years and for the first time not draining. Mr. Taylor said it's normally dry.

Ms. Anderson asked about the Duke Street Phase II. Mr. Taylor said we are in the review process with the Commerce Department and we should break ground in mid-October.

Lanier Parking, Lundy Baker, mentioned the lighting project. The parking meter upgrade will take place on Bay Street and the side streets as of today per council's approval. He said over 30% of customers are now using credit cards using the meters. On Bay Street, we added pole sleeves to the match the meters. He mentioned there will be sufficient parking for the upcoming Shrimp Festival. Mr. Taylor said the lighting project was a success; safer now. Ms. Beer asked why there were 9 traffic signal heads at Bay & Charles Street. Mr. Taylor said because of the Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. Ms. Beer said NYC doesn't have that many.

Main Street, Beth Caron, said there are only two more city farmers markets; the last being September 24th from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. She mentioned the upcoming Shrimp Festival and that the street will be closed for the Shrimp Run. She also mentioned Main Street is starting a Downtown Beaufort-opoly game. John Horton asked about the side street wayfinding signs.

We are at a road block with DOT. Alice Howard asked how many businesses would be open on the 1st Fridays. Mr. Caron said 13-15 and until 8:00 p.m. She said there will be a Scavenger Hunt during Shrimp Festival since it falls on the 1st Friday. Ms. Anderson said accordingly to DOT, the Wayfinding signs are not allowed on the poles even though we bought the poles.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, talked about the recent counterfeit \$100 bills at Wal-Mart. His officer confronted the men (all from N. Charleston) trying to pay with the counterfeit bills; 2 in custody, 1 caught later; one not caught yet. He said 17 counterfeit bills were received smelling like laundry detergent. He contacted the Secret Service and they were already familiar with one of the men. He also mentioned the shooting at Spanish Trace Apartments. This was finally reported when the suspect went to the hospital. Chief said car break-ins are back up; we have six. He reminded everyone not to keep valuables in their cars and to lock their cars. Lastly, he said a new officer has been sworn in but won't be going to the academy until April due to being backed up. Right now he has three at the academy and will graduate on October 10th. Mr. Hodges said neighbors have noticed people on the trail after dark. Chief said this is considered a trespassing offense. We have a cruiser that drives on the trail once a night. We are working with Ms. Hill on more signage. Chief said we get calls about suspicious people and it's mostly due to these neighborhood meetings; it's good.

Broad Street resident asked about the status of the break-ins. Chief said we've arrested two for business break-ins and connected them with stealing trailers and the county then connected them with taking air conditioning units from vacant properties. Unfortunately, they are out now, but we do have some DNA evidence for future arrests.

Edna Horn mentioned the break-in of an apartment where they took a PlayStation and iPod. The suspect was traced back to the houses behind Burger King on Ribaut Road. She asked is this Port Royal or City? Chief said sometimes Port Royal will get involved, but he's not familiar with this incident.

Southside Boulevard resident asked about the mud trucks that are tearing up Southside Park. The resident said he turned one in and an officer did come. They are in the area up in the corner where the spigot freezes. Ms. Hill said she was not familiar with this.

A **resident** said she bought a new bike and asked how to register it. Chief said he has a form she can fill out and will get with her after the meeting today. Another good idea is to etch information somewhere on the bike that only you know. Some people do this on their televisions too and then if they are stolen and sold in a pawn shop, we know who it belongs to.

Libby Anderson welcomed Captain Stephen Baske from the City of Beaufort Fire Department. He is the City's Fire Marshall and head of the Codes Enforcement office, which Dawn Boren used to be in charge of. Mr. Baske spoke briefly about his background. He started out as a volunteer for the fire department in 2005. He is originally from New Jersey and Beaufort reminds him of New Jersey in the 1970's. He has been doing business fire inspections for the past 3-4 years. Currently he is working on prioritizing issues and streamlining others. He will be

making clearer notices and looking at other cities for ideas. Stephen Murray referred to the MUNIS program and asked if he was looking into it. Yes, said Captain Baske. He is waiting on IT privileges. He mentioned his office is here at City Hall and said e-mail is a good way to reach him which is sbaske@cityofbeaufort.org. Rod Mattingly mentioned the Code Enforcement app and Ms. Anderson said we will look at info.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, said the city is looking at our customer service and passed out a draft of a survey. She said our Human Resource Department has come up with the survey questions and will be sending it out in the future via e-mail. Mr. Murray asked what form it will be in. Ms. Anderson said PDF or a writable form. She reminded everyone there is information about current and future projects being reviewed on the city's website at www.cityofbeaufort.org under the Projects Under Review tab for more information.

Ms. Anderson also mentioned some recent agenda items such as the rezoning request of 7 parcels; Boundary Street Redevelopment District Ordinance amendments, Landscape Ordinance amendment pertaining to grand tree for change/mitigation; side-loaded garage changes and a variance application for a garage at 111 Lyford Place.

City Planning Department, Liza Hill, said the rail trail signs are being handled. We also have funding for the Spanish Moss Trail. All intersections on trail have been adopted.

Ms. Hill gave a few updates: Beaufort County is out to bid for the portion of the rail trail from Depot Road to Broad Street. There will be 7.7 miles when completed. Southside Park – Dog Park will start mid-October. An acre for the large dogs and ¾ acre for the small dogs. She mentioned that the Gazette posted the wrong graphic of the Southside Park Master Plan; it's old. And she doesn't understand why its was there. Regarding Publix, their plan is to open at the end of October. The large magnolia will be taken out and replaced with a Live Oak. The Pigeon Point Park in the area at Godfrey and Newcastle is getting a pedestrian path.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Battery Shores, Karen Van Duser, said elections are this year. We are experiencing a lot of change due to Coastal Contractors going out of business. We are a PUD without a true association. (Note: Battery Shores is zoned R-3)

Broad Street, said streets are very narrow and since it's a city street, we can't legally say, "no parking" in front of the houses. She said the EMS vehicles cannot get to the houses. When her mom needed help, the EMS parked 12 houses away. Also the fire trucks are getting damaged. She feels something needs to be done before another emergency occurs. Ms. Anderson said this is not good. She will get with the Fire and Police Department. The resident said the police are making rounds in our area and ticketing speeders. Another resident said 3 of the people on the Board needed EMS help and they couldn't get there.

Southside Boulevard Park resident said the tree trimmers are smashing the sidewalks with their equipment. Ms. Anderson said Ms. Hill meets with SCE&G. Ms. Hill said this can certainly be prevented. She will see what Public Works has in the works to fix it. Resident asked if the street is state owned. Ms. Anderson said 95% are owned by the State. Resident said there is a man who walks on crutches and cannot walk there. Ms. Anderson said it's good to know now there is money available. Resident said someone who cares needs to go out there and look at the sidewalks. He said there are 103 sections that are cracked or have major damage; 60% fell into the ditch. He said DOT said it was condemned in 2012. Ms. Anderson said she will speak with the City Manager and Public Works about this. Ms. Howard said it breaks her heart to see kids from Mossy Oaks that have to work in the road. The resident said there have been red painted areas for 3 years now. Ms. Anderson said that means it has been seen by Public Works.

Cottage Farms, Mr. & Mrs. Hopey, said there is a new house completed and owners are moving in. Ms. Anderson asked how many lots were left. Fourteen, said Mr. Hopey.

Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton, thanked Julie for taking care of the debris at Washington and Newcastle Street.

Pigeon Point, Donnie Beer and Rod Mattingly, said their first meeting was this past Monday. The Mayor attended; it was a good meeting. We discussed the Bailey Bill and three council candidates were present.

Old Commons, Ray Stocks, said we've had a bit of construction going on. Tomorrow is their monthly neighborhood meeting. Neighborhood is good and quiet.

Stephen Murray, candidate for council, said he is available to come and speak to anyone's group.

Next Meeting is October 15, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.