

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **February 18, 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.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, James Lanier, said things are going good. They are using a new automated system and have a 1 man truck in some areas. This will eliminate a lot of carbon footprints. The truck now can do the work of 4 trucks. He said to call Waste Pro with any questions or issues. Resident said some men are not taking the entire trash; they are physically taking out the garbage bags and leaving garbage in the can. Mr. Scott said this is probably happening because Melissa is our normal driver is out with surgery. He will look into it.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, said there was a heroic effort this week when the tree fell at Hermitage and Ribaut Road. A bus driver saw the tree falling and was able to stop the bus in time. Mr. Taylor said some of the projects Public Works is working are Duke Street – relocating major utilities; flooding at West Street; flooding at Hancock in the Point. He has met with the CTC regarding tax money and gave a presentation for the Southside Park sidewalk issues. The CTC asked him to go back and look at the area as a whole. He may be able to get \$150,000. March 18 he will give them another presentation. Other projects are Allison Road is moving forward with a multi-purpose trail; we are working on other grants for the Waterfront Park and day dock. He said we are going with the pro-active approach this year. A resident asked where the issues of Southside Boulevard are. Mr. Taylor said between Ribaut Road and Waddell Road. Resident said her sister fell over a large bump in the sidewalk on Newcastle Street near the Anchorage Inn side. Mr. Taylor said he will look into it. Midtown resident said there is one section in front of her home where the concrete and gravel is an issue. Mr. Taylor asked what your address is. She said, 1612. Mr. Taylor said these are new sidewalks and should not be doing this, and will go out there today. He said they are creating the gravel area for the alley.

Councilman Murray asked Mr. Taylor talk about the West Street Extension project. Mr. Taylor said we received \$60,000 for the area of Bay Street by the clock for many trip hazards. Liza Hill has a design that will go out to bid soon. We will have removal done in-house and to replace the pavers will be contracted. There will also be trees removed. Our goal is to finish this before Memorial Day. Bill Prokop, Interim City Manager, said the two steps going down to the park will have rails installed.

Resident, James, Ruffin, The Point, said his association put together a street survey and asked Mr. Taylor where his area is on the schedule. Mr. Taylor asked him to e-mail him the survey.

Cottage Farm Resident, Mr. Hopey, said the main break they had was taken care by BJWS&A. They did a great job. He also thanked Public Works. Mr. Taylor mentioned at Allison Road they will be tying the sidewalks to the trail.

City Fire Department, Chief Negron, said they are close to the ground breaking ceremony for the new fire station at 1120 Ribaut Road. Also they have purchased a ladder truck for the new station that will be here by the end the year. He said it has been a low-incident winter so far. They have implemented the Standards for Safety Guidelines. His group is getting their yearly physicals this week. Resident asked Chief how many full-time fire fighters he has. Chief said 33 fire fighters and 11 per shift. He reminded everyone that the Fire Department can install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers for free.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, introduced 2 new officers, Kate Costabile who was a certified officer from Connecticut and Hillary Cottingham from Walterboro. He talked about the murder on Monday and said an arrest was made last night at 2:00 a.m. He said there have been a few business burglaries in 1 specific area and they've been tracking them. Dave Easton said he noticed at 6:00 a.m. on Monday a very slow moving car in his area (1111 Washington Street) and was suspicious. It turned out to be an officer. He said he feels safe knowing they are patrolling his area. Chief said they have switched over to a newer computer system which the County and Bluffton are on as well. This will help better when looking for suspicious people. It is also very useful for the officers in their vehicles. He said their old system was over 20 years old. A volunteer who works at the Beaufort Museum said she had a few people come into the museum from out-of-state and ask if she feels safe in Beaufort. She said, yes even with the recent murders. Chief said the city had no murders last year and the two this year was targeted, not random. Northwest Quadrant resident feels her area is a "magnet" area for people to come and do their "deeds". She mentioned the Elk's Club and Greene Street as examples. She asked Chief Clancy if Beaufort has "spots" and what we can do. Chief said we don't have "spots". He said the one incident that occurred 4 years ago was a fight over a girlfriend. The teenager got mad and shot into the ground. He said we have a few private residences with domestic issues, but not really specific spots. We rely on residents and our computers will tell us who called and how many times for assistance. He said as of now, the Elk's club has been compliant.

Pete Palmer said the activity seems to be after 11:00 and 12:00 at night so most of us senior citizens will become a victim. Resident asked how many full time officers the City of Beaufort has. Chief said we have 46 sworn officers, 4 patrol teams with 6 officers on each patrol team. Resident referred to the Adventure Street incident that occurred in 2012 and asked if it went to trial yet. Chief said no and one of the accomplices is in jail and the other is dead. The resident said loves the county's Nixle program. Chief said the city has one too but it's used more for traffic. The county has a specific person in the office for this program where the city only has an investigator who cannot always be in the office.

New Northwest Quadrant resident from Boston said she feels very comfortable all the time. She said Beaufort is a paradise. She thanked the patrolmen for driving through her area on King Street. Resident in Mossy Oaks thanked them too for patrolling her area. Chief referred to the recent Mossy Oaks incident where there were suspicious people going door-to-door.

City Codes Enforcement, Derrick Howard, said he's had 16 violations and 14 have been corrected. He said to call him if they see anything or have questions.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, went over the city's projects:

- Rezoning of 2402 Allison Road from residential to office commercial; public hearing next week.
- Annexation of 810 Roseida Road for a new Parker's.
- Parker's design received conceptual review.
- Two new subdivisions: Metropolitan Planning Commission approved City Walk; 49 lots.
- Metropolitan Planning Commission conceptually reviewed Whitehall for 76 single-family lots.
- Starbucks was issued site work permit. Resident asked about trees being removed. Ms. Anderson said there will be 1 tree saved.
- County was awarded money for the rail trail from Depot Road across SC 170; using same contractor that did the previous sections. Should be done in 2 months.

Ms. Sedlacek asked about the land at Ribaut Road and Spanish Point Drive. She noticed the For Sale Sign and the bushhogging. She asked what the plan was. Ms. Anderson said this was rezoned to office and is a private ownership. She hasn't received any inquiries. This will be a challenge to develop, she said.

Mr. Palmer asked about the less than 1 month Short Term Rental issue. He understood that if the surrounding property owners didn't care for it, then it is not allowed to happen. But they still are.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Hermitage Road Area, Joe Noll, talked about the Spanish Moss Trail and how it will end at the middle.

Island of Beaufort, Fred Mueller, said the area is growing. They have 4 houses under construction and 4 more in the process. He thanked everyone that helped get the paving done.

Bill Prokop, Interim City Manager, talked about the update of the city's website and the social medias the city is associated with, but he feels these Neighborhood Meetings are the best. We are going to have a pro-active attitude, he said.

Midtown representative said we all feel safe and protected. They thanked everyone. They mentioned the utility cover on Port Republic because someone has fallen because of it. We wrote letters and it was fixed 48 hours later. Another resident mentioned the roof near 1203 Prince Street is becoming apart and dangerous on a windy day.

Old Commons, Ray Stocks, said Rebecca Davenport has an art opening at USCB tomorrow at 5:30 pm. Also, their association meeting will be tomorrow.

Pigeon Point, Councilman Murray, said we have a few construction projects. He thanked Bill Prokop. He gave an update from council and said they have received over 50 applications for the City Manager position. The Council Retreat will be Monday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Beaufort-Jasper Water Authority and it is open to the public. He will send out the finalized agenda to the neighborhoods. He thanked Lamar Taylor for stepping up since Isiah Smalls has retired. The parking Task Force has 4 separate committees and they are to report back to council in June. If there are any parking issues, please let the interim city manager know, he said. He also thanked Chief Clancy and his department.

Spanish Point, Phil Cromer, Councilman, asked what the status of the triangle piece in Spanish Point was. He said there are pot holes and paving has never been done. Ms. Anderson said BJWS&A might be the one to contact regarding the triangle piece. Mr. Taylor said he will bring this before the CTC. Councilman Cromer reminded everyone to take advantage of the 2 hour free parking. He thanked Councilman Murray for giving the council update. Ms. Sedlacek said we may not have a formal association, but the community still comes together to get things done.

Next Meeting is March 18, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.