

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **February 19, 2020 at 10:02 a.m.** at City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

#### **Four Fun Facts – Heather Spade**

Ms. Spade was not able to attend the meeting today.

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

**Waste Pro, Jermaine Robinson,** said all seems to be getting better including recycling, although residents are still putting out very heavy bags. He explained he does knock on doors to explain the 50 lb. limit. Ms. Merrill mentioned the great brochure Waste Pro produced last year and asked if they are doing another one this year. Mr. Robinson will look into this. Resident said the refrigerator magnets are also great. Mr. Robinson said he will let his officer manager know. Resident asked if Waste Pro had any changes in employees because his route has been missed on Mondays and then on Tuesdays. Mr. Robinson said there haven't been any changes in employees. He will bring this up at their next meeting.

**The Greenery, Brandon Duitsman,** said we are currently working on roadways; looking at stop sign intersections; spraying weeds since we've had lots of rain; street sweeper will be out three times a week; trimming palm trees at Waterfront Park; starting on the shrubs in March. Resident asked if the Greenery got the contract for the downtown rights-of-way. Mr. Duitsman said yes, they did.

**City Public Works Department, Nate Farrow, Director,** spoke about drains and ditches being cleaned. Regarding the flooding issues in the Mossy Oaks area, it took 30 minutes to pull out the debris. Owner said landscaper was constantly blowing debris in the ditches/drains. A lot of work has been done at the passive park, Calhoun Thomas Park, across from the bowling alley on Ribaut Road; new sign will be done, too.

Mr. Harvey commented that landscapers do leave a lot of debris piles, especially at unoccupied houses. Mr. Meola said he's been dealing with this with the owners and Waste Pro. Mr. Farrow introduced the new person for the stormwater. Resident asked who handles the doing the right-of-ways. Mr. Farrow said this is under the street sweeping contract and the new contract is out and will be published soon.

**Down Operations, Rhonda Carey,** went over the following:

- We are focusing on pocket parks.
- Local garden club is beautifying & replanting at Succession Park with Public Works help.
- New playground equipment arrived for Washington Street Park. Fred Washington is working with the community. Public Works will prepare the site. A picnic celebration will be sometime between March and April.

- New tour operators, Greyline Buses, purchased the Spirit of Old Beaufort bus business from Evelyn Stevenson on the corner of Charles and Bay Street. Vehicles will be the same as Ms. Stevenson's.
- Beaufort Film Festival started last night and will go through the weekend.

Ms. Carey welcomed everyone to come her and the staff at Downtown Operations at 500 Carteret Street. Ms. Merrill commented that the benches look great. Ms. Carey said we will have 6 more in 2020.

**City Fire Department, Tim Ogden,** introduced the new Fire Marshall, John Baggett. The former Fire Marshall, Jeff Anderson, has retired. Mr. Baggett has been with fire department for ten years.

**City Police Department, Deputy Chief, Dale McDorman,** said Lt. Squires is recovering from back surgery. Police Department is still struggling to get new officers. Unfortunately, no wants to be in this job anymore. We're dealing with school's requesting more SRO's. Good news, crimes have decreased. Resident thanked Mr. McDorman. Her husband had a spike in his sugar and assisted her in getting to the hospital, it was great. She commented that this wouldn't have happened where she used to live. Ms. Merrill also thanked the Police Department for the good coverage in her neighborhood.

**Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, Building Official,** said there has been no progress with the flood maps, hopefully by the end of the year. We've had nine new houses come in and several commercial projects processed (Retina Center, Ribaut Road Senior Assisted Living, Pine Court Apartments and a hotel on highway 21). Ms. Merrill asked about the status of the pink pub because she saw them working there today. Mr. Meola said he spoke with the owner and they are slowing moving forward and close to opening. Resident asked if a new building with a detached garage requires a smoke alarm. Mr. Skipper said, no.

**Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola,** said the gentleman who is handling the cleanup was going to start today but its raining. The squatter has not yet been scheduled for court. Ms. Merrill commented that anything not of value would not be removed per council. Mr. Meola said yes, and other items will be closely looked at. Ms. Merrill asked, "what if the squatter opposes"? Mr. Meola said he will be there through everything and taking photos.

Mr. Meola spoke about another house involving a hoarder with tons of cats. The property is a rental and owner was unaware of the situation. The Police Department is helping, and Ms. Skipper has condemned the house. Mr. Meola said he heard about this situation from neighbors. We are making good progress.

Resident thanked Mr. Meola for removing the vehicle from Carteret Street. Resident asked about the house being the "pink" house. Mr. Meola said this is has been on my list for many years; heir's property. The woman who was maintaining it passed away and now there is a new

heir and Mr. Meola said he has contacted her, and she is committed to getting the property looking better. This will have to go before the Historic Review Board (HRB) and then get the appropriate permits. They are allowed to clean up the house only.

Resident commented they had been here for a year and appalled at trash on the side of the road (i.e.: Bluffton) such as insulation, building trash, roadkill, etc.). Mr. Meola recommended contacting SC Department of Transportation (SC DOT). Resident said state doesn't seem to care. Mr. Meola said go to SC DOT website to submit a complaint. Mr. Farrow said their local SC DOT phone number is 843-524-1755. Ms. Harvey asked if SC DOT handles stop signs because Charles and Duke Street desperately needs one. Mr. Farrow said City of Beaufort requested one at this location two years ago and SC DOT did a traffic study that determined it was not necessary. Mr. McDorman said the study deemed it not meeting requirements for a stop sign and now its back to SC DOT.

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

**The Bluff, Mary Ellen Niemeyer**, said this is her first time at this meeting even though she's been in the same house for 30 years; The Bluff doesn't have an association. She is concerned about how long the jets will last. She said the Mayor spoke with the base and was told it would be one year. She is also concerned with the Sunday church goers at Church and North Street parking very close to the intersection and it dangerous. She said when she complained, she was told, "their churches". Mr. McDorman said it was addressed and tickets were written, and we almost lost our jobs doing this. He said the State regulates parking, but he will bring it up again.

**Broad Street Resident** thanked Mr. Farrow from Public Works for helping.

**Northwest Quadrant**, said City Manager attended their meeting and said the City of Beaufort will help us with our quarterly newsletter.

**Old Commons, Mary Harvey**, said their meeting is tomorrow night.

**Overlook at Battery Creek, Mr. Meola**, gave a background of this community and how its being managed by someone else and it's taking off and shaping up nicely. There are only 3 or 4 lots left.

**Pigeon Point, Kay Merrill**, said were working on a celebration. Regarding the jet noise, she also spoke with someone at Air station and they are working on the main runway and should take about a year. Ms. Niemeyer said she is a former doctor and Habersham asked her to do a report on health and kids learning and seems the air station could care less; it's a shame

Next Meeting is March 18, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM